

**WELLOW PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Wellow Village Hall – 6 February 2006**  
**(7.33 p.m. – 10.35 p.m.)**

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

An apology for absence was received from Mr Bailey

131. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2006 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

132. **MATTERS ARISING**

(a) *Affordable housing scheme, Romsey Road (116(a)/1/06)*: TVBC had confirmed that, in allocating properties in this development, priority was given to applicants with a strong connection to Wellow parish. Points on the housing register were then taken into consideration. Subject to their consent, applicants' details would be supplied to the Parish Council prior to the formal allocation of tenancies. It was agreed to request consultations on tenancy allocations beyond the first tranche.

(b) *Annual Parish Meeting, 26 April 2006 (116(d)/1/06)*: Fiona Gould of Longparish Parish Council had agreed to speak on Parish Plans, subject to availability. An alternative speaker would be provided if necessary.

133. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

No interests were declared for this meeting.

134. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillor Perry reported on the following matters:

- decision of SEERA awaited on the South East Plan
- Council tax increase of around 4.5% expected for 2006/07
- suggestion of one-way traffic system for Groves Down (Councillor Perry conducting own survey of local residents)
- problems of litter in Ryedown Lane and Pouncefoot Hill
- lack of adequate parking facilities in Gurnays Mead
- need to progress war memorial improvements to secure current year funding

135. **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Councillor Gentle referred to the following matters:

- ongoing efforts to secure a planning "buffer zone" around the New Forest National Park
- enforcement action regarding unauthorised caravan at Crawley Hill

136. **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) Consultation on the reconfiguration of NHS Ambulance Trusts, Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight: A consultation document on this topic was currently on circulation. Any matters members wished to raise would be discussed at the March Council meeting.

- (b) Affordable housing scheme, Romsey Road – street naming: The chosen name of Bridge Meadows had been discounted by the Post Office because of conflict with other properties. Alternative names were Meadow Way or Meadow Close. It was agreed to support the latter.
- (c) Other matters: Members noted other correspondence as shown in the list accompanying the agenda.

### 137. HIGHWAY MATTERS

- (a) *A36 Whinwhistle junction improvement*: A letter from InterRoute referred to outline design work on road improvements at the Whinwhistle junction. Various options had been considered, the preferred solution being a roundabout. As part of the exercise, the agents had produced an environmental scoping study (copied to all members) and had requested comments.  
Members had concerns about the environmental consequences of the proposed scheme. The proposal also failed to deal with the issue of the Blackhill Road junction which could possibly be addressed by a realignment of Whinwhistle Road to link with Blackhill Road. A query was also made as to the initial specification for the study.
- (b) *Highway tour*: Members received a summary of the highway issues discussed with Andrew Milne and Paul Walsh on 25 January 2006 during a tour of the parish (attended by the Chairman and Clerk). Arising from the list, Mr Windell agreed to remove the tree stump on the Ryedown triangle.
- (c) *Outstanding issues*: A letter from Hampshire Highways (copied to all members) provided an update on outstanding highway matters.
- (d) *Other matters*: Members agreed to refer the following items to the Area Surveyor for attention:
  - hedge overhanging highway at Holly Acres, Canada Common
  - encroachment on common associated with building work at Clover Nook, Canada Common
  - obscured 30 mph signs in Canada Road.

### 138. PLANNING MATTERS

- (a) *Planning and General Purposes Committee*: RESOLVED that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 9 and 23 January 2006, shown as appendices 1 and 2 respectively in the minute book, be received and approved.
- (b) *Test Valley Borough Local Plan Review*: A report of the Clerk dealt with proposed modifications to the Local Plan following publication of the Public Local Inquiry Inspectors' Report, Part 1. In particular, the report referred to changes related to:
  - Frontage Infill Policy Areas in the Countryside (Policy SET 07)
  - Replacement Dwellings in the Countryside (Policy SET 11)
  - Rural Exception Affordable Housing (Policy ESN05)
  - Sites for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (Policies ESN12 and 13) (to be further reviewed in context of forthcoming Government Circular)

### 139. WAR MEMORIAL REFURBISHMENT

Following the recent site meeting, the Royal British Legion had now provided a sketch of the proposed memorial layout. The RBL's preference was to dispense with chains but to raise the height of the memorial so that the names could be read more easily. The Environment Committee had also discussed the possibility of a rose garden alongside the memorial.

It was suggested that a protective barrier was needed adjacent to the footway. However, it

was agreed that this could be considered separately once the final plans for the memorial had been prepared.

To progress matters, a meeting would now be held with Anna Longley, HCC, to discuss the detailed design and funding.

#### 140. **PARISH WEB SITE**

Mr Gibson reported that a “.org” site was now in place and an e-mail address had been generated for all members. The Working Party had agreed much of the content but was still compiling further information. A decision was required on the use of photographs for elected members. While there were some reservations, it was agreed that photographs should be used.

#### 141. **PROJECT WORKING GROUP**

Members discussed the terms of reference and meeting arrangements for this Group.

The Group would aim to seek funding, in particular through National Lottery sources, for Council projects. It would also be tasked with developing a business case for grant applications and ensuring that the necessary marketing skills were available.

There was further discussion on the prospects for a Parish office, possibly as an extension to the Village Hall. The Chairman agreed to raise the issue with the Village Hall Committee and Mr Gentle agreed to make further enquiries as to the availability of the necessary additional land.

The first meeting of the Group was arranged for Tuesday 21 February 2006 at 7.00 p.m.

#### 142. **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

(a) *Environment Committee:* Consideration was given to the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 18 January 2006, a copy of which appears as appendix 3 in the minute book. On item 9(a) (Burial ground safety), it was noted that the safety procedures would involve laying down memorials if they were in a dangerous condition.

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

(b) *Litter and graffiti:* Members received a copy of a letter from a local resident to the Head of Environmental Health on this subject. The letter referred to (i) the amount of litter in the Wellow area and (ii) the problem of graffiti on parish bus shelters. The resident stated his intention to request TVBC to use its powers under the Clean Neighbourhood Act 2005 to remove the graffiti. Members expressed concern at the tenor of the letter bearing in mind the Parish Council’s previous efforts. It was agreed to reply accordingly, advising the resident of the measures taken to date. TVBC would also be asked to deal with the litter.

It was also noted that Mr Gentle had arranged for TVBC to supply samples of graffiti removal materials. In addition, it was agreed to use brown Sandtex (external finish) on the Slab Lane shelter to provide a surface from which graffiti could be removed more easily.

(c) *Monthly report:* The following items were reported:

(i) *Buxton land:* Working party held on 4 February (Mr Browning to carry out final strimming). Noted that new fence posts were needed. Clerk to check conveyance to establish responsibility – Mr Browning to carry out repairs if necessary.

(ii) *Wellow Way:* Waste water apparently flowing from the gypsy site onto the highway. Refer to Environment Agency/highway authority.

- (d) *West Wellow Common*: Consideration was given to a suggestion that ownership of the Common should be transferred to the National Trust. Members were against the proposal, preferring to retain responsibility for management. It was noted that, in the past, maintenance costs had largely been met through external funding and that there were reasonable prospects for further funding in the future.  
RESOLVED that the Council retain ownership of the Common.

#### 143. **SPORT AND LEISURE**

- (a) *Lower Common Road pavilion – Cricket Club bar*: Members considered a letter from the Cricket Club concerning weekend opening of the Club bar in the pavilion during the close season. The Club required extra income to offset the additional licence costs. The Club apologised for not seeking prior consent and sought permission to continue the arrangements until the end of April pending a further review.  
It was agreed that the bar could continue to operate as requested, provided numbers were modest. Additional lighting and heating costs would need to be reimbursed.
- (b) *Lower Common Road pavilion – Cricket Club alterations*: A decision was still needed on the Club's proposal to remove the header tank. Mr Austin was authorised to sanction the work provided there were no adverse effects. It was agreed to defer the suggestion of a perimeter path around the pavilion for discussion by the Sport and Leisure Committee.
- (c) *Hatches Farm – Football Club improvements*: Further to the recent meeting with the Football Club, a letter from the Club sought permission to carry out alterations to facilities at Hatches Farm in anticipation of promotion to the Wessex League. The requirements for Wessex League entry were less onerous than previously thought but still involved provision of a pitch barrier, covered standing accommodation, provision of hard standings (concrete and scalplings) and extension of changing room facilities. Provisional costs were estimated at £63,500. A sketch plan of the changing room alterations was tabled at the meeting.  
It was noted that the revised changing facilities omitted female accommodation. Members also felt that firmer costings were required and deferred the matter for further discussion by the Sport and Leisure Committee.
- (d) *Royal British Legion Fete*: A revised date of Sunday 16 July 2006 had now been agreed with the Cricket Club for this year's fete. Members authorised use of the recreation ground for the event on this date.
- (e) *Wellow Tennis Club – floodlights*: It was noted that planning permission for floodlights on the Tennis Club courts had been refused. In terms of the Parish Council's position as landlord, the Council agreed to review the position if and when a further application was submitted.
- (f) *Council tennis courts*: Members discussed refurbishment requirements for the Council's courts. It was agreed that complete refurbishment could be postponed for the time being but that the courts should be power-washed during February/March. The Clerk was asked to seek quotations.
- (g) *Play area insurance*: The Council's insurers were seeking a breakdown of the items of equipment in the play area and sports area at Lower Common Road. Agreed, refer to Sport and Leisure Committee.
- (h) *Monthly report*: Mr Austin reported on the following:
- Hatches farm pavilions showers and water tank renewed
  - meeting with Richard Long awaited to discuss new paths in the play area
  - protective fence required at Hatches Farm to prevent footballs straying into trees around tennis courts (refer to Sport and Leisure Committee)

**144. PARISH COUNCIL PUBLICITY**

An item on the web site would be included in the next Parish Newsletter. Suggestions for other items should be passed to the Chairman, Mr Browning or Mrs Simpson.

**145. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

(a) *Annual subscriptions:* RESOLVED that subscriptions be renewed as follows:

Health & safety service (Zurich Insurance Co) £135 plus VAT

Local Council Review (7 copies, discounted to £10.80 per copy per year (3-year subscription 2006/07 – 2008/09))

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

(c) *Expenditure:* RESOLVED that authority be given for the new payments listed in appendix 4 (cheques 2230 to 2235) plus the following additional payment:

*Cheque no*

2236 Paul Cloudsdale (Plumbing works, Hatches Farm pavilion) £950.00