

WELLOW PARISH COUNCIL
Wellow Village Hall – 5 December 2005
(7.36 p.m. – 10.30 p.m.)

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Gentle, Mr Pointer and Mrs Simpson

98. **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Guy Gibson to the Council and to his first meeting.

99. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2005 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

100. **MATTERS ARISING**

(a) *War Memorial (82(a)/11/05)*: The Hampshire Villages Initiative could possibly fund up to 80% of the memorial improvement costs. Other grant sources would be explored for the balance.

(b) *Horse gate, Canada Common (88(a)/11/05)*: The Surveyor had confirmed that the gate would be repaired shortly. In the meantime, a further accident had occurred at the site.

101. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

No interests were declared for this meeting.

102. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillor Perry reported on the following matters:

- withdrawal of the application for a waste recycling plant at Sole Hill, Sherfield English
- grant enquiries for improvements to the war memorial
- efforts to secure repairs to the horse gate at Canada Common
- the local government financial settlement for 2006/07 and the implications for local authority budgets
- new housing proposals in the context of the South East Plan (these should not affect Wellow but were likely to lead to significant extra building between Romsey and North Baddesley)
- the poor efforts by the Highway Agency in grading and seeding the Canada roundabout
- the recently published school league tables, including ratings for Awbridge and Wellow
- the unsatisfactory conditions on the Gurnays Mead estate, including parked caravans and commercial vehicles and the condition of the area at the rear of the Lower Common Road shops (Councillor Perry to pursue with relevant authorities)
- conditions at the former reptile shop, including a broken window and an abandoned vehicle

103. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) *Concessionary travel (82(b)/11/05)*: In response to Wellow's representations, a letter from TVBC confirmed that travel tokens could no longer be offered as an option. However, the new scheme was more generous in other respects and journeys to Salisbury, for example, would be included in the Farepass scheme.
- (b) *Affordable housing scheme, Romsey Road*: An e-mail from TVBC advised that a shortlist of applicants for the two shared-ownership units had now been sent to Western Challenge. Only those applicants with a connection to Wellow were included. With the applicants' permission, Wellow PC would receive details of the successful applicants. In addition, TVBC had confirmed that the shared-ownership units were being offered on a 50/50 split. The original intention had been to offer a 25% share for sale but this could not be achieved due to the anticipated build costs/requirements. A letter from Western Challenge also sought suggestions for a name for the new development. RESOLVED that the following names be offered for consideration:
Bridge Close; Bridge Meadows; Memorial Close
- (c) *Parish office*: A letter from Hampshire Constabulary dealt with the future use of the West Wellow beat house in Lower Common Road. Pending a final decision, it was agreeable in principle for the Parish Council to use the accommodation on a temporary basis, subject to meeting the cost of services etc. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain further details of costs involved and Mr Gibson would make enquiries as to community funding options.
- (d) *County Council services*: A letter from Ken Thornber, Leader of HCC, referred to the funding crisis faced by local government and other public services. It seemed likely that, for 2006/07, the Government would continue its policy of increasing grant-aid in the north of England at the expense of authorities in the south-east. This would increase budgetary pressures for southern counties and result in significant council tax increases. Members agreed to make suitable representations to the Minister of Communities and Local Government.
- (e) *Bus shelters (94(b)/11/05)*: Further to discussion at the previous meeting, a letter from a local resident requested provision of a bus shelter at Canada corner. As agreed, the matter would be discussed at the next Environment Committee meeting.
- (f) *Other correspondence*: Members noted the following:
- (i) an invitation from the New Forest National Park Authority to attend a special stakeholder meeting at Beaulieu Abbey on 7 December 2005 (Chairman to attend);
 - (ii) a letter and Parish Councillors' briefing pack on the new alternate bin collection scheme (copy supplied to all members);
 - (iii) other correspondence as shown in the list accompanying the agenda.

104. HIGHWAY MATTERS

- (a) *A36*: A letter from the Safety Camera Partnership indicated that, following a speed survey, a further speed camera on the A36 at Plaitford could not be justified. The site did not meet the criteria for enforcement either in terms of speed or casualty profile. In view of the letter, Mr Bailey agreed to obtain further details of the survey. Mr Gibson also advised on the source for traffic statistics. A local resident had also suggested the provision of reflective markers/bollards at certain junctions on the A36 to aid road safety. This had been discussed previously and it was agreed no further action was necessary.

(b) *Land at Oakbank, Maurys Lane*: A letter from HCC referred to an application to be made to Andover Magistrates Court on 13 December 2005 to extinguish highway rights over an area of land fronting this property. The Council had previously agreed to raise no objection to the proposal.

Maurys Lane/Romsey Road: Flooding was occurring near the Methodist Church. Agreed, refer to Surveyor.

105. **PLANNING MATTERS**

(a) *Planning and General Purposes Committee*: RESOLVED that the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 7 and 21 November 2005, shown as appendices 1 and 2 respectively in the minute book, be received and the recommendations therein contained be adopted.

(b) *Changes to planning legislation and procedures*: TVBC were arranging meetings with Parish Councils to explain recent changes to planning law and the processes for dealing with applications. Group sessions would be held, Wellow being grouped with Lockerley, Sherfield English and Melchet Park & Plaitford. The joint session was scheduled for Tuesday 21 February 2006 (Wellow Village Hall, 6.30 pm). It was agreed that the Planning & General Purposes Committee should discuss possible questions and debating points for the meeting.

(c) *Test Valley Borough Local Plan Review*: Part 1 of the Inspector's Report into objections to the Local Plan Review (Revised Deposit Draft) had now been published. The Clerk tabled a paper showing the recommendations in the Report which were of particular relevance to Wellow. A report setting out TVBC's response to the Inspector's recommendations would be considered by the Executive on 13 December.

(d) *Fence fronting property at Canada Common (xxxxx/11/05)*: Members received a letter from the New Forest National Park Authority on this issue. The letter explained that applications were decided in accordance with planning policy and the particular circumstances of the case. This meant that the Authority was unable to take a blanket view. It was suggested that the matter be pursued through the local development document consultation process during 2006 and 2007.

106. **DELEGATES' REPORTS**

Reports were presented on meetings attended as follows:

Mr Windell: Meeting of the New Forest Association of Local Councils which had included a discussion on Association funding;

Mrs Perry: Meeting at Nursling & Rownhams on problems associated with gypsies and travellers (further meeting to be held);

Clerk: Courses attended on Microsoft Publisher and burial ground safety (see also minute xxx below).

107. **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2006**

Members discussed speaker arrangements for this meeting. It was agreed to approach John Hartley of Sherfield English to speak on Parish Plans.

108. **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

The following matters were reported, with action agreed as indicated:

(a) *West Wellow Common - Nightjar Study*: Report from Just Ecology Environmental Consultancy showing a single male Nightjar recorded on each of two visits;

- (b) *Common maintenance:* Gorse cutting under way; grant may be available from the New Forest National Park Authority under the Sustainable Development Fund (Clerk to obtain application form);
- (c) *Monkeys Jump hedge:* Contractor (Clive Jones) has been approached but pre-cut site visit yet to take place;
- (d) *Monkeys Jump cattle grid:* Contractor (K S Parsons) had quoted £440 for cleaning, an increase of 10% on the previous year. Agreed, defer cleaning for twelve months;
- (e) *Grass cutting:* Final cut of the year being undertaken. Groundsman to clean up ride-on mower before servicing;
- (f) *Footpath 17:* This path had been closed temporarily due to collapsed sewer (associated with house construction on adjoining land). Matter referred to Rights of Way;
- (g) *Burial ground footpaths:* Additional quotation received from Colin Locke for path improvements but clarification needed on certain aspects;
- (h) *Burial ground safety:* Report from Clerk on “Get Safe” course at Botley on 16 November. Environment Committee to consider the following:
 - procedure for testing and repairing defective memorials
 - safety procedures for grave digging
 - review of “purchased graves” policy
 Noted that Clerk has requested repairs to a memorial in the Western section (quotation for repair also to be obtained from Lockerley Stone and Masonry).

109. **SPORT AND LEISURE**

- (a) *Hatches Farm entrance gates:* Members considered tenders received for alterations to the entrance gates and fencing (schedule circulated). The lowest of three tenders was from New Forest Fencing Ltd in the sum of £999.44 plus VAT.
RESOLVED that the tender from New Forest Fencing Ltd be accepted (ensure sufficient width for wheelchair access through single 3’ gate).
(Mr Austin declared an interest in this item, took no part in the discussion and did not vote thereon).
- (b) *Royal British Legion Fete, 15 July 2006:* A letter from Wellow & Plaitford Cricket Club expressed disappointment at the decision to make the recreation ground available to the RBL on this date. This would cause problems with the rearrangement of fixtures and result in financial losses to the Club. However, it was understood that the RBL was inviting the Club to a meeting to discuss an alternative date and the Council would be advised of the outcome.
- (c) *Monthly report:* An update was provided on other matters as follows:
 - (i) *Hatches Farm pavilion showers:* These need replacement and quotations had been invited. Agreed, quotations to be considered by the Policy & Finance Committee on 19 December 2005 with express authority to act.
 - (ii) *Lower Common Road recreation ground maintenance:* Stuart Cloudsdale to submit quotation for new link footways in play area and repairs to Slab Lane track. Repairs to play area fencing also required (quotation in hand).
 - (iii) *Tennis Club:* Application for floodlighting to Club courts now submitted. Discussion also on use of Council courts by the Club without prior booking.
 - (iv) *Sports equipment:* Mr Bailey referred to the availability of a discarded basketball hoop. This could possibly be of use to the Parish Council or Wellow School.

110. PARISH COUNCIL PUBLICITY

The following items would be included in the next Parish Newsletter: bus shelter graffiti; further enquiry regarding the need for additional sports facilities. In addition, an article on byelaw restrictions on the Common would be prepared for the Wellow Gazette.

111. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

(a) *Council printer:* Discussion took place on the urgent replacement of the Council printer/copier/fax machine.

RESOLVED that authority be given for expenditure up to £600 on a suitable replacement.

(b) *Income:* Members noted income received since the last meeting, as shown in appendix 3 in the minute book.

(c) *Expenditure:* RESOLVED that authority be given for the new payments listed in appendix 3 (cheques 2204 to 2209).

112. FIREWORK DISPLAY

A local resident had suggested that the Council organise a firework display for Christmas or the New Year in order to raise funds. Members felt this raised a number of concerns, including noise and disturbance to animals and children. It was agreed to take no further action.

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. STAFF CHRISTMAS BONUSES

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