

WELLOW PARISH COUNCIL
Wellow Village Hall – 7 March 2005
(7.54 p.m. – 10.48 p.m.)

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

An apology for absence was received from Mrs Eddlestone

154. **MINUTES**

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

155. **MATTERS ARISING**

Foxes Lane (139(d)/2/05): A letter from Rights of Way confirmed that the condition of footpath 25 was being pursued with the landowner. Similarly, the Head of Planning was pursuing compliance with planning conditions requiring the laying of a non-migratory track at the entrance to Kings Organic Farm.

156. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no interests declared for this meeting.

157. **DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Councillor Gentle referred to his appointment to the New Forest National Park Authority (as a representative of TVBC) and the Test Valley Licensing Committee.

158. **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY**

No request had been made for an election and the vacancy would therefore be filled at a special meeting of the Council on Monday 21 March. It was agreed to hold the meeting at 8 pm.

159. **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) *Review of Code of Conduct:* Members received a letter and consultation leaflet from the Standards Board for England concerning a review of the Local Government Code of Conduct (deadline for comments, 17 June 2005). Members were asked to pass any views to the Clerk.

(b) *Transportation matters:* Changes were planned to bus service 39 (Nomansland to Wellow) as part of the proposed Romsey Cango services. The service currently left Wellow at 10 a.m. but would be put back to 11.20 a.m. which would pose problems for residents attending GP surgeries in Romsey. Representations had been made on the Council's behalf which would be considered as part of the consultation process. It was agreed to include an item in the next Parish Newsletter.

It was also noted that John Merrey had resigned as the Parish Transport representative. It was agreed that Gordon Bailey and Maurice Austin would jointly fill the vacancy.

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

- (i) A letter from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, together with two discussion documents:
“Citizen Engagement and Public Services: Why Neighbourhoods Matter” and
“Vibrant Local Leadership”
(Documents on circulation to members – comments to be passed to the Clerk);
- (ii) A letter and enclosure from Defra on the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill;
- (iii) A letter from TVBC on an extension of the Health Walks Scheme to the Wellow area and a request for volunteer leaders (to be publicised in the Parish Newsletter)
- (iv) A letter from HCC on a review of the mobile library service and requesting parishioners’ views on changes or improvements (article to be included in the Parish Newsletter)
- (v) Letters from the New Forest National Park Establishment Team and Defra confirming designation of the Park from 1 March 2005, together with details of changes to planning rules
- (vi) Other correspondence as shown in the list accompanying the agenda.

160. **HIGHWAY MATTERS**

(a) *Extinguishment of highway rights, ‘Oakbank’, Maurys Lane:* Further to minute 104(f)12/04, members considered a request from Mr Butler, the owner of this property, for the Council to reconsider its objection to the extinguishment of highway rights on land in front of the dwelling. A paper from Mr Butler explained the circumstances in which the land had been enclosed.

RESOLVED that the Council’s previous objection be withdrawn.

(b) *A36:* Members discussed issues arising from the major roadworks contract on the A36, now largely completed. As a result, it was agreed to pursue the following matters:

- dangers to pedestrians on the south-west and north-east corners of Canada roundabout following enlargement of the roundabout
- a further meeting with Chairmen of adjoining parishes to pursue an extension of the 40 mph speed limit into Wiltshire and improvements to the Whinwhistle junction
- a re-siting (westwards) of the 40 mph flashing warning sign near Fighting Cocks Farm
- provision of a speed camera in Plaitford
- reinstatement/repair of verges, road edgings and potholes on roads used as “diversion” routes during the roadworks, in particular Maurys Lane, Romsey Road and Gardeners Lane
- introduction of weight restrictions on roads such as Maurys Lane, Lower Common Road, Romsey Road and Whinwhistle Road
- provision of traffic calming measures in Romsey Road (to be discussed initially at the Annual Parish Meeting)
- re-planting of daffodils on Canada roundabout (Environment Committee)

(c) *The Cut, Whinwhistle Road:* The A36 contractor, Le Farge, had now carried out improvements to The Cut, comprising resurfacing of the path and clearance of the ditch. A local resident had suggested that a post be installed at the northern end of the path to deter use by motorists. RESOLVED that the Council meet the cost of a new post.

(d) *Highway sign, St Margarets Church:* A letter from Hampshire Highways confirmed that HCC were willing to install a new ‘heritage’ sign for St Margarets Church at the junction of Church Lane and Woodington Road. Members agreed that the same finial design

should be used as for the new sign at the Ryedown Lane junction. In respect of the latter, it was understood that installation was being delayed through the use of colour for the finial. Members felt that the sign should be in black and white to avoid further delays.

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

- a letter from Hampshire Highways on outstanding highway issues
- correspondence between Mrs Eddlestone and TVBC concerning the maintenance of highway verges in East Wellow

In addition, the Clerk was asked to pursue the following matters with the highway authority:

- removal of the wooden stakes installed in the highway verge outside Tudor Lodge in Ryedown Lane
- the problems arising from large vehicles entering and leaving Oakridge Timber in Romsey Road
- a broken manhole cover outside Nobles Stores in Lower Common Road (SWA)

161. **PLANNING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2005, shown as appendix 1 in the minute book, be approved.

162. **DELEGATES' REPORTS**

The Chairman reported on her attendance at a Reception for Parish Councils at The Castle, Winchester on 1 March 2005. In particular, there had been encouragement for more parishes to pursue Quality Parish status. It was noted that this was a topic on the agenda for the Clerks Day on 10 May and it was agreed that the Clerk would report further after this event.

163. **SOUTH EAST PLAN**

Further to minute 138(a)/2/05, members discussed the Council's response to the draft South East Plan (copy of Executive Summary of the Plan already circulated). Members were asked to pass comments to the Clerk for consideration at the next meeting.

164. **AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME, ROMSEY ROAD**

Further to minute 142(a)/2/05, consideration was given to the letter and accompanying papers presented to the Chairman by Mr R Prideaux at the last meeting. In particular, Mr Prideaux felt that the Bridge Cottages scheme failed to meet highway safety standards, breached the adopted and emerging Local Plan and was not designed to meet Wellow's housing needs. The letter asked the Parish Council to arrange a meeting with the TVBC Head of Housing to discuss issues of concern.

RESOLVED that no request be made for a meeting with the Head of Housing.

165. **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, 2005/06**

Further to minute 149/2/05, members considered the draft calendar of meetings for 2005/06. RESOLVED that the calendar be approved.

166. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

(a) *Monthly report:* There was a continuing problem of damage to the Common caused by vehicles “bypassing” the Canada track. English Nature were considering options which could be discussed by the Environment Committee in due course. Reference was also made to an area of land to the south of Canada Common which appeared not to be in anyone’s ownership. It was agreed to ask the National Trust if they were willing to pursue ownership.

(b) *‘Pine View’, Canada Common:* Further to minute 146(b)/2/05, a meeting had now been held with English Nature concerning the application to reposition the driveway to this property. English Nature were unwilling to give SSSI consent and, as a result, the proposal had been altered so that it now only affected land within the property curtilage. It was agreed, however, that the Council, as landowners, should formally record its opposition to any alteration of the driveway affecting Common land.

At the recent meeting, discussion had also taken place on the additional access created to Pine View. The owners claimed that the access was already in existence, although overgrown. However, they were prepared to replace the aggregate used with more suitable materials. It was agreed to pursue this further with English Nature.

(c) *Burial ground:* The Clerk referred to the decision to remove excavated soil from the burial ground after each burial from 1 April 2005. Following discussions with the local undertaker, soil would be removed on each occasion by the gravedigger and the cost charged to the client by the undertaker.

It was also noted that a visitor had recently taken a car into the burial ground. It was agreed that a suitable notice (‘No Motor Vehicles’) should be displayed on the entrance gates and an appropriate amendment made to the regulations.

167. SPORT AND LEISURE

Mr Austin referred to the possibility of the tennis courts being used without payment under the present booking system. However, while there was an element of risk, it was felt that the system had worked reasonably well to date.

Reference was also made to the condition of the pavilion changing rooms at Hatches Farm. The matter would be discussed further by the Sport and Leisure Committee.

168. NEW PAVILION WORKING GROUP

Mrs Perry, as current Chairman of the Working Group, presented a summary of the Group’s discussions at the meeting held on 17 February 2005. At the meeting, Mr Moody had presented further plans prepared by his own architect. However, cost was still a major factor, particularly as the project was unlikely to attract a major Sport England grant. Mr Overton-Hore had therefore agreed to research the availability of sports-related grants from other sources. A further meeting of the Group would be held as soon as possible in order to formulate detailed proposals. In this context, the option of a wooden structure was proposed in order to reduce overall costs. Mr Bailey was presently researching suitable buildings.

The poor condition of the existing pavilion toilets had also been discussed. A proposal to use temporary portable toilets was not favoured in view of the experience at the Golden Jubilee event. Instead, the Group had asked the Sport and Leisure Committee to consider cleaning and redecorating the present facilities.

169. PARISH COUNCIL PUBLICITY

The March Newsletter was now being prepared and would include items on: local bus services; the New Forest National Park; provision of additional dog waste bins; A36 road works; TPOs; TVBC Health Walks.

170. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

(a) *Grant applications:* An application for grant-aid had been received from New Forest and Romsey Victim Support. No further details had yet been received concerning the refurbishment works proposed by the 9th Romsey (West Wellow) Scouts.

RESOLVED that a grant of £60 be paid to New Forest and Romsey Victim Support.

(b) *HAPTC Membership:* RESOLVED that membership of HAPTC be renewed for 2005/06 (£404), together with the subscription for six copies of the Local Council Review (£72). (The subscription to Clerks & Councils Direct to be renewed separately).

(c) *Income:* Members noted income received since the last meeting, as shown in appendix 2 in the minute book.

(d) *Accounts:* RESOLVED –

(i) that cheques 2058 to 2062, as shown in appendix 2, be endorsed;

(ii) that authority be given for the new payments listed in appendix 2 (cheques 2063 and 2064).

171. 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.

172. REVIEW OF EMPLOYEE SALARIES

Members considered employee salary levels for the year 2005/06.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the hourly salary rates of the following employees be increased by 2½% to the amounts shown, with effect from 1 April 2005:

ST	£5.12
JP	£5.12
JK	£5.43
JB	£6.66

(2) That the contract hours for JP be increased from 2 hours/week to 9 hours/month from 1 April 2005.

173. PURCHASE OF LAND

Further to minute 152/2/05, the Chairman and Clerk had now met with the landowner to explain the Council's proposals for land purchase. However, no response had been received since the meeting.

174. **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT**

The Clerk provided an update on enforcement matters relating to the following properties:

- Larkspur House, Salisbury Road, Shootash
- Pine View, Canada Common

The following matters were discussed during the public participation period at the start of the meeting:

Extinguishment of highway rights at 'Oakbank', Maurys Lane
Affordable housing scheme, Romsey Road
Road conditions and traffic speed in Maurys Lane
Proposed street party at Royal British Legion fete