

**WELLOW PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Wellow Village Hall – 13 January 2003**  
**(7.30 p.m. – 10.00 p.m.)**

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Gentle, Mr Moody and Mrs Simpson

187. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 2 and 16 December 2002 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

188. **MATTERS ARISING**

(a) Application for tree works (TPO.658/T.2973 – Plot C, Land at Two Ways, Lower Common Road) (163(d)/12/02): The Clerk reported that the Arboricultural Officer supported the works proposed under this application. However, in view of the Parish Council's opposition, the application would need to be reported to Committee.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council's objection be withdrawn in this case.

(b) TVS.08810/2 (Land at Halls Copse, Gardeners Lane) (180(a)/12/02): It was noted that Romsey Extra Parish Council would consider Wellow's comments at its meeting on 16 January.

189. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

County Councillor Woodhall attended the meeting to discuss local issues. The following items were covered:

Local flooding problems: Ditch clearance works were still outstanding in The Drove – Test Valley to be approached with a view to work being carried out at landowner's expense  
 Foxes Lane: Recent bank restoration appeared to be successful but Surveyor to be asked to ensure that roadside drains were kept clear  
 School Road: Recent drainage work had addressed earlier flooding problems  
 The Triangle, Ridge: Appeal decision now awaited

190. **COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP – MR A GENTLE**

RESOLVED that, for the purposes of section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council authorise the continued absence of Tony Gentle on ill-health grounds.

191. **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) Gypsies and travellers: Members received a copy of representations made by HAPTC to the Minister of State on the matter of illegal camping and mass trespass. It was agreed to

make further enquiries of Test Valley as to progress with securing local designated sites for gypsies/travellers.

- (b) Council for the Protection of Rural England: RESOLVED that the Council's subscription to this body be renewed in the sum of £25.
- (c) School Governor's report: The Clerk tabled a report from Ray Morris on Wellow School matters. The report confirmed completion of the classroom extension and referred to proposals for a School Travel Plan and the success of the 'walking bus' initiative. Notwithstanding his imminent move from the village, Mr Morris was willing to continue as the Council's representative governor until the end of his term in May. Members agreed this proposal.
- (d) Broadband access: A letter from Roy Perry MEP referred to the absence of broadband access in Wellow. To date, Wellow subscribers had not registered sufficient interest with BT to justify a cost review for upgrading the local exchange. The Borough Council was being asked whether they had a strategy for rural broadband access and the letter suggested that the Parish Council might also wish to become more proactive. It was agreed to include an item in the next Parish Newsletter urging residents to register with BT.
- (e) Other matters: The Clerk reported receipt of:
  - (i) A note from HAPTC announcing an increase in the Section 137 "Free Resource" limit from £3.50 to £5 per elector;
  - (ii) a letter from employee JK thanking the Council for her Christmas bonus;
  - (iii) a letter from Wellow School thanking the Council for releasing the full grant for the footpath upgrade;
  - (iv) other correspondence as shown in the list accompanying the agenda.

## 192. **PLANNING**

- (a) Test Valley Local Plan Review: Members noted publication of the initial deposit draft, comments on which were invited by 14 February 2003. There appeared to be no review proposals directly impacting on Wellow.
- (b) Romsey Town Centre enhancement scheme: Following the public consultation exercise, the Test Valley Executive had recommended to Hampshire County Council that the scheme for Latimer Street and The Hundred should proceed, subject to further consideration of the type of street furniture and parking for the disabled. The scheme for Market Place, Bell Street and Church Street would be the subject of a further review after The Hundred and Latimer Street had been implemented.

## 193. **HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- (a) Safe access to Wellow school: Members received a letter from the Safer Routes to School Team on this subject. With regard to provision of a footpath in Romsey Road, the letter referred to a particularly vulnerable area for pedestrians to the west of Ivy Cottage. In this respect the landowner could be approached with a view to frontage land being dedicated for a footway in return for a new boundary hedge/fence. On the matter of traffic calming for

School Road, the letter suggested awaiting the outcome of the School Travel Plan currently in hand.

RESOLVED that a highway authority traffic engineer be invited to a Parish Council meeting to discuss road safety issues in Romsey Road.

- (b) Horse-riding in Nightingale Close/Arun Way: Further to minute 165(a), Mr Noble reported a further complaint from a local resident on this subject. It was noted, however, that other residents had confirmed that incidents were rare and did not present any significant problem. Members reaffirmed the earlier decision not to pursue the matter further.
- (c) Other matters: Various other highway issues were discussed as a result of which the Clerk was asked to pursue the following:
- lopping of highway trees opposite Gwynfa, Dunwood Hill, Shootash
  - the outcome of the promised survey of the speed limit and pedestrian crossing facilities on the A36
  - clearance of highway drains in Canada Road
  - speed checks in Whinwhistle Road and the A36

#### 194. **SPORT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Sport and Leisure Committee held on 10 December 2002, a copy of which appears as appendix 1 in the minute book. In respect of the Lower Common Road pavilion, it was noted that a recent inspection had identified various items of maintenance requiring attention. These would be discussed at the next Committee meeting. A quotation from Wicksteed Leisure for play area refurbishment was dealt with in conjunction with the budget discussion below (see minute 195).

RESOLVED that the minutes be received and the recommendations therein contained be adopted.

#### 195. **POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 12 December 2002 and 9 January 2003, copies of which appear as appendices 2 and 3 respectively in the minute book.

Members also discussed a quotation from Wicksteed Leisure for remedial works required to the play area. The quotation totalled £13,918.25 plus VAT, which included the cost of providing new swings. However, members agreed that the existing swings could be retained, thus reducing the cost by some £2000. Against this, replacement of a climbing board on the multi-play unit had been omitted and would need to be added. The quotation also provided an option to provide new wet pour surfacing under the multi-play unit for an additional £9705 plus VAT but members felt this work was not required at this time.

Under the Council's standing orders, alternative quotations would normally be required for a contract of this size. However, the works were required urgently to meet the requirements of an earlier safety report and Wicksteed Leisure were the original suppliers of much of the

equipment. In these circumstances, members agreed that the requirement for additional quotations should be waived.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee be received and the recommendations therein contained be adopted;
- (2) That the quotation from Wicksteed Leisure for play area refurbishment be accepted, subject to adjustments in respect of the swings and the multi-play unit climbing board; and
- (3) That, for the purposes of (2) above, contract standing orders be waived.

196. **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

- (a) Jubilee seat: The Kingsmead Residents Committee had declined the Council's offer to install a seat on the frontage land at Kingsmead. As an alternative, members proposed the highway licence site at Slab Lane. As to the choice of seat, Neptune would install the Southampton seat for £107. Cronin Brothers (Freshwater seat) had no installation service.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Council purchase a Southampton seat from Neptune, to be installed by the manufacturers; and
  - (2) That the seat be sited on the Slab Lane copse land, subject to consultation with the highway authority and the Environment Committee.
- (b) Grave space in eastern section: Further discussion took place concerning the contravention of burial ground regulations in the eastern section (minute 171/12/02 refers). Mr Harris reported that various memorial items had now been removed from the grave although a number remained. Various floral tributes were also still in place. Mr Harris confirmed that the intention was to achieve compliance with the regulations over a period of time. In this context, members were reminded that the Environment Committee would be reviewing the current regulations at its next meeting. The Clerk reported that other outstanding issues also required attention, including the matter of the adjoining purchased plots and the newly-installed path gravel.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That Mr Harris continue to liaise with the family concerning compliance with the burial ground regulations;
- (2) That a period of six weeks be allowed for full compliance (commencing from the date of approval by the Council of the revised regulations); and
- (3) That the other outstanding matters referred to above be reported to the Environment Committee for consideration.

## 197. PARISH COUNCIL PUBLICITY

Members discussed current arrangements for Council publicity. In particular, it was agreed that the Chairman would prepare a further edition of the Parish Newsletter as soon as possible. Items would include the new budget settlement and the proposed play area refurbishment.

As previously discussed, further publicity concerning the Council's tennis courts was also required. To increase public awareness, articles could be included in the Newsletter and the Gazette and notices posted on notice boards and in shops and public houses. The Clerk also referred to the absence of a Parish Council entry in the telephone directory.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That further publicity be arranged in respect of the tennis courts as discussed above; and
- (2) That the Clerk arrange for the Parish Council's telephone number to appear in the telephone directory.

## 198. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

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

	£	VAT	£
VAT refund	942.92	0.00	942.92
Cricket Club fees, 2002	338.50	0.00	338.50
Hatches Garage bus shelter insurance claim	851.28	0.00	851.28

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

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	£
001668	Susan Tillyer (January salary)	74.24	0.00	74.24
001669	Joyce Pidgley (Salary, 30/12/02 - 26/1/03)	37.12	0.00	37.12
001670	Cynthia Merrey (Tennis agent's fee, January)	19.16	0.00	19.16
001671	Jeffrey Benham (Salary and travel, w/e 21/12/02)	30.47	0.04	30.51
001672	M Derrick (Clerk's salary and expenses)	674.50	1.83	676.33
001673	Public Works Loans Account (Purchase of Hatches Farm – half-year annuity (no 38))	2411.46	0.00	2411.46
001674	Eastleigh Borough Council (Printing, Oct – Dec 2002)	48.50	8.48	56.98

001675	Landford Garden Machinery (Servicing of Honda mower)	81.64	14.29	95.93
001676	Wellow Village Hall (Meeting accommodation, Sep – Dec)	100.80	0.00	100.80
001677	Southern Water (Sewerage charge, Lower Common Road)	37.75	0.00	37.75
001678	Open Spaces Society (Annual subscription (minute 183/12/02))	27.50	0.00	27.50
001679	Romsey & Totton Swimming Club (Grant (minute 181/12/02))	50.00	0.00	50.00
001680	Southern Test Valley Voluntary Transport Scheme (Grant minute 181/12/02))	300.00	0.00	300.00
001681	Inland Revenue (Tax and NI payments, Oct – Dec 2002)	1072.57	0.00	1072.57
001682	Council for the Protection of Rural England (annual subscription)	25.00	0.00	25.00

(c) Transfers: **RESOLVED** that the following transfers be made from the Premier Interest Account to the Treasurers Account:

Immediately: £2000

In 21 days: £1000