

## WELLOW PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

23

Wellow Village Hall: Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014. 7.15pm to 10.15pm.

Wellow Room

Present: Alan Clark (AC), Mike Derrick (MD), Francis Feeney (FF), Julie Jacobs (JJ), Mike Jones (MJ), Ray Noble (RN), Angela Ratcliffe (AR) (Chairman), Phil Stenner (PS).

Attending: Cllr Gordon Bailey, Cllr Roy Perry, Lesley Weldon (Clerk) (LW) - Minutes.

Apologies: Tish Cochrane (TC), Jamie King (JK), John Saunders (JS).

Cc. (for information only): Cllr Tony Gentle.

### ITEM

### ACTION

#### 096 APOLOGIES

As above

#### 097 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

#### 098 PUBLIC SESSION

In connection with the Management work done on the Common over the last few weeks, members were asked why so much gorse was cleared on the Common. PS explained that this was part of the 10 year Management programme agreed under the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement, whereby Natural England pay a grant to WPC of approx. £17,000 to maintain the Commons and have approved the work. Natural England does inspect the work done and WPC have received good reports from them. The work this year also included the work programmed for last year, as the weather had not been suitable at that time. Complaints were made about the smoke caused by the burning of the gorse. PS explained that the alternative of taking the gorse away for burning would have increased the cost of the work. A parishioner also expressed his concern over this work, but acknowledged that the work was quite well done. He also felt that the Parish Council did not appreciate the heritage of the Common. Members advised that, without the necessary expertise in Common management, we rely upon the expertise of Natural England and the Verderers. Part of the Natural England grant is used to pay the Verderers. Concern was also expressed about the area around the 2 benches on the Common needing maintenance; the possibility of more benches being installed on the Common; trees, such as oak being planted and crossings over the streams that flow between Wellow and Plaitford Commons and A36/Plaitford Common. (see Item 103b).

#### 099 POLICE REPORT

No PCSO attended.

#### 100 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr Roy Perry reported that:

- (i) Finance - About 1,000 jobs are set to go as part of the cuts, and it is hoped that this will be achieved by voluntary redundancies and retirement, with as few compulsory redundancies as possible. HCC will continue to maintain its main responsibility to residents and staff. HCC will continue to aim for a zero change in council tax.
- (ii) Education/Children's Services - Mountbatten School challenged the English GCSE results. The remarking has resulted in 60% GCSE results A-C in Maths and English. Romsey and Mountbatten Schools have been rated 'Good' by OFSTED. Wellow School - every child applying will get a place.
- (iii) Adult Services - Nightingale Lodge is due for refurbishment, providing 54 apartments to rent in an Extra Care facility, as opposed to 30 places in the past.
- (iv) Highways - The road around the Ower roundabout will be resurfaced this month. A new No.66 bus service from Romsey to Winchester will operate

- on Sundays.
- (v) Museums and Art centres will be transferred to an independent Charity

MD asked about the HCC subsidy for X7 bus service being withdrawn and the impact this will have on the service.

MD raised the issue of no increase in Council Tax for the 6<sup>th</sup> year running and questioned whether HCC are now reaching a situation where a small increase in Council Tax would preserve some essential jobs and services. Cllr Perry advised that he was not in favour of any increase. The stagnation in people's incomes meant that local authorities are trying not to recommend any increase.

Cllr Gordon Bailey reported that:

- (i) Council Tax - Test Valley BC considered a small increase, but not this year.
- (ii) TVBC Local Plan - Meetings being held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015. The plans will probably be supported, with some reservations. Plans for villages will remain unchanged.
- (iii) Former Magistrates Court (FMC) offices - the refurbishment is now complete and all looks much better.
- (iv) Romsey Canal - length from the Plaza to Fishlake Meadows banks to be cut back and will improve wildlife.
- (v) TVBC Transport Forum meeting to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at Crossfield Hall.

#### 101 MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Chair

#### 102 MATTERS ARISING

None

#### 103 ENVIRONMENT

a) To consider request by Hampshire Search and Rescue to use Canada Common for a simulated call out exercise - Stephen Bavin from HSR advised members of the context. **RESOLVED:** members agreed to the exercise, to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014 - 7.00pm to 10.00pm. Clerk to put up a notice on the Common noticeboard beforehand.

LW

b) To consider the payment of Management works on the Common - WPC agreed work as per the original quotation submitted by the contractor JDB, at the Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014 for 8Ha at £950 per Ha, totalling £7,600. Having done the work JDB has now remeasured the area using a GPS system and advised the PC that the total area cleared is 16.16Ha at a cost of £15,352.00. Clerk advised that, at no time, was this increase discussed with JDB and consequently, the work has been done without WPC authorisation. **RESOLVED:** to pay the original amount agreed for 8Ha. AC to check measurements with GPS.

LW/AC

In response to the issues raised in the Public Session concerning the Common (see Item 098 above), PS advised that any work must be agreed with Natural England, as they have strict rules about materials used. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to contact Natural England concerning seats; the introduction of oak trees and stream crossings.

LW

c) To consider responsible dog ownership behaviour on the Common - AR advised that dog care companies are releasing a lot of dogs at one time to run on the Common and cannot exercise proper control. Dog fouling a main concern **RESOLVED:** Clerk to contact Natural England about by-laws.

- d) To consider quotations for the removal of deadwood from 2 oaks in the Recreation Ground, overhanging Lower Common Road - Having received the tree survey report, it was felt that the estimates already received are not consistent with the work recommended. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to request the companies that have submitted estimates to resubmit with the recommendations made on the tree survey report. LW
- e) To consider 2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled ditch clearance between the Gazings/LCR Recreation Ground. **RESOLVED:** As JK not present, to defer until next meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014.
- f) Lengthsman report - PS advised that he was impressed with the work done on Footpath 17. However, the time taken was 2 men x 8.5 hours, so the cost was for 17 hours (£340.00). **RESOLVED:** Being mindful of the budget agreed for the Lengthsman work, (£2,000 per annum), in instances where the work required was extensive and may be better for 2 men, PS would consult with the Chairman.

#### 104 SPORTS AND LEISURE

- a) To discuss ditch clearance at Hatches Farm Sports Field - **RESOLVED:** to defer decision until the estimate is received.
- b) To consider fire alarm installation at Hatches Football Pavilion - Clerk advised that the installation of a fire alarm system is not a legal requirement and lack of one will not affect the insurance. **RESOLVED:** to fit smoke alarms and the regular inspection to be included in the Fire Inspection record. LW
- c) To review the Tennis Club annual lease agreement rental 2015/2016 - members felt that this agreement payment should be in line with other organisations' payments in the Village. **RESOLVED:** to increase the rental by 3% to £1030.00 per annum. Clerk to advise Tennis Club. LW
- d) CCTV update - Members considered the installation of CCTV in the Recreation Ground LCR. As the installation would have to be in the pavilion, it was considered inappropriate to install in the current building. **RESOLVED:** to defer any installation until a new pavilion is built, or the vandalism worsens.

#### 105 HIGHWAYS

- a) Parking implications in Lower Common Road, in light of the impending relocation of the Post Office to Country Consumables - Members agreed to see how the situation develops once the Post Office is in situ.

#### 106 FINANCE

- a) Income and Expenditure report October 2014 - **RESOLVED:** That the schedule (Appendix 1) was received, agreed and endorsed by Members.
- b) Quarterly Expenditure July to September 2014 - **RESOLVED:** that the report (Appendix 2) was received, agreed and accepted by Members.
- c) To consider Grant applications received - **RESOLVED:**
- (i) Victim Support - Award a grant of £100.00
  - (ii) Citizens' Advice - Award a grant of £100.00
- d) Fixed Term investment - **RESOLVED:** to reinvest £80,000, to be agreed with Clerk, Chairman and Chair of the Finance Working Group. LW  
Chair/MD  
/LW

#### 107 PLANNING

- a) **RESOLVED:** Minutes of the meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 be signed by Chair as a correct record. Chair

#### 108 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) List of correspondence/consultations for October 2014 received & noted by members - items of interest available to members as required. LW

Slab Lane - WPC request for cutting hedges - Some hedges are worse than others and some residents have complained about receiving this letter. Chair and PS to visit residents who have responded to this request.

Chair/PS

#### 109 DELEGATES REPORTS

- a) PS advised he attended the Roke Manor Liaison Panel on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014. He advised that the planning application was approved for 10 years in 2009. Time 2013/2024, including preparation, 5 years' extraction and restoration work. The land will be returned to farmland at the end of the project. Raymond Brown, the contractors, are very professional. There will be an open day at the site on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

Confidential business - RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public for item 110 below, on the grounds that, by reason of the confidential nature of the business, publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

#### 110 STAFF MANAGEMENT

- a) Groundsman - Clerk advised members that monitoring of the Groundsman is ongoing.
- b) Clerk vacancy - interviews to take place on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014. RESOLVED: The appointment panel for the Clerk vacancy be delegated to appoint and set the salary.

#### 111 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- a) Planning & General Purposes Committee and Full Council meeting - Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014.

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*Public participation at this meeting: Four members of the Public attended.*

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