

**WELLOW PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Wellow Village Hall – 3 February 2003**  
**(7.00 p.m. – 11.20 p.m.)**

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

An apology for absence was received from Mr Thaxter

200. **MR GENTLE**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Gentle to the meeting following his recent illness. Mr Gentle thanked members for their good wishes and also Councillor Greasley for support during his absence.

201. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 13 and 27 January 2003 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

202. **MATTERS ARISING**

Parish Council telephone (197/1/03): The Clerk had requested a telephone book entry for the Parish Council which would cost £5.88 a quarter, including VAT. However, the entry would not appear for 18 months as the new directory had already been compiled.

203. **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

Councillor Greasley discussed with members various local issues. As a result, the Clerk was asked to undertake the following:

Showpeople's planning application, Gardeners Lane – copy PC comments to Councillors Greasley and Gentle

Abandoned vehicle opposite Hatches Garage, A36 – notify Test Valley

Local Police cover – arrange for Inspector Funnell to address matter at the Annual Parish Meeting on 23 April, request explanation for new cover arrangements and seek dedicated officer cover for Wellow

204. **PLANNING**

(a) Planning and General Purposes Committee: Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2003, a copy of which appears as appendix 1 in the minute book.

(b) Current application: RESOLVED that the Council respond to the planning authority as indicated on the following application:

|           |  |              |
|-----------|--|--------------|
| TVS.09860 | 9 Barnes Close – erection of two storey side extension to provide additional living and bedroom accommodation – amended plans showing reduction in size of first floor extension and incorporating hip roofs in lieu of gables | No objection |
|-----------|--|--------------|

(Mr Austin declared an interest in this application and left the room for the debate)

- (c) Application for tree works, 16 Barnes Close: Members considered an application for pruning of an oak tree and conifers. The Tree Wardens had no objection to the removal of dead branches over the garden and the public footpath.

RESOLVED that no objection be raised to the application.

- (d) Test Valley Borough Local Plan Review: Members discussed the Initial Deposit Draft of this document, comments on which were due by 14 February. Not all members had seen the draft and arrangements were made for further circulation.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That an amendment be proposed to policy esn 13 (Sites for Travelling Showpeople) to show that sites should not be located in sensitive areas such as the New Forest Heritage Area and SSSIs; and
- (2) That any additional suggested comments from members be passed to the Clerk in time to meet the consultation deadline, such comments to be discussed with the Chairman prior to submission.
- (e) Other matters: The Clerk reported receipt of:
- (i) Notice of an appeal against the refusal of an application for removal of two oak trees at Spinney House, Little Wood;
  - (ii) A letter from Romsey Extra Parish Council apologising for any misunderstanding in relation to the showpeople's planning application at Halls Copse, Gardeners Lane and offering to communicate more effectively in future; and
  - (iii) A letter from the Head of Planning outlining the position in respect of the showpeople's planning applications (Gardeners Lane and Whinwhistle Road) and the gypsy/traveller site at Scallows Lane.

## 205. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported receipt of:

- (a) A copy of the draft Regional Transport Strategy for the South East, together with the accompanying Supporting Statement;
- (b) A letter of thanks from the Romsey and Totton Swimming Club in respect of the Council grant;
- (c) Other correspondence as shown in the list accompanying the agenda.

## 206. **HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- (a) A36: A report of the Clerk provided an update on the following matters:

Road signage/speed limit - site meeting to be arranged with Atkins regarding speed limit 'gateway' at Fighting Cocks Farm  
 Safety study – report now being prepared following completion of study

Maurys Lane junction: Current defects with illuminated bollards and high level beacons were thought to be connected to recent re-surfacing work. Atkins were pursuing the surfacing contractor

Whinwhistle corner bus shelter: Replacement of shelter postponed pending proposed kerbing works in adjacent layby. These works were now unlikely to take place until the summer.

Discussion also took place on the need to re-locate the entrance gate to the Common opposite Maurys Lane to a position nearer the road crossing point. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Environment Committee. Discussion with local horseriders and dog owners would also be appropriate.

- (b) Canada Road: Members discussed the need for safety measures in Canada Road to counter traffic dangers. While accepting that the road warranted further action, it was felt that the Council should, as a first priority, continue its efforts to achieve improvements in Romsey Road, including a 30 mph speed limit.

RESOLVED that no further action be taken in respect of Canada Road for the time being.

- (c) Other matters: It was agreed to request the Area Surveyor to attend to a large hole at the junction of Canada Road and Plantation Road.

## 207. **DELEGATES' REPORTS**

Members received reports on the following events:

- Opening of the Wellow School extension (attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman)
- Local Plan Rural Workshop (attended by the Chairman and Mrs Simpson)

## 208. **PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2003**

A letter from the Returning Officer enquired whether the Parish Council wished to have Poll Cards for the Parish elections on 1 May. These would cost between £35 and £122 per electoral area plus up to the cost of first class postage for each elector.

RESOLVED that no request be made for Poll Cards but that the Parish elections be publicised in the Parish Newsletter and at the Annual Parish Meeting.

## 209. **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, 23 APRIL 2003**

Members agreed the following items for this meeting:

Local policing (presentation by Inspector Peter Funnell)  
 Borough and County Councillors' reports  
 Parish Council Committee reports  
 200/03 accounts

In respect of the Borough/County Councillors' item, it was agreed to revise the policy of excluding the relevant Councillor's slot during an election year. Members agreed that, in future, the item should be a regular feature regardless of the election pattern, but that it should

be used to present factual material and not for ‘campaign’ purposes.

On the Parish Council Committee item, the relevant Chairmen would each prepare a written report for circulation with the agenda. Initial drafts were requested by 31 March. At the meeting, Chairmen would highlight particular issues of note and would answer questions from the floor.

The meeting would be advertised in the Romsey Advertiser and by the usual “flyers”.

RESOLVED that arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting proceed as above.

## 210. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- (a) Environment Committee: Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on 23 January 2003, a copy of which appears as appendix 2 in the minute book.

In respect of item 3(b) (JL Grave, Eastern Section), members discussed further the current position. In this context, Mr Harris indicated his intention to discontinue his liaison with the family concerned. The Clerk also reported that certificates for exclusive rights of burial in respect of adjoining graves had not yet been issued.

On item 5 (Grass Cutting), a meeting had now been held with Hampshire Highways concerning arrangements for 2003/04. The areas to be cut by the Parish Council had been agreed largely as previously indicated. However, in order to help gauge the size of the task and the number of hours required, it was proposed that, initially, the current contract arrangements remain in place with Wellow Parish providing a “top-up” service through the year. In any event, it was noted that only a modest financial contribution was made to Parishes taking over grass cutting responsibilities.

With regard to item 7 (Bus Shelters), a new shelter was about to be erected opposite the Post Office on the A36. It was agreed to ask Frenchmoor Garden Buildings to quote for a “weather-proofing modification” similar to that requested for the Hatches Garage shelter.

On item 12 (Areas for Tidying), the Clerk reported further on the proposal for landscaping work at the entrance to the Fielders Way estate, Whinwhistle Road. Following local consultation, there had been significant support for the proposed work, albeit one resident had objected. The Test Valley Landscape Architect had now responded to the issues raised in the consultation and had offered to prepare a planting plan for consideration.

In respect of the Common, it was reported that the catch was broken on the pedestrian gate at the Monkeys Jump entrance. Mrs Simpson agreed to investigate.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Gypsy Liaison Officer be asked to assist in achieving compliance with the burial ground regulations in respect of the JL grave;
- (2) That the certificates for exclusive rights of burial in the adjoining graves be not issued for the time being;

- (3) That the proposal for the Parish Council to carry out “top-up” grass cutting during 2003/04 on the identified sites be endorsed;
  - (4) That the proposals for environmental improvements at the entrance to the Fielders Way estate, Whinwhistle Road be approved; and
  - (5) That, subject to (1) to (4) above, the minutes be received and the recommendations therein contained be adopted.
- (b) Clearance of burial ground burning area: It was noted that the Chairman of the Environment Committee had authorised acceptance of a quotation from Ashley Browning in the sum of £150 for clearance of this area, including removal of the existing fencing. The Clerk also gave details of alternative litter bins available from Telesure Ltd. It was likely these would require a secure fixing.

RESOLVED that authority be given for purchase of two litter bins for use in the burial ground.

## 211. **SPORT AND LEISURE**

- (a) Play area: Wicksteed Leisure had now submitted a revised quotation for the play area refurbishment works. The quotation had been reduced by £2349 to £11,461 (plus VAT) to reflect deletion of new swings and also repairs to the Spring Elephant surface edging (the latter item now to be carried out under guarantee).

RESOLVED that the revised quotation be accepted.

- (b) Tennis Club matters: Further meetings with the Tennis Club were proposed to discuss ongoing matters. The following arrangements were agreed:

Visit to Warsash to view floodlight facilities – Tuesday 25 February  
Attendees: Mr Austin, Mr Noble, (Mr Thaxter?) and the Clerk

Meeting to discuss management of tennis courts – date to be agreed  
Attendees: Mr Austin, Mr Harris, Mr Noble, Mr Thaxter and the Clerk

- (c) New pavilion, Lower Common Road: Mr Moody had supplied a copy of a draft layout plan for the new pavilion, to be discussed at a meeting of interested parties on Tuesday 18 February (8 pm, Village Hall). It was agreed that Mr Austin would attend for the Parish Council.
- (d) Mr Austin reported that the tree work on the Gurnays Mead boundary was still outstanding. The contractor would be allowed a further short period to undertake the work, failing which the contract would be re-let.

## 212. **GROUND MAINTENANCE – PURCHASE OF TRAILER**

Members discussed the requirement for a new trailer for the transport of mowing equipment. A trailer of least 8' x 5' was required and in this respect it was agreed that:

- the Clerk would obtain towing weight details of the Groundsman's car
- Mr Austin and Mr Gentle would approach suitable contacts and liaise with Mr Harris on the type and size of trailer required

RESOLVED that the matter of a suitable purchase be referred to the Planning and General Purposes Committee on 17 February, with express power to act.

## 213. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

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

|             | £     | VAT  | £     |
|-------------|-------|------|-------|
| Burial fees | 90.00 | 0.00 | 90.00 |

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

| Cheque No | Payee   | £      | VAT    | £      |
|-----------|---|--------|--------|--------|
| 001683    | Susan Tillyer (February salary)                                       | 74.24  | 0.00   | 74.24  |
| 001684    | Joyce Pidgley (Salary, 27/1 – 2/3)                                    | 46.40  | 0.00   | 46.40  |
| 001685    | Cynthia Merrey (Tennis agent's fee, February)                         | 19.16  | 0.00   | 19.16  |
| 001686    | Jeffrey Benham (Salary and travel, 22/12/02 – 25/1/03)                | 88.67  | 2.03   | 90.70  |
| 001687    | M Derrick (Clerk's salary and expenses, including printer cartridges) | 734.33 | 11.30  | 745.63 |
| 001688    | Valerie Court (Audit fee, 2001/02 accounts)                           | 300.00 | 0.00   | 300.00 |
| 001689    | Ashley Browning (New bridge and stile, Buxton land)                   | 390.60 | 0.00   | 390.60 |
| 001690    | Test Valley Borough Council (Emptying of dog bins, 2002/03)           | 597.48 | 104.56 | 702.04 |
| 001691    | Richard Long (Hedge cutting, Lower Common Road recreation ground)     | 150.00 | 26.25  | 176.25 |

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

Immediately: £1500  
In 28 days: £1000

(d) Parish Council Computer: Further to minute 199/1/03, quotations were still being sought for the purchase of a new computer. The Clerk reported, however, that it was not now his intention to pursue the "joint purchase" proposal. It was noted that printer compatibility was an issue in respect of the new purchase.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That expenditure of up to £750 be authorised for a new computer;
- (2) That the Clerk liaise with Mr Bloore on a suitable purchase; and
- (3) That the Council's existing computer be donated to Wellow School.

214. **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

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

215. **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Gordon Richardson of Community Action Hampshire attended the meeting for this item.

Mr Richardson had met with officers from Test Valley Planning Services to discuss the sites identified by the Parish Council for a possible village housing scheme. As a result, the Planners had given the following informal opinion on the suggested sites:

Not acceptable: Sites 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11 and 12

Worthy of further consideration: Sites 7, 8, 9, 10 and 17

Members had a strong preference for sites 9 and 10 and agreed that the landowner of these sites should be approached in the first instance. Enquiries concerning the other sites could proceed if necessary at a later date. In any event, it was noted that a further housing needs survey was likely to be required in order to support a planning application.

RESOLVED that, at this stage, Mr Richardson approach the owner of sites 9 and 10 with a view to negotiating a possible land acquisition.

216. **GROUNDSPERSON**

The Groundsperson's temporary contract was due to end on 31 March 2003. Bearing in mind the position concerning additional grass cutting, it was difficult to establish at this stage the future scope and content of the post. In these circumstances it was suggested that an extension of the temporary contract would be appropriate at this time.

RESOLVED that Mr Benham's temporary contract be further extended to 30 September 2003.