

**WELLOW PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Wellow Village Hall – 2 April 2002**  
**(7.00 p.m. – 9.53 p.m.)**

PRESENT: Mr Austin, Mr Bloore, Mr Harris, Mr Moody, Mr Noble and Mrs Simpson

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Gentle, Mrs Kittow, Mr Overton-Hore, Mrs Perry and Mr Thaxter

262. **CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that, in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Mr Noble be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

(MR R NOBLE IN THE CHAIR)

263. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 4 and 18 March 2002 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

264. **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

In the absence of both District Councillors, no report was available at this meeting.

265. **PLANNING**

(a) Current applications: RESOLVED that comments be submitted to the planning authority on the following applications as indicated:

TVS.01696/4 Ivy Cottage, Romsey Road – amendment No objection  
to roof over sun lounge previously  
approved as part of planning permission TVS.01696/3

TVS.05191/1 Rossmore Cottage, Salisbury Road - No objection  
erection of a two storey and single storey  
rear/side extension

TVS.06664/6 Land at Allens Copse, Shootash - Opposed on grounds of:  
application for full planning permission to amenity considerations, including  
use land for car boot sale for a maximum noise, smell and loss of trees;  
of 36 days per year and use of southern highway dangers (traffic backs on  
part of the site for early arrivals up to 30 to the A27 from the busy Shootash  
minutes prior to 7 am junction); inadequate access/egress  
in the context of fire evacuation  
and access for emergency vehicles; inadequate tree screening; development out  
of character with a rural setting; use of the site from 7 am (under existing  
consent) already causes significant harm in terms of neighbour amenity

It was also agreed that Councillors Gentle and Greasley be asked to refer this application to Southern Planning for consideration. The Parish Council would also attend the meeting to oppose the application

TVS.07437/14 Greenwood Farm, Woodington Road - renewal of application TVS.07437/7 for the erection of one farm manager's dwelling Refer to County Estates Officer for consideration

TVS.09183/1 1 The Pollards, Lower Common Road - erection of single storey side extensions to provide enlarged living accommodation and erection of detached double garage No objection

(b) Delegated applications: It was noted that comments had been submitted as shown on the following applications, in accordance with delegated powers granted under minute 255/3/02:

TVS.09209/2 Ryedown Lodge, Ryedown Lane – erection of 5 bedroom dwelling with detached double garage (amended scheme to that previously approved under TVS.09209 to provide rendered panels to first storey and alteration of sitting room chimney) No objection

TVS.09560 Jays Farm, Embley Lane – erection of agricultural storage building No objection, subject to suitable screening and the views of the County Estates Officer

(c) Planning decisions: Members noted the decisions set out in paper 5A accompanying the agenda (shown as an appendix in the minute book).

(d) Review of the Adopted Hampshire County Structure Plan – Scoping the Extent of Change Needed: The Structure Plan 1996-2001 contained policies and major proposals to guide new employment, housing and other development, improve the transport system, and conserve the natural and built environment. Preliminary work was starting on rolling forward the Plan and local organisations were invited to submit views on its scope.

RESOLVED that any issues that Members wish to raise be presented to the 15 April meeting for discussion.

(e) Borough Local Plan – Potential Changes to Policy C2 (Infill in the Countryside) and Policy H4 (Development in Built Up Areas): As part of the review of the Borough Local Plan, Test Valley were reviewing policies concerning the development and redevelopment of housing throughout the Borough. Parishes were invited to submit views to the planning authority as part of this exercise. In this context, Members felt that current rules should be relaxed to allow more scope for social housing.

RESOLVED that an officer from Planning Services be invited to a Council meeting to discuss the issues further.

266. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) New Audit Process: HAPTC had supplied details of a practitioners guide to the new audit system, priced at £9.95. It was agreed that a copy should be ordered for the Council's use.
- (b) Scout HQ, Canada Road – Grant: A letter had been received from Christine Deamer (West Wellow Scouts) requesting grant aid towards expenditure of £9500 for re-roofing the Scout Hut. Mrs Deamer had been advised that the Council had no specific provision for the scheme in the current year's budget but that the application could be considered once grant offers had been obtained from Test Valley and Hampshire County Council. Under the usual capital grant arrangements, the Parish Council's contribution would be around £1200 (12½%).
- (c) Other Correspondence: The Clerk reported receipt of:
  - (i) a note from HAPTC announcing the end of the fixed limit (£8.5m in England for parish and town councils) or rationing for borrowing approval;
  - (ii) letters of thanks from the Winged Fellowship Trust in respect of the Council grant and from Eric Kemish for his annual retainer;
  - (iii) other correspondence as shown in the list accompanying the agenda.

267. **HIGHWAY MATTERS – A36**

A letter from W S Atkins confirmed that replacement twinning signs were being designed which would allow them to be incorporated as part of the new speed limit and gateway. A design copy would be sent to the Council for comment in due course. In terms of the proposed bus shelter opposite the Post Office, a site meeting was proposed to progress the matter.

Members also noted arrangements for bus services during the course of the major road works. During the first two weeks (the Plaitford – Maurys Lane stage), buses would be allowed through the works, accompanied by contract staff. During the second two weeks (the Maurys Lane – roundabout stage), buses would be diverted via Maurys Lane, Romsey Road and Lower Common Road.

The Clerk also reported on correspondence with a resident of Kooyong Close concerning traffic speed and pedestrian crossing facilities. The resident had been advised of the Council's ongoing efforts to improve safety standards on the A36.

Members also made further reference to the condition of trees fronting Chatmohr.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That a site meeting be arranged with W S Atkins concerning the proposed bus shelter near the Post Office; and
- (2) That further representations be made concerning the condition of the trees on the boundary of Chatmohr.

**268. DELEGATES' REPORTS**

Members received a report on the TVAPC meeting at Kings Somborne on 7 March. Items had included: an update on the Test Valley Rural Strategy; grant availability under the Countryside Agency Vital Villages Programme; the new Code of Conduct and the Test Valley Standards Committee; Quality Parish Councils (and in particular the new requirement for a Parish Plan); and allowances for Parish Councillors.

**269. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS**

A report of the Clerk dealt with the new model code of conduct introduced on 27 November 2001.

The code was similar to the existing National Code of Local Government Conduct but differed in several key areas, namely: arrangements for declaring interests at meetings; the introduction of a Register of Members' Interests; a requirement to declare the receipt of gifts or hospitality; and a duty of Members to report to the Standards Board any perceived failure of another Member to comply with the code. A copy of the new code was attached to the report.

All provisions of the code were mandatory and had to be adopted before 5 May 2002. While Councils could add their own provisions, Parishes were advised against this in the interests of consistency.

Following adoption of the code, individual members were required to:

- complete an entry in the Register of Members Interests within 28 days
- sign a new Declaration of Acceptance of Office within two months

The new provisions also applied to co-opted members of Parish Councils. However, the code would not apply to Wellow co-opted members serving on Committees, provided they did not exercise delegated powers.

RESOLVED that the Model Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils be adopted with effect from 2 April 2002.

**270. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Members discussed the final arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting on 17 April. It was agreed that all reports would be presented orally, namely those from the County and Borough Councillors and from Parish Council Committee Chairmen. The session would conclude with the usual Open Forum.

**271. QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

In the absence of Mr Thaxter, the Clerk provided an update on arrangements for the Golden Jubilee celebrations on Monday 3 June.

## 272. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- (a) Monthly report: Members received a report on the following items:

Burial ground: Tree planting undertaken by Tree Wardens

Buxton land: The damaged hedge had now been replanted enabling the insurance claim to be lodged. The Canada Cross had suffered damage and Mr Moody agreed to retrieve same to assess the necessary repairs

West Wellow Common: A section of the hedge fronting the A36 had been removed by Transco to allow renewal of a gas main. It was agreed to request a site meeting to discuss compensation and re-planting

Footpaths: In response to residents' requests for local footpath details, it was proposed that copies of the History Society's footpaths map be supplied to the Post Office (with permission if necessary from the Society).

In respect of footpath 17, Mr Bloore agreed to obtain an estimate for digging out the ditch. Mr Austin also agreed to check on a possible fence encroachment at the Gazing Lane end of the path.

- (b) Environment Agency/Halcrow flooding report: Members received an Executive Summary of this report, together with an Action Plan in respect of Wellow flooding issues. Matters relating to ditches remained outstanding in The Drove and it was suggested that a meeting with residents may offer a way forward.
- (c) Burial Ground – Memorial Tree: A request had been received from The Romsey Organic Gardeners for permission to plant a tree at the burial ground in memory of the late David Barter. The proposal was for a Rowan (*Sorbus Sargentiana*), to be planted in the autumn. Members agreed to the request.

## 273. SPORT AND LEISURE

- (a) Monthly report: It was noted that new swing seats and chains had been received for the play area; replacement shackles etc were on order. Hedges bordering the play area were also being cut. A complaint from the resident of 6B Gurnays Mead concerning overhanging trees would be referred to the Sport and Leisure Committee.
- (b) Drainage incident: The Clerk reported a letter from Southern Water following the drainage problem experienced on 24 February. Obstruction of the sewer had been caused by a piece of building material placed in the system by persons unknown; the blockage had been satisfactorily cleared. There were unlikely to be any health risks arising from the incident.
- (c) Tennis Club bookings: The Tennis Club had submitted proposals for use of the Council's courts during 2002. Members agreed the request, subject to approval of the Sport and Leisure Committee.

**274. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

RESOLVED that authority be given for the following payment:

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	£
001530	HAPTC (Audit Guide)	9.95	0	9.95

**275. OSBORNE HOUSE**

Members referred to the earlier request from residents of Osborne House for the installation of external security lights. No action had been taken to date.

RESOLVED that further representations be made to Testway Housing.

**276. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that, by reason of the confidential nature of the business, publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

**277. APPOINTMENT OF GROUNDSKEEPER AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIVE**

It was reported that three applications had been received for this post. The appointment panel had offered the post to Mr Ron Biddlecombe of Romsey, subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

RESOLVED that the appointment be subject to a probationary period of three months.