

WELLOW PARISH COUNCIL
Wellow Village Hall – 4 February 2002
(7.00 p.m. – 9.50 p.m.)

PRESENT: Mrs Perry (Chairman); Mr Austin, Mr Bloore, Mr Harris, Mrs Kittow, Mr Moody, Mr Noble, Mr Overton-Hore and Mr Thaxter

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Gentle and Mrs Simpson

213. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 7 and 21 January 2002 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

214. **MATTERS ARISING**

(a) Foxes Lane: It was noted that the promised County Council press release had not materialised. In view of the continuing closure, the Clerk was asked to request from the Area Surveyor a copy of the engineer's report, an assurance that the road was not to be permanently closed and details of the timetable for the repair work and re-opening. Confirmation would also be sought on the adequacy of the maintenance of nearby highway drains.

(b) Wellow School: Mr Morris had confirmed that the damaged gate post at the School Road entrance to the school grounds was in a stable condition and posed no danger. The school would carry out any necessary repairs in due course.

215. **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

Councillor Greasley referred to the Test Valley Local Strategic Partnership initiative and to the need for Parish Council participation. On the New Forest National Park issue, Test Valley would welcome Wellow's support for extension of the boundary to the A27/Gardeners Lane. The Clerk agreed to write formally to confirm Wellow's endorsement. It was also noted that Councillor Greasley was to be appointed to Test Valley's Best Value Panel on IT.

216. **PLANNING**

(a) Current application: RESOLVED that the Council comment on the following application as indicated:

TVS.07285/1 Mile End, Dunwood Hill – erection of rear extension to provide two bedrooms	No objection
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(b) Planning decisions: Members noted the decisions set out in paper 5A accompanying the agenda (shown as appendix 1 in the minute book).

(c) Appeal - 1 Barnes Close (TVS.09166)(Boundary fence): It was noted that the appeal in this case had been allowed. The fence would be allowed to remain albeit with a requirement for planting along its entire length. It was agreed to request details of the proposed scheme.

- (d) Lowick, Crawley Hill: The Enforcement Officer had advised that the recently erected detached building at these premises had been inspected and did not breach any planning regulation. The building was arranged inside as three stables and a store for the well-being of two horses.

217. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Eric Turner: The Clerk reported a letter of resignation from Eric Turner. On this basis, Mr Turner's contract would end on 4 March, albeit with an extension to 31 March if needed. The Chairman agreed to write to Mr Turner to thank him for his past services.

RESOLVED that arrangements for filling the vacant post be referred to the Maintenance Working Group for consideration.

- (b) New Forest Transportation Strategy: A revised version of this strategy, first produced in July 1998, had been published for consultation. The strategy had been updated to take account of changes in transport and planning policy and the strategy area boundary had been revised to include, in particular, most of the national park area. The Clerk was asked to report back on any issues of relevance to Wellow.

- (c) Other correspondence: The Clerk reported:

- (i) an invitation for the Chairman to attend a reception at Lyndhurst on 20 February to mark the submission of the New Forest National Park Designation Order;
- (ii) other correspondence as detailed at the meeting.

218. HIGHWAY MATTERS

- (a) Street nameplates: A letter from Test Valley proposed the erection of street nameplates for Crawley Hill and Salisbury Road in response to a customer questionnaire last year. The Clerk was asked to clarify the precise locations and the style of the proposed signs.

- (b) A36: Reference was made to the recent press report on the proposed closure of the A36 through Wellow for road repairs.

RESOLVED that the Highways Agency be asked to supply details of the proposed closure and road works.

- (c) Furzley: The Chairman referred to a meeting with representatives of Bramshaw and Copythorne Parish Councils to discuss the erection of a 'Furzley' road sign. A site had been agreed and would be referred to the Area Surveyor for consideration.

- (d) Other: RESOLVED that the following matters be referred to the highway authority:

- incorrect cycle route signage on the exit from Canada Road onto the A36 in respect of Lower Common Road, School Road and Ower
- blocked drain(s) in School Road near the junction with the A36
- blocked drain on the western side of Lower Common near the A36 junction

219. **MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT**

NALC had advised Parishes not to make any additions to the model code at this stage. The Clerk also reported on events being organised in connection with the new code as follows:

- TVBC seminar for Parish Council members and Clerks, Monday 11 March, Crosfield Hall, Romsey, 6 p.m.
- HAPTC Clerk's Day conference, Tuesday 12 March, Sparsholt College, 9.30 a.m. (£28 fee)

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Chairman and Clerk attend the seminar on 11 March; and
- (2) That the Clerk be authorised to attend the conference on 12 March.

220. **AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2000/01**

The Clerk reported on the results of the 2000/01 audit and provided Members with a copy of the Memorandum of Matters Arising. Two minor amendments had been made to the accounts but the Clerk intended to query the proposed alterations.

RESOLVED that the outcome of the audit be noted.

221. **POSTAL SERVICE**

Discussion took place on recent reports of proposed reductions in postal services. Members were concerned about the prospect of later delivery times, already unsatisfactory in some cases, and, in particular, the effect on rural areas. Many businesses in the village were run from home addresses and timely postal deliveries were important in this context.

RESOLVED that representations be made to Consignia concerning the need to maintain and, if possible, improve current postal services.

222. **NEW WELLOW HANDBOOK**

The Clerk reported on a meeting of the History Society sub-committee responsible for producing the new Wellow handbook. The Clerk had agreed to supply information for the local government section of the guide while members of the Society would gather other information and prepare relevant articles. Mr Gentle was making contact with local businesses to obtain advertising. The Clerk also tabled a suggested design for the front cover which showed links to Florence Nightingale and the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

A deadline of the end of March had been set for draft material and advertisements for the guide and the end of April for approval of the final version. The intention was to print by the middle of May in time for the Jubilee celebrations.

RESOLVED that approval be given to the proposed design for the front cover.

223. DELEGATES' REPORTS

There were no delegates' reports to this meeting.

224. PLAY AREA, LOWER COMMON ROAD

Mr Austin reported that the excessive thread had now been removed from the bolts underneath the roundabout. Notwithstanding the recent Wicksteed report, it appeared unnecessary, however, to raise the height of the seesaw. Following an inspection of the swings, it had been decided to leave these in place pending delivery of the new chains and seats. A quotation was currently awaited from Wicksteed for the necessary repairs to the safety surfacing and surrounds.

A quotation in the sum of £150 had been obtained from Fred Turner for dealing with the overhanging foliage in the play area. Mr Austin agreed to obtain a further quotation for any necessary tree lopping and refer this to the Clerk.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Council obtain copies of the regulations BS EN 1176 and 1177 referred to in the recent Wicksteed inspection report;
- (2) That the quotation of £150 from Fred Turner be accepted; and
- (3) That the Clerk be authorised to accept a reasonable quotation for tree lopping, subject to consultation with the Chairman and Mr Bloore.

225. LOWER COMMON ROAD RECREATION GROUND – GAZING LANE BOUNDARY

It was noted that the new owner of Two Ways was willing to co-operate on the maintenance of the ditch on the Gazing Lane boundary.

226. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- (a) Environment Committee: RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on 10 January 2002, a copy of which appears as appendix 2 in the minute book, be received and the recommendations therein contained be adopted.
- (b) Gazing Lane – drainage: A letter from the Area Surveyor confirmed that the routine cleansing of roadside gully pots and associated pipework had been included in the maintenance contract recently awarded to Raynesway Construction (Southern) Ltd. On this basis the drainage system should be cleansed on a regular basis. In addition, Stuart Cox would continue to monitor the area.
- (c) Monthly report: Members received reports on the following items:

Footpath 17: The work planned for 26 January had been postponed because of weather conditions

West Wellow Common: Clearance of debris from the Common was to be undertaken by Marc Nokes. Progress was now needed on the proposed information cairn.

Buxton land: Mr Harris would be helping to clear the tree cuttings from this site and constructing a ditch crossing in Canada Road

Arun Way: A licence application form for this site had now been requested

Licence site, Romsey Road/Whinwhistle Road: Following receipt of the licence for this site it was necessary to obtain approval for a planting scheme. Mr Harris also agreed to seek a quotation for work to the existing trees.

Highway seat, Romsey Road: With regard to the memorial placed on this seat, Mr Gentle agreed to speak to the resident concerned. Test Valley would also be asked to carry out necessary maintenance work.

Footpaths: Jean Kenny was presently reviewing the list of volunteers; in this context any withdrawals should be notified immediately. It was also noted that the footpath from Rixes Ford to the Church required reinstating.

Ditches: In view of recent weather conditions, a request should be made for the jetting out of pipes and culvert serving Lower Common Road and Oaklands.

227. MAINTENANCE WORKING GROUP

Members reviewed the membership of this group, currently agreed as Mr Gentle, Mr Harris, Mr Noble, Mr Overton-Hore and Mrs Simpson. A meeting of the group was required to consider current maintenance schedules and discuss a new Groundsperson post.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the current membership of the group be confirmed; and

(2) That a meeting of the group be held on Wednesday 13 February at 7 p.m.

228. PARISH COUNCIL PUBLICITY

News items were requested for inclusion in the March Parish Newsletter.

229. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

(a) Income: Members noted the following income received since the last meeting:

	£	VAT	£
English Nature - additional gorse clearance	3000.00	0	3000.00

(b) Accounts: RESOLVED that authority be given for the following payments:

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	£
001497	Eric Turner (Salary, travel and purchases, 2/12/01 – 19/01/02)	257.63	2.10	259.73

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001498	Wellow Village Hall (Meeting accommodation)	18.73	0	18.73
001499	HAPTC (Clerk's Day fee)	28.00	0	28.00

(c) Transfers: RESOLVED that the following transfers be made:

Immediately: £3000 (from the Treasurers Account to the Premier Interest Account)
In 14 days: £500 (from the Premier Interest Account to the Treasurers Account)

230. **HATCHES FARM SPORTS FIELD**

It was noted that, as a result of heavy rain, the track at the rear of the Council's tennis courts may be unstable. The Tennis Club would therefore be requested not to take vehicles onto the track until further notice.