

WELLOW PARISH COUNCIL
Wellow Village Hall – 1 November 2004
(7.40 p.m. – 9.44 p.m.)

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Bailey and Mrs Eddlestone

83. NEW PAVILION PROJECT

Mr Bloore outlined the present position concerning a proposed new pavilion and introduced John Gentle and Bill Everton of Gentle Associates for this item.

Mr Everton listed the essential requirements for a successful pavilion project, particularly in terms of seeking grant aid from Sport England. It was important to establish a separate organising committee and to involve as many people as possible in the venture. A substantial part of the cost (probably around 50%) would need to be met locally, presenting a significant fund-raising task. Sport England would expect the scheme to serve a variety of sports and provide facilities across a wide age range. They would also look for an expansion and development of sports opportunities, not simply a building to replace an existing structure. Minimum criteria would also apply in terms of building design and provision of disabled facilities etc. A comprehensive business plan would be needed to cover both development of the scheme and future management.

Members discussed various points with the consultants, particularly on matters of funding and grant aid. Bearing in mind the need for early replacement of the existing Lower Common Road pavilion, it was agreed that the Council should explore the possibility of loan facilities to progress the scheme more quickly.

RESOLVED that the Clerk make enquiries about loan facilities for this scheme.

84. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 4 and 18 October 2004 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

85. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Test Valley Council Offices, Romsey (65(a)/10/04): Members received a copy of a letter from the TVBC Corporate Director in response to the Council's representations on the possible closure of the Duttons Road offices.

(b) Foxes Lane (65(b)/10/04): Andrew Milne, Hampshire Highways, had agreed to meet with the Council to discuss Foxes Lane, particularly the issue of travellers.

86. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No interests were declared for this meeting.

87. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Gentle reported on the following:

- attendance at a New Forest National Park trans boundary meeting
- a TVBC site visit with highway authority representatives concerning the access for the proposed affordable housing scheme in Romsey Road.

88. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Southern Test Valley Voluntary Transport Scheme (Romsey Dial-a-Ride): Consideration was given to a grant application from this body.

RESOLVED that a grant of £250 be approved.

(b) New Forest National Park Authority: The New Forest Association of Local Councils had invited nominations for the four Parish Council places on the proposed National Park Authority. Elections would take place at the Association meeting on 2 December. Both Wellow and Copythorne parishes were being asked to support the nomination of Bob Morris from Landford PC, who was being seconded by Melchet Park & Plaitford PC. A statement from Mr Morris was circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED that Wellow support the nomination of Mr Morris.

(c) Affordable housing, Romsey Road: Consideration was given to a letter from Sandra Gidley MP concerning this scheme. The letter was accompanied by a letter from a Wellow resident alleging inappropriate conduct by both the Parish Council and Test Valley BC to procure the project. A draft response prepared by the Clerk (circulated to all members) refuted the claim and explained the sequence of events leading to the development proposals.

In addition, a further letter from a local resident challenged the accuracy of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 September 2004. A draft response prepared by the Clerk (circulated to all members) suggested an amendment to the text of the minutes but not the formal resolutions.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the Clerk's draft to Sandra Gidley MP be approved as the Council's formal response;
 - (2) That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2004 be amended by including in the text of the minutes, a reference to "a possible roundabout opposite Buttons Lane";
 - (3) That the Clerk's draft reply to the further letter be approved as the Council's formal response.
- (d) HAPTC/RTPI briefing on the New Planning System (Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004), Winchester Guildhall, 7 December 2004: RESOLVED that Mr Austin be authorised to attend (fee of £40 payable).
- (e) Other matters: The Clerk reported the following:
- (i) HAPTC bulletin 73/04 on the Draft South East Plan (copied to members);
 - (ii) Other correspondence as shown in the list accompanying the agenda.

89. HIGHWAY MATTERS

(a) A36: A letter from Atkins announced the proposed closure of the A36 for resurfacing between Canada Common and Shelley Common. The work was likely to be carried out in January and last for around six weeks. Through-route and local diversions would operate during the contract. Members emphasised the need to retain access to local shops and

agreed to enquire whether the proposed pedestrian crossing at Canada roundabout could be installed at the same time.

- (b) Other matters: Members discussed other current issues and agreed to pursue the following:
- (i) Canada Road – need for additional grass cutting
 - (ii) Tutts Lane – deteriorating road surface and fading road nameplate at Romsey Road junction
 - (iii) Slab Lane – damaged nameplate at A36 junction
 - (iv) Whinwhistle Road – damaged road sign at Ryedown corner

90. **PLANNING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and General Purposes Committee held on 4 October 2004, shown as appendix 1 in the minute book, be approved.

91. **DELEGATES' REPORTS**

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had attended a dedication service for the new standard of the Wellow Branch of the Royal British Legion at St Margarets Church on Sunday 31 October. Mr Browning also referred to a seminar on 2 November on proposed management arrangements for the New Forest National Park. He agreed to pursue the matter of commoning and back-up land and the need for a “buffer zone” to protect areas formerly in the New Forest Heritage Area but excluded from the National Park.

92. **POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 11 October 2004 (appendix 2 in the minute book). On item 4 (Draft Budget 2005/06), it was agreed that, in light of the presentation by Gentle Associates on the pavilion scheme earlier in the meeting, it did not appear practical to use the extension to the Lower Common Road pavilion as a base for a new building. On item 5 (Use of Council Tennis Courts by the Tennis Club), a meeting with the Club was agreed for Wednesday 10 November at 7 p.m. Discussion also took place on the proposed increase in the Clerk's contract hours (item 7).

RESOLVED –

- (1) That recommendation (2) of item 4 (Draft Budget 2005/06) be deferred for the time being;
- (2) That a starting date for the Clerk's increased contract hours be discussed at the Committee meeting on 6 January 2005; and
- (3) That, subject to (1) and (2) above, the minutes be received and the recommendations therein contained be adopted.

93. **SPORT AND LEISURE**

- (a) Sport and Leisure Committee: Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2004 (appendix 3 in the minute book). On item 7 (Royal British Legion Fete, 2005), it was agreed that the Council would have a stall at the event.

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

- (b) Monthly report: It was noted that the new vehicular barrier had been installed adjacent to the tennis courts at Hatches Farm.

94. **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

- (a) Environment Committee: Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2004 (appendix 4 in the minute book). It was noted that Mrs Perry had made a photographic record of the recent gorse clearance works on the Common.

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

- (b) Monthly report: It was suggested that additional dog waste bins could usefully be provided at locations such as Slab Lane copse, the Carlos site and the war memorial. In view of the cost, it was agreed to refer the matter initially to the Policy and Finance Committee.

95. **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION**

RESOLVED that this matter be referred to the Planning and General Purposes Committee on 22 November 2004, with express authority for the Committee to act.

96. **MEMBERS' SURGERIES**

Consideration was given to the possibility of holding regular Council 'surgeries' for local residents. There were mixed views on the proposal, and no formal policy decision was taken. However, the Chairman agreed to arrange an initial trial session for early December and to meet the cost of room hire from the Chairman's allowance. The surgery would be publicised in the Wellow Gazette, the Parish Newsletter and by public notices.

97. **PARISH COUNCIL PUBLICITY**

Members were asked to pass publicity items to Mrs Simpson or the Chairman as soon as possible for inclusion in the next Newsletter.

98. **PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

- (a) Audit of Accounts, 2003/04: The Clerk reported that the Audit Commission had concluded the 2003/04 audit, with no matters requiring attention.
- (b) Income: Members noted income received since the last meeting, as shown in appendix 5 in the minute book.
- (c) Accounts: RESOLVED that authority be given for the payments listed in appendix 5 (cheques 2000 to 2004).