

MINUTES OF THE WELLOW ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT WELLOW VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL 2003

The meeting was attended by approximately 30 persons

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Greasley, Gentle and Thaxter

MRS VERONICA PERRY IN THE CHAIR

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2002 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. POLICING IN WELLOW

Inspector Peter Funnell, Romsey Police, addressed the meeting. In particular, he referred to the adverse reaction to the re-organisation of Police cover for the Wellow area. There was a need to direct resources where most needed and in this context Wellow had a low crime record, therefore justifying lower policing. Telephone calls to the Police were now taken through call centres to ensure efficient handling, the number of mobile phones having significantly increased the number of calls. The main problem for the Police was anti-social behaviour by young people which was being addressed in part by ASB Orders. However, these were difficult to obtain. Neighbourhood Wardens, if introduced, would hopefully offer some reassurance to residents. In terms of crime generally, it was important to report all incidents for recording purposes.

A question and answer session followed, with the following principal items discussed:

- level of crime needed to trigger Police action, e.g. series of house burglaries
- traffic issues, including parking problem outside Two Ways, Lower Common Road (Police to take further action)
- local drugs problems
- the value of CCTV schemes
- anti-social behaviour
- activation of burglar alarms by power cuts (Police will respond only if suspicious circumstances)
- 'Police watch' for properties during holidays (no such scheme in operation)
- responses to 999 calls
- local Police house (no longer a beat house in Wellow – unlikely to be retained when becomes vacant)

3. TEST VALLEY REPORT

There was no report available to the meeting on Borough Council matters.

4. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Michael Woodhall reported on County Council matters. In particular he referred to:

- a recent tour of Wellow to view the local environment
- the rising cost of providing public services
- problems of handling waste in its various forms, with a reference to a new glass recycling centre in Southampton
- problems associated with abandoned vehicles and the disposal of refrigerators (in the context of the new regulations)

- vandalism
- services provided by the Fire Service and the Police
- the effect on the precept of the re-direction of Government aid to the North
- the satisfactory outcome of The Triangle appeal
- the availability of grants for local projects

5. PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

(a) 2002 Review: The Chairman provided a summary of Parish events during the past year and in particular referred to:

- the appointment of a new Planning & General Purposes Committee
- the need to respond positively to Government Green and White papers on local government issues
- the proposals for Quality Parish Councils
- the aim to be forward-looking, developing appropriate policies and directions for the village (including consideration of a Parish Office)
- the requirement for a replacement pavilion at Lower Common Road
- completion of the loan repayment for Hatches Farm in the coming year
- the forthcoming Parish Council elections
- the display of photographs at the meeting depicting some of the recent actions taken by the Parish Council

The Chairman also expressed thanks to retiring and former members, and to co-opted members, for their valuable services to the Parish Council in past years. She also paid tribute to Tony Gentle and his wife Rita in their role as Mayor and Mayoress during 2002/03. The work of the Village Twinning Committee was also acknowledged with thanks.

(b) Committee Reports: Written reports were presented by the Chairmen of Committees, namely Jeff Bloore (Policy & Finance), Wendy Simpson (Environment) and Maurice Austin (Sport & Leisure)

6. OPEN FORUM

The following matters were discussed during this session:

Vandalism to Hatches Garage bus shelter (partly covered by insurance)

West Wellow Common: 'unsuitable' tiles used on a new house at Canada Common and damage to road caused by contractors' vehicles; concern regarding scale of gorse clearance and tree felling (part of the management agreement with English Nature) and lack of adequate notice to residents; progress with improvements to Canada track (in hand); proposals by BT to re-route cables on the common (Parish Council will contact BT to ascertain details); the proposed information cairn at Canada Common; problems of kite-flying (Council to discuss)

Financial matters: Complaint regarding substantial increase in Parish precept and the effect, in particular on the elderly (explanation given as to need for provision of new facilities and maintenance of existing ones)

Publicity: Comment regarding lack of communication from Parish Council, eg intermittent newsletter (Council to discuss)