

**WELLOW PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Wellow Village Hall – 3 March 2003**  
**(7.30 p.m. – 10.13 p.m.)**

PRESENT: Mrs Perry (Chairman); Mr Austin, Mr Bloore, Mr Gentle, Mrs Kittow,  
 Mr Moody, Mr Noble, Mrs Simpson and Mr Thaxter

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Harris and Mr Overton-Hore

217. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2003 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

218. **MATTERS ARISING**

- (a) Test Valley Borough Local Plan Review: No additional member comments had been received on the Initial Deposit Draft and the Council's response had therefore been made on the basis set out in minute 204(d)/2/03;
- (b) Annual Parish Meeting, 23 April: Councillors Woodhall and Greasley had confirmed their proposed attendance.
- (c) Parish Council Computer: A new computer had now been ordered from Wellows.Com within the agreed budget.
- (d) Affordable housing: Community Action Hampshire had written to the owner of sites 9 and 10 with a view to negotiating a land acquisition.

219. **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

Councillor Greasley reported on the following:

- Test Valley's appearance at the New Forest National Park Inquiry
- a further land slip at Foxes Lane, albeit contained by the cages
- the implications of the new Licensing Bill
- encouragement for Parishes to participate in the new Test Valley Strategic Partnership

220. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Local policing: Members received a letter from Inspector Peter Funnell in response to the Council's representations concerning police cover for Wellow. In particular, the letter commented on the Inspector's duty to ensure the effective delivery of policing services to all residents. From 10 February, Wellow would be covered by two experienced Police Officers, PC Chris Day and PC Andy Preston, both of whom were already well known to Wellow residents.

The Clerk also reported that the new officers would be attending the Parish Council meeting on 7 April.

- (b) Test Valley Strategic Partnership: A letter from the Chairman of TVAPC sought nominations from Parish Councils to serve on Action Groups being formed under the Test Valley Strategic Partnership.

RESOLVED that the following nominations be submitted:

Education & Learning:	Mrs Perry
Environment:	Mrs Simpson
Housing and Community Development:	Mr Austin
Transport:	Mr Gentle

- (c) Annual subscriptions: RESOLVED that the following subscriptions be renewed for the coming year:

Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils:	£356
Local Council Review:	£127.08
Local Council Advisory Service (Health and Safety):	£135 plus VAT

- (d) Test Valley Brass: The Chairman reported that, in response to a funding request from this body, she had sent a personal donation.

- (e) Other correspondence: The Clerk reported receipt of:

- (i) A letter from the Minister for Rural Affairs on the Licensing Bill;
- (ii) A letter from the Information Commissioner confirming that the Council's information scheme had been approved for the period to 28 February 2007;
- (iii) Other correspondence as shown in the list accompanying the agenda.

## 221. PLANNING

Members received the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and General Purposes Committee held on 17 February 2003, a copy of which appears as appendix 1 in the minute book.

## 222. HIGHWAY MATTERS

- (a) A36: A letter from the County Council advised that the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Safety Camera Partnership had secured approval for safety camera equipment on the A36, to be installed during 2003/04. The location was likely to be in the vicinity of the Whinwhistle Road junction but members agreed that a more suitable location was at Crawley Hill in order to maximise the benefits.

A letter from W S Atkins contained details of the proposed kerbing works adjacent to the Whinwhistle bus shelter. In order to create an acceptable cross fall on the new footway, it was proposed to 'overlay' part of the existing shelter hardstanding area. A quotation was also being sought for the provision of cantilever type speed limit signs near Fighting Cocks Farm.

A separate letter from W S Atkins also referred to a proposal to replace the existing 50 mph speed limit between Wellow and Landford with a 40 mph limit.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That no objection be raised to the proposed highway works at the Whinwhistle bus shelter; and
  - (2) That the proposed 40 mph speed limit in Plaitford/Landford be supported.
- (b) A27: Members discussed the need for a reduced speed limit in the vicinity of Embley Park School.

RESOLVED that Romsey Extra Parish Council be asked to support a joint approach to the highway authority in this matter.

- (c) Other matters: It was agreed to refer the following highway defects to the Area Surveyor:
- pothole in Romsey Road
  - subsidence of the carriageway in Canada Road.

## 223. **INTERNET**

Discussion took place on the requirements for setting up and maintaining a Parish Council website.

RESOLVED that, in the first instance, a volunteer be sought through the Parish Newsletter to establish a website.

## 224. **2001/02 ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk reported that the 2001/02 accounts had been certified by the Audit Commission without comment.

## 225. **DELEGATES' REPORTS**

There were no Wellow delegates' reports under this item. However, in his capacity as Mayor, Mr Gentle reported on a visit of schoolchildren from Chernobyl to Test Valley.

## 226. **SPORT AND LEISURE**

Mr Austin reported on the following matters:

- completion of the tree works on the Gurnays Mead boundary of the recreation ground
- a proposed starting date of 7 April for the play area refurbishment works
- a visit to Warsash with Tennis Club representatives on 25 February to view a tennis court floodlight installation

The Clerk also referred to the proposed agreement with the Tennis Club for management of the tennis courts. Members agreed that, in view of the forthcoming elections, it would be appropriate to postpone detailed discussions with the Club until a new Council was in place.

With regard to the wheeled bin recently installed at Hatches Farm, Test Valley had enquired

whether the Council wished to have it re-located inside the sports field. Members agreed, however, that the bin could remain outside the entrance gate for the time being.

## 227. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- (a) Burial ground regulations: The Clerk reported that, under the current regulations, no maximum size was specified for flat memorial stones on ordinary graves.

RESOLVED that the maximum size for such stones be 6'6" long and 3' wide.

- (b) Bus shelters: Frenchmoor Garden Buildings had submitted proposals for an additional front section to be added to the Hatches Garage and Post Office bus shelters to provide extra weather protection. The cost would be £452.38 per shelter, including VAT. Members agreed that openings should be inserted in each panel and that only the Hatches Garage shelter should be modified at this stage.

RESOLVED that additional panels (with the agreed openings) be added to the Hatches Garage shelter, subject to the cost not exceeding the quoted price.

- (c) Burial ground tree bench: Frenchmoor Garden Buildings had supplied a quotation of £1500, including VAT, for the supply and installation of a teak tree bench. Members noted there was presently no budget for this item and suggested that sponsorship might provide an alternative funding source.

RESOLVED that this project be deferred for the time being.

- (d) West Wellow Common – firework display: Members considered a request from Highlight Pyrotechnics for the ashes of a former local resident to be scattered on the Common, accompanied by a firework display. Members agreed that the use of fireworks was inappropriate, especially in the context of the New Forest byelaws, the Management Agreement, danger to animals and the risk of fire. However, it was felt that the scattering of ashes was acceptable.

RESOLVED that the request for consent to a firework display be refused.

- (e) Other matters: Mrs Simpson presented the monthly report on environmental matters. The following information was noted and action agreed:

Canada roundabout: Clearance work to be organised at the weekend, weather permitting

Burial ground: Burning area and damaged fencing now cleared. Consideration to be given to planting the cleared area

Common: Repairs carried out to fastening on Maurys Lane field gate pedestrian gate at Monkeys Jump entrance. Mrs Simpson and Clerk to arrange site visit to discuss alternative arrangements for gate post supports alongside cattle grid

Flooding problem inside Monkeys Jump entrance. Consider need for track repair

Problem of vehicles being driven onto the Common from the top of the Monkeys Jump track. Seek permission from English Nature for erection of 'Access Only' sign beyond the Monkeys Jump parking area

Foxes Lane: Ask Test Valley to remove rubbish still on site

Memorial seat, Slab Lane copse – consent of Area Surveyor still awaited. Consider Barnes Corner site as an alternative location.

## 228. PURCHASE OF TRAILER

The Clerk tabled a paper on the proposed trailer purchase. An 8' x 5' model was required which was available from New Forest Trailers in a braked version, with either single or double axle. The cost of a single axle trailer, including a ramp and additional optional extras, was £1610 plus VAT. A sum of £900 was available from the 2003/04 equipment budget but the balance could be funded from savings on the play area refurbishment scheme.

RFESOLVED that authority be given for purchase of an 8' x 5' single axle trailer at a cost of £1610 plus VAT.

## 229. PARISH COUNCIL PUBLICITY

The Chairman reported that a new edition of the Parish Newsletter was presently being drafted.

## 230. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

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

	£	VAT	£
Burial fees	135.00	0.00	135.00
Football fees (half-year)	255.50	0.00	255.50
Wellow Short Mat Bowls (Jubilee proceeds)	42.00	0.00	42.00

(b) Accounts: RESOLVED – (1) That the following payment be endorsed:

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	£
001692	Jeffrey Benham (Salary and travel, 26/1 – 8/2/03)	95.54	0.18	95.72

(2) That authority be given for the following payments:

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	£
001694	Joyce Pidgley (Salary, 3/3 – 30/3)	37.12	0.00	37.12
001695	Cynthia Merrey (Tennis agent's fee, March)	19.16	0.00	19.16
001696	M Derrick (Clerk's salary and expenses)	729.75	7.71	737.46
001697	Hatches Farm (Gangmower and tractor storage, March quarter)	180.00	0.00	180.00

001698	Frenchmoor Garden Buildings (New bus shelter opposite Post Office)	1594.89	279.11	1874.00
001699	Ashley Browning (Materials for bridge repairs, Buxton land)	27.98	4.90	32.88
001700	Royal Mail (Response service fee)	63.00	0.00	63.00
001701	R Turner (Hedge cutting and tree works, Lower Common Road recreation ground)	250.00	0.00	250.00
001702	Post Office Ltd (Telephone account)	64.60	11.30	75.90
001703	B.F.T. Fire Ltd (Servicing of fire extinguishers, Lower Common Road recreation ground)	28.20	4.94	33.14
001704	Susan Tillyer (March salary)	74.24	0.00	74.24
001705	Ashley Browning (Removal of rubbish from burial ground and gate repairs on Common )	195.00	0.00	195.00
001706	Southern Electric (Supply to recreation grounds)	40.16	2.00	42.16
001707	HAPTC (Annual subscription (£356) and Local Council Review (£127.08))	483.08	0.00	483.08
001708	Adam Overton-Hore (Keys to Lower Common pavilion for caretaker)	9.53	1.67	11.20
001709	Zurich Insurance (Local Council Advisory Service subscription)	135.00	23.63	158.63

(Note: Cheque 693 cancelled)

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

Immediately:     £3350  
In 35 days:       £1500

(d) 2½% Consols: The Clerk reported on a time-limited offer from HM Treasury to re-purchase 2½% Consolidated Stock, free of commission. This was to assist holders who may have found it difficult or uneconomical to sell stock at commercial dealing rates. It was noted that the Council's holding (£237.96) was currently valued at around £130 and produced annual dividends of £6.

RESOLVED that the Council's Consolidated Stock holding be sold.

## 231. 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.

## 232. **PROPOSED NEW PAVILION**

Consideration was given to a recommendation of the Planning and General Purposes Committee (17 February) proposing that the principle of a Parish Council office/facility being incorporated in the design of the new pavilion be agreed.

Members also received reports on recent joint meetings concerning the design and layout of the proposed building and possible funding arrangements. At the latter meeting, it had been agreed to set up a separate representative group to consider various funding options. Mr Gentle was arranging for an officer from Test Valley to attend a meeting of the group to offer advice. In the meantime, the British Legion would ask the architect to postpone any further design work pending decisions on project funding.

Consideration was also given to a request to meet a third of the fees charged so far (£207.70) by Plantona Ltd, the British Legion architects.

**RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the recommendation of the Planning and General Purposes Committee concerning provision of a Parish Council office/facility in the new pavilion be endorsed;
- (2) That a decision on the size of the office/facility be deferred pending further discussion on the proposed funding arrangements;
- (3) That Mrs Perry be appointed as the Council's representative on the proposed pavilion funding group; and
- (4) That authority be given for expenditure of £69.23, representing a third of the architects' fees incurred to date.

## 233. **REVIEW OF EMPLOYEE SALARIES**

Members considered employee salary levels for the year 2003/04.

**RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the salaries of the following employees be increased by 3% from 1 April 2003 to the hourly rate shown:

ST	£4.78
JP	£4.78
JK	£5.30
JB	£6.18

- (2) That a retainer of £160 be paid to EK in respect of Hatches Farm for the year 2002/03 (cheque 001710).

234. **BURIAL GROUND – JL GRAVE, EASTERN SECTION**

Further to minute 210/2/03, members received a letter from George Summers, the Gypsy Liaison Officer, concerning the outstanding matters relating to this grave. In the context of this letter, members discussed further the position relating to the purchase of the adjoining grave spaces.

Consideration was also given to an application for erection of a memorial on the JL grave. It was noted that the application did not comply with the burial ground regulations in terms of its size, proposed kerbing and other features.

**RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the letter from the Gypsy Liaison Officer be noted;
- (2) That the certificates for purchase of the two grave spaces adjoining the JL grave be issued, subject to the applicant indicating acceptance of the regulations;
- (3) That the memorial application be refused; and
- (4) That the advice of HAPTC be sought as to the Council's position in relation to the various matters concerning this grave.