

WELLOW ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – MINUTES

Wellow Village Hall: Wednesday 25th April 2018 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Gaye Chesterton-Kay (Chair), Cllr Ed Chesterton-Kay, Cllrs Mike and Sue Jones, Cllr Harmeet Singh Brar, Cllr Trevor Grant, Cllr Rich Millard, Cllr John Sampson, Cllr Phil Stehr

Attending: Cllr Nick Adams-King, Cllr Gordon Bailey, Cllr Roy Perry, Sharon Whitehouse (Clerk) – Minutes.

Apologies: Cllr Alan Clark, PCSO Sam Bate

CC (for information only): Romsey Police

ITEM PUBLIC SESSION

Displays were provided by the Neighbourhood Plan Group, Wellow Lunch Club, Wellow History Society, Wellow Tennis Club, St Margaret's Church and the Hampshire and IOW Trust. Parishioners were greeted with refreshments and a copy of the annual report to peruse in advance of the start of the meeting. Attendees had the opportunity to walk around displays and speak to Parish Councillors informally about any concerns or ideas they might have.

The Chair opened the formal part of the meeting promptly at 7.00pm and greeted Parishioners, before running through some housekeeping and extending a special welcome to Councillor Rich Millard who joined the Council last June.

001 APOLOGIES

As above. In addition, special apologies were received from Councillor Perry who would be arriving later as he was attending the Romsey Extra Annual Parish Meeting beforehand.

002 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Adams-King outlined the role of the Borough Council which includes bin collection, leisure facilities, car parks and planning. He is heavily involved in planning and advised that

- The Borough Council is assisting Parishes with Neighbourhood Plans as they go through the informal part of 'testing'. He urged the audience to engage with the Neighbourhood Plan process.
- The next formal update to the adopted Revised Local Plan must be in place for 2021 and Neighbourhood Plans can help to shape this.
- In the last year the Borough Council has considered 76 planning applications within Wellow Parish.
- The Government has made changes to planning guidance, which Test Valley is in the process of interpreting. It is proposed that housing construction for older people will now be counted towards housing numbers. Over the last 12 months there has been focus on disruption caused by developers and there is now the ability to force issues on builders like parking restrictions, should such provision be included in the Local Plan.
- A successful application to Government resulted in funding of £0.25 million being awarded to carry out an impact assessment of development close to the New Forest Boundary, which of course, affects Wellow. TVBC can ensure that mitigation

measures are put in place in the consideration of planning applications and these will be developed over the next couple of years.

- The Local Government Boundary Commission has completed a review of the number of Councillors and the shape of the areas they represent. The decision to reduce the number of Councillors means that electoral wards have become bigger and the Blackwater ward, of which Wellow is a part, will take in Michelmersh and Timsbury. There are also changes being made to Parish Boundaries which will take effect in the Autumn, but these are minimal for Wellow, the loss of Melchet Pond being mentioned.

There were no questions for Cllr Adams-King.

Cllr Gordon Bailey reported that he looks after planning issues within the National Park boundary, and advised of the following:

- the Local Plan has recently been reviewed, including the Wellow Common area.
- There are proposals to create a boundary of 1.5km around the National Park where building will be restricted.
- A green halo has commenced whereby New Forest District Council Planning has joined other organisations to try and identify the potential problems with traffic, damage to flora and fauna etc. that development will cause.
- Proposals to build up to 1,500 new homes on the Fawley Power Station site (for which planning falls mostly under NFDC) is still at early stages. No definitive plan has come through yet. Traffic is a big issue for concern.
- Under the Councillor Community Grant scheme, our Test Valley Councillors had been able to make a few contributions to the Parish Council in 2017/2018. They have also donated funds for a new seat at the Village Hall and Test Valley has given a grant of £25k to Wellow School to start a pre-school, to encourage sustainability of the school and safeguard the future of the village.

003 Presentation by the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP – Cllr Trevor Grant

Cllr Trevor Grant gave a presentation to update the audience on how the Neighbourhood Plan is progressing. The power point presentation is attached for information.

004 Minutes of the Meeting 26th April 2017

RESOLVED: It was resolved by all Members present that the Minutes of 26th April 2017 be signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

005 ANNUAL REPORT

- a) A summary of the Wellow Parish Council Annual Report attached was given by Cllr Gaye Chesterton-Kay (Chair). Her verbal report focussed on the successful conclusion of two major projects which had been in the pipeline for some years. The Chair expressed thanks to all involved with the new Pavilion project, which is close to completion, with a special mention of the goodwill and support of the Cricket Club. She thanked Test Valley BC for its generous grant of around £23.5k from the Community Asset fund, along with the other companies and contractors who gave

donations of equipment or time to the project. The Community Garden has also been completed in the last year and thanks were passed onto the contributors to this project. Attention was then turned to the Parish Council's priorities for the forthcoming year, with Hatches Farm to become the focus, alongside work continuing in support of the Neighbourhood Plan and carrying on with the day-to-day jobs overseen by the Parish Council.

- b) 2017/2018 Parish Accounts attached (Appendix 1 & 2) were presented by the Clerk as a provisional set of accounts to be finally audited in May. The accounts will be available for public inspection from 11th June until 20th July 2017 in line with guidance set down by PKF Littlejohn, the new external auditors for the Parish.

In addition to the usual run through of the accounts, the Clerk also presented a slide highlighting some key financial achievements in the last couple of years. This is included at the end of the minutes.

006 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Lesley Weldon did not have a question but wished to thank the Parish Council for all its hard work over the last year. More specifically she wished to record thanks on behalf of the Lunch Club and its 21 members aged between 65-85 years old, for the Parish Council's kind grant of £500 which will be put towards providing 2 or 3 outings over the course of the year for its members.

In reply, the Chair thanked Lesley for all that she does for the Parishioners of Wellow.

- Q. What is happening with the development along Woodington Lane, near to Tanners Lane on the left-hand side leaving the village? It looks like one house is being demolished and being replaced with four.
- A. Cllr Adams-King responded and clarified that the application was for multiple eco-housing, to replace existing buildings on the site. It does not add to the number of buildings but does increase the number of dwellings.
- Q. Are there any announcements about Oaklands?
- A. Cllr Singh Brar advised that we should hopefully hear good news in the next month or so. Re-opening as a care home is looking positive.

Cllr Roy Perry arrived towards the end of the Question and Answer Session and gave his report. He put up a map of the new County Council divisions and advised that the area he now represents, Romsey Rural Division, covers some 12 Parishes. Cllr Perry's power point presentation outlining HCC services for 2017/2018 can be found on the Parish website.

THERE WERE NO FURTHER QUESTIONS

The Meeting Closed at 8.30pm

Public participation at this meeting: approximately 40 Parishioners attended