

WELLOW PARISH COUNCIL
Wellow Village Hall – 6 December 2004
(7.45 p.m. – 10.18 p.m.)

PRESENT: Mrs Perry (Chairman); Mr Austin, Mr Bailey, Mr Browning, Mrs Eddlestone, Mr Noble and Mrs Simpson

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Bloore, Mr Gentle, Mr Moody and Mr Pointer

99. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2004 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

100. **MATTERS ARISING**

- (a) New pavilion project (83/11/04): The Clerk had obtained details of regulations covering loans to Parish Councils. A response was awaited from the Public Works Loan Board as to existing loan facilities and indicative interest rates.
- (b) New Forest National Park Authority (88(b)/11/04): Bob Morris of Landford (the Council's nominee) had been elected to the Parish Group 4 position on the new authority. Mr Morris had sent a letter of thanks for the Council's support.
- (c) Affordable housing (88(c)/11/04): Sandra Gidley MP had acknowledged, with thanks, the Council's response to the earlier letter from a local resident.

101. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

No interests were declared for this meeting.

102. **COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

Councillor Woodhall reported on the following:

- postponement of a footpath scheme in Romsey Road pending the outcome of the affordable housing scheme
- the proposed resurfacing and safety improvement work on the A36
- the condition of the road surface in Hackleys Lane
- mud on the highway next to the entrance to Kings Farm, Foxes Lane

103. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Green waste: A letter from a local resident to Councillor Gentle complained about aspects of the new green waste scheme, in particular the difficulty of lifting the bags. In response, members observed that Test Valley were willing to collect bags from within the curtilage where householders experienced problems. It was agreed to advise the resident to approach Test Valley for assistance.
- (b) Open Spaces Society: A letter from the Society requested contributions to the costs of a failed case in the High Court regarding fencing on Wisley Common in Surrey.
 RESOLVED that a contribution of £25 be made to the appeal.

- (c) Other matters: The Clerk reported the following:
- (i) A letter from the Standards Board for England enclosing guidance for members on membership of lobby groups, dual-hatted members and prejudicial interests (copy supplied to all members);
 - (ii) A letter from the Standards Board for England on guidance for monitoring officers and standards committees in relation to local investigations (to be circulated to members for information);
 - (iii) A letter of thanks from Romsey Dial-a-Ride for the Council's grant;
 - (iv) Other correspondence as shown in the list accompanying the agenda.

104. **HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- (a) A36: Members received further information from WS Atkins on the proposed closure of the A36 in January. The work would comprise two independent schemes, one involving resurfacing between Canada roundabout and Fighting Cocks Farm and the other a package of safety measures extending north west along the road (including new pedestrian crossings). Members commented that local roads, in particular Romsey Road and Maurys Lane, would be used by motorists as alternative routes. It was therefore agreed to ask the Police to carry out speed monitoring during the work.
- Members also noted the concern of Wellow School about the prospect of increased traffic in Romsey Road. The position would be monitored during the first week of closure and any problems reported to the Police. Reference was made to a 'drop off' system used in other areas whereby children were met by staff, thereby reducing parking congestion.
- (b) Local highway matters: A letter from Andrew Milne, the new Assistant Chief Engineer, updated the Council on various outstanding highway issues. In particular, Mr Milne had accepted a request for a site meeting in Foxes Lane to discuss the problems of gypsy caravans. It was suggested that the flooding issue relating to the track off Romsey Road be discussed with Mr Milne during a future visit.
- (c) Gardeners Lane: Mrs Eddlestone presented letters received from Gardeners Lane residents referring to the problems of speed and volume of traffic in the lane. The letters proposed a speed limit and other suitable traffic calming measures to address the situation. It was agreed to discuss the position initially with Romsey Extra Parish Council.
- (d) Litter: Discussions had been held with TVBC concerning the problems of litter in the Embley Lane/Tanners Lane/Gardeners Lane areas. Litter picking was scheduled to take place on a weekly basis but members queried whether this was achieved. The Clerk was asked to pursue this further. A separate letter from the Cleansing Manager on the subject of highway litter was also presented.
- (e) Barnes Corner: Two vehicles had recently failed to take the bend at the junction of Romsey Road and Groves Down. It was agreed to ask the highway authority to consider erection of a chevron sign.
- (f) Extinguishment of highway rights, Oakbank, Maurys Lane: Mr Butler, the owner of this property, had requested the Council to withdraw its objection to the extinguishment of highway rights at the front of the dwelling. The Council had opposed extinguishment on the grounds that it would set a precedent for other areas of adjoining land and that the highway land in this particular location added to the character of the area.
- A letter from the owner gave details of the work carried out to the frontage and explained that the fencing had been erected in the belief that no prior permission was required. Mr Butler stated that his neighbours had raised no objection to the work and that he had received compliments from other residents. Similarly, the highway authority had no objection to the extinguishment.
- RESOLVED that the Council maintain its objection to highway extinguishment in this case.

105. PLANNING

- (a) Planning and General Purposes Committee: RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 1 and 22 November 2004, shown as appendices 1 and 2 in the minute book, be approved.
- (b) Affordable housing scheme, Bridge Cottages/Romsey Road: Members received a letter from Western Challenge Housing Association concerning discussions with the highway authority on the possibility of a roundabout at the Romsey Road/Buttons Lane junction. The advice from HCC was that the roundabout design would have to accommodate the needs of all traffic and would require street lighting on 6 metre high columns, with the junction lit for 60 metres on all main approaches. The developer's view was that a roundabout would lead to significant changes to the area and render the scheme financially unviable. The developer noted that the proposed scheme met with current planning and highways guidance, albeit advice would be taken on affordable low cost enhancements. As a result, the scheme would be re-presented to Southern Area Planning Committee on 7 December with the proposed access off Romsey Road retained. Members recalled that the Parish Council's support in principle (minute 81(a)/10/04) was conditional upon a number of factors, in particular the inclusion of a revised access incorporating a new roundabout. RESOLVED that the Council's previous comments on this application be reaffirmed.
- (c) HCC Regulatory Committee: Mr Bailey reported on applications determined at a meeting of the County Regulatory Committee:

Mill Farm, Woodington Road (Storage of inert waste in skips): Temporary permission granted for two years

Ridge Quarry, Ridge Lane, Ridge (Permanent facility for recycling of construction waste etc): Refused

106. DELEGATES' REPORTS

Mr Browning reported on meetings/seminars of the New Forest Committee. The sessions had covered a wide range of topics associated with the proposed National Park, including the need for a buffer zone to protect those areas in the former New Forest Heritage Area but lying outside the new Park boundaries.

Mr Bailey reported on Romsey Dial-a-Ride matters.

107. MEMBERS' SURGERY, 4 DECEMBER 2004

Members received a report on this event, attended by the Chairman and Mr Bailey. Eighteen residents had attended, with the following issues being raised:

- affordable housing
- condition of Foxes Lane
- Romsey Road/Buttons Lane footpath – need for trimming
- dog fouling in Slab Lane
- Romsey Road – need for footpath
- Lower Common Road – problem of leaves
- opposition to lighting in the village
- Canada Common – need for seat (in hand)

- suggestion of wild flowers, particularly at Carlos site (opportunity for School involvement?)
- requirement for bus shelter at Hatches Garage, A36
- School Road/A36 junction – problem of sightlines to the east
- School Road – road being used as access to school leading to increased traffic (members felt this took pressure off Romsey Road)

The Chairmen felt the surgery to have been worthwhile and worth repeating. It was agreed to hold a further event in approximately two months' time.

108. **SPORT AND LEISURE**

- (a) Meeting with Tennis Club: Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting with the Tennis Club on 10 November 2004, a copy of which appears as appendix 3 in the minute book. The meeting had covered issues relating to use of the Council's tennis courts by the Club. The Clerk also tabled details of casual user bookings on Saturdays from 1 April 2004 to date.

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

- (b) Monthly report: Mr Austin reported on the following matters, which would be discussed further by the Sport and Leisure Committee on 9 December:
- requirements for play area improvements following safety inspection (site visit by Mr Austin and the Clerk carried out on 4 December);
 - re-painting of doors at Hatches Farm pavilion

109. **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

- (a) Canada Common turning circle: Quotations were still awaited from Richard Long (revised bid) and R Ball & Co for resurfacing work. Neither David Locke nor Alan Bungay was able to quote.

RESOLVED that authority be given for the Chairman of the Council and the Chairmen of the Environment and Policy & Finance Committees jointly to accept a quotation for this work.

- (b) Footpath 25, Foxes Lane: A letter from the Rights of Way Section to the owner of Sunnyfields Organic Farm expressed concern about the condition of this path. Agricultural operations were affecting the path and action was needed to address the problem. A further site meeting was proposed once ground conditions improved. It was agreed that the Parish Council should request a presence at the site meeting.

- (c) Monthly report: Mr Browning reported on current matters as follows:

- quotations awaited for various tree works at Lower Common Road recreation ground, burial ground and the war memorial
- recent work at the Buxton land (with thanks to volunteers)
- completion of work at the Maurys Lane entrance to the Common (strimming and removal of silver birch)
- grubbing-out of laurel at the Fielders Way site (Jean Kenny, assisted by Jeff Benham and Alex Briggs, a local neighbour)
- bench at the Carlos site still to be installed

Reference was also made to fallen trees blocking the stream near Rixes Ford. Mr Browning agreed to inspect the site.

110. **PARISH COUNCIL PUBLICITY**

The next edition of the Parish Newsletter was due to be published in March. It was agreed to include names and addresses of all Council members.

111. **PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

(a) Income: Members noted income received since the last meeting, as shown in appendix 4 in the minute book.

(b) Accounts: RESOLVED that authority be given for:

- (i) the payments listed in appendix 4 (cheques 2017 to 2024);
- (ii) the following additional payment:

Cheque no		£	VAT	£
2025	Open Spaces Society (Contribution to Wisley Common appeal)	25.00	0.00	25.00

(c) Burial Ground – hedging: Approximately 30 berberis plants would be needed for the proposed hedge between the Eastern section and Garden of Remembrance, at a cost of £120. RESOLVED that authority be given for the purchase (Mrs Eddlestone).

112. **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, APRIL 2005**

Members discussed possible speakers for the Annual Parish Meeting on 20 April 2005. The Clerk was asked to approach Edward Jewell (local history) in the first instance.

113. **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

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

114. **JL GRAVE, EASTERN SECTION**

Further to minute 78/10/04, it was noted that unauthorised articles remained on this grave. Members discussed the position in the context of the owner's earlier request for additional grave spaces.

RESOLVED that, as the regulations have not been complied with in respect of this grave, the offer of additional grave spaces be withdrawn.

115. **STAFF CHRISTMAS BONUSES**

RESOLVED that Christmas bonuses of £30 each be paid to part-time staff JB, JK, JP and ST.

The following matters were discussed during the public participation period:

Affordable housing

Test Valley green waste scheme