

WELLOW PARISH COUNCIL
Wellow Village Hall – 4 April 2005
(7.00 p.m. – 10.20 p.m.)

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

An apology for absence was received from Mrs Eddlestone

178. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

The Chairman welcomed Mr David Windell to the Council and to his first meeting.

179. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 7 and 21 March 2005 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

180. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Foxes Lane (155/3/05): The Chairman reported a further complaint concerning the condition of footpath 24 in Foxes Lane. The Rights of Way Officer had confirmed his intention to arrange a further site meeting and would invite Parish Council representatives.

(b) Cango bus services (159(b)/3/05): A meeting with HCC representatives concerning the proposed Cango services had been arranged for Wednesday 6 April (Chairman and Mr Bailey attending).

(c) TVBC Health Walks Scheme: A weekly walk would be added to this scheme from Wednesday 4 May at 1.30 pm, starting either from the Village Hall or the Rockingham Arms. A number of residents had responded to the request for volunteer leaders.

(d) Highway sign, St Margarets Church (160(d)/3/05): An order for this new sign would be raised after 1 April 2005. The problems with the sign were due to complications in producing the new pattern rather than the use of colour.

(e) Purchase of land (173/3/05): The landowner in this case had now advised that he was unable to help the Council with this proposal.

181. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared for this meeting.

182. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Councillor Gentle referred to the following matters:

- a proposed visit to Canada Common by members of the New Forest National Park Authority
- discussions by the Licensing Committee concerning hackney carriage licences
- a meeting of the New Forest Transport Strategy Committee (matters raised included the condition of village roads in Wellow and the need for a horse crossing near Blackhill Road)

183. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) *Bus shelters*: A letter from a local resident complained about graffiti on the Council's bus shelters. It was agreed to ask Jeff Benham to use a water-based creosote on the newest of the shelters in the first instance. Only the outside of the shelters would be treated initially to gauge the effect.
- (b) *Taxi licences (120(a)/1/05)*: The results of the earlier questionnaire had been inconclusive; as a result, specialist consultants were carrying out a full survey to assess the current demand.
- (c) *Affordable housing (164/3/05)*: A letter from Mr R Prideaux commented further on aspects of the proposed affordable housing scheme in Romsey Road, including the changed access approved as part of the planning consent. Members agreed to note the letter. The Clerk also tabled extracts from the s106 agreement, in particular the sections concerning the letting of units.
- (d) *Planning matters*: Members received a letter from a local resident expressing thanks for the Council's efforts in dealing with planning applications.
- (e) *Other matters*: Members noted other correspondence as shown in the list accompanying the agenda.

184. HIGHWAY MATTERS

- (a) *A36 – safety issues (160(b)/3/05)*: Atkins had replied on the various safety matters discussed at the previous meeting. The Council's concern about the safety of footways adjacent to the Canada roundabout would be included in the final safety audit and any necessary works programmed as soon as possible. However, there were no plans to relocate the vehicle activated speed signs and sponsored planting was not permitted on trunk road roundabouts. Provision of speed cameras was a matter for the Hampshire Speed Camera Partnership. As a result, members agreed the following:
 - request Atkins to introduce temporary measures to protect pedestrians at the Canada roundabout
 - request the Camera Partnership to provide an additional speed camera at the Landford/Plaitford border
 - seek the support of Wiltshire Police to extend the 40 mph speed limit into Landford
- (b) *Weight restrictions (160(b)/3/05)*: The Council's request for weight restrictions on local roads had been referred to TVBC's Technical Services Department as this was no longer a function of the County Council
- (c) *Other matters*: It was agreed to pursue other highway matters as follows:
 - the ongoing traffic problems outside the car boot sale site at Shootash (Police)
 - damaged road edgings in Tanners Lane (Surveyor)
 - outstanding pothole repairs in Maurys Lane (Surveyor)
 - replacement fingerpost at the Woodington Road/Embley Lane junction (Surveyor)

185. PLANNING MATTERS

- (a) *Planning and General Purposes Committee*: RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 7 and 21 March 2005, shown as appendices 1 and 2 respectively in the minute book, be approved.
- (b) *New application*: RESOLVED that the Council respond to the following application as shown:

TVS.03034/6 Leahurst, The Frenches – two storey extension No objection
to the rear/west elevation to provide sitting room,
hall/study, games room, boot room, store and lobby at ground floor level with
2 additional bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and dressing room at first floor level

(c) *Recent decisions:* Members noted the decisions shown in paper 9(c) accompanying the agenda (appendix 3 in the minute book)

(d) *Enforcement:* Reference was made to creation of a new access and presence of a mobile home at Cross Oaks Farm. It was agreed to pursue the matter with the Enforcement Officer

(e) *Other matters:* Members noted the following:

(i) details of a TVBC training session on landscape and trees on 12 April 2005 at Kings Somborne Village Hall

(ii) a letter from HCC on a public information campaign, “Holding out for Hampshire”, on the impact of the South East Plan

186. **DELEGATES’ REPORTS**

The Clerk reported on the Clerks’ Conference held at Sparsholt College on 10 March 2005. Topics had included: Illegal dumping/fly tipping; gypsies and travellers; the new Planning Act 2004; Hampshire broadband initiative; the work of Hythe and Dibden Parish Council; and Quality Parishes (see also minute 189 below).

187. **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES ETC**

Members reviewed Committee appointments following Mr Bloore’s resignation and election of the new co-opted member.

RESOLVED that new appointments be made as follows:

Environment Committee: Mr D Windell

Planning deputy: Mrs W Simpson

188. **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, 20 APRIL 2005**

Members discussed arrangements for this meeting and agreed the following:

- Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Chairmen of Committees and Clerk to sit at front of meeting
- meeting to be advertised by customary leaflets

189. **QUALITY PARISHES**

Pursuant to minute 162/3/05, further consideration was given to the issue of quality parish status. Members received a copy of a statement from the Chairman of South Warnborough Parish Council on the benefits of QP and a letter from Defra on the Quality Parish Investment Fund.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the principle of achieving Quality Parish status be agreed;
- (2) That the Clerk be reimbursed for the work involved in seeking the necessary Clerk’s qualification;
- (3) That the Clerk report further to the July meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee on the detailed requirements for Quality Parish status and a possible timetable for achievement.

190. **NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK**

Members received a report on National Park issues from Bob Morris, the Parish Group 4 representative on the National Park Authority. It was agreed to invite Mr Morris to a future meeting for more detailed discussions (meeting of the Planning and General Purposes Committee, with all members invited).

191. **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

(a) *Monthly report:* Mr Browning reported that Rural Rescue had now completed outstanding tree works at Lower Common Road, the war memorial and the burial ground. The new hedging at the burial ground between the Eastern section and the Garden was currently being planted. Routine maintenance schedules for environmental sites would be reviewed by the Environment Committee on 27 April.

(b) *Matters raised with English Nature:* As advised earlier, English Nature had refused to grant SSSI consent for the proposed alterations to the access track to Pine View, Canada Common. As a result, any alterations would be confined to land within the property curtilage. With regard to the additional track at this property, English Nature were asking for the stones to be removed to allow a “natural” forest gravel track to re-establish itself. English Nature would also be making proposals for dealing with the damage to the Common caused by vehicles diverting from the track at Canada.

192. **SPORT AND LEISURE**

(a) *Sport and Leisure Committee:* Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Sport and Leisure Committee held on 17 March 2005, a copy of which appears as appendix 4 in the minute book. The recommendations in minute 5(a) (Lower Common Road pavilion) were dealt with under minute 193 below.

RESOLVED that the minutes be received and the recommendations contained in minutes 6 and 7 be adopted (the Council to meet the cost of materials for redecoration of the Hatches Farm pavilion changing rooms).

(b) *Monthly report:* Mr Austin reported that vandal-damage to the play area roundabout had now been repaired. Andrew Austin would also be repairing the climbing board on the multi-play unit. It was noted that Gary Noble would be providing an estimate for the provision of walkways between various items of equipment in the play area.

193. **LOWER COMMON ROAD PAVILION**

Further discussion took place on the need for a replacement pavilion at Lower Common Road. There were differing views on the size of building required and the level of expenditure to be approved. In addition, no information was yet to hand on the availability of external grant aid. However, it was generally agreed that a new building was needed and that, if necessary, the project could proceed in stages. The current proposal was for phase 1 to be constructed alongside the existing changing rooms, incorporating a function room (to be shared by the Cricket Club and Royal British Legion), bar facilities and new toilets (including provision for the disabled).

As part of this discussion, members also considered the recommendations contained in minute 5(a) of the Sport and Leisure Committee minutes concerning renovation of the existing pavilion and toilets. Subject to completion of a structural survey by Mr Bailey, the Committee felt that expenditure of around £5000 would extend the life of the present facilities by a few years.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the principle of proceeding with a new pavilion be agreed;
- (2) That an outline planning application be made for phase 1 of the project, showing overall dimensions of the building (based on the plans submitted by Mr Moody), and incorporating a new access road alongside the Gazing Lane boundary and a new car park;
- (3) That Mr Moody's architect be authorised to submit the planning application;
- (4) That a report on these proposals be made at the Annual Parish Meeting on 20 April, followed by a special Newsletter;
- (5) That Mr Bailey submit a detailed structural survey report on the present pavilion and toilets to the Policy and Finance Committee meeting on 11 April 2005; and that the Committee be given express delegated powers to approve any necessary expenditure on the repair and redecoration of the existing facilities.

194. PARISH COUNCIL PUBLICITY

Members were asked to pass news items to the Chairman, Mrs Eddlestone or Mrs Simpson.

195. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

- (a) *Income:* Members noted income received since the last meeting, as shown in appendix 5 in the minute book.
- (b) *Expenditure:* **RESOLVED –**
- (i) that cheques 2076 and 2077, as shown in appendix 5, be endorsed;
 - (ii) that authority be given for the new payments listed in appendix 5 (cheques 2078 to 2082).

196. TEST VALLEY COMMUNITY AWARDS 2005

A letter from TVBC announced a further award scheme in the coming year to recognise outstanding voluntary work in the community. Members identified a suitable candidate for nomination.

197. REVIEW OF EMPLOYEE SALARIES

Further to minute 172/3/05, the Clerk reported that the 2004/05 salary level for JK had been shown incorrectly as £5.30/hour instead of £5.50/hour.

RESOLVED that, notwithstanding the decision in the above minute, the hourly rate for JK be increased to £5.63 with effect from 1 April 2005, together with payment of a suitable bicycle allowance.

The following matters were discussed during the public participation period, with action agreed as shown:

Planning application 03034/6 (Leahurst, The Frenches)

Casual tennis income (March) and replacement of direction signs to booking office (Mr Harris to replace signs and re-charge cost to Council)

Mowing of plants during grass cutting at Foxes Lane pond (to be raised with HCC/TVBC)

Enforcement issues at Larkspur House, Shootash (to be pursued with Enforcement Officer)