

## **WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Wootton Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 2nd April 2013 at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre**

**Present:** Councillors Ludlow (Chairman), Carter, Langley, Werrell, Westell, White, District Councillor Miles and Mr Allen Perkins

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Berrill, Fysh, Mann, Parker, Rayner and Shaw.

#### **2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 3rd APRIL 2012**

The minutes of the meeting of 3rd April 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2012**

None

#### **4. REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN – Mr Andrew Ludlow**

The Parish Council has a full complement of twelve councillors. Attendance has been good.

##### **Community Centre**

The Community Centre has continued to go from strength to strength throughout the year. Cllr Mark Fysh is the new Chairman

##### **Speeding**

The VAS units had been taken away due to the reorganisation of the VWHDC, but we should have one installed permanently at the Abingdon end of Whitecross soon.

##### **Allotments**

The Allotments Committee has been working hard this year and progress has been made. They have obtained a grant of £ 5000 from VWHDC and also from OCC (Councillor Anthony Gearing) a grant of £ 7,800. Our thanks go to Val Shaw for all her hard work.

##### **Wootton Business Park**

The Parish Council are closely involved with this and are aiming to get benefits for the village, with the Section 106 money.

##### **Housing Needs Survey**

This is being redone, to help local residents get access to affordable housing on the Business Park Site.

##### **Planning**

Rules for planning developments nationally and in the VWHDC are being changed and the Parish Council is monitoring them closely.

##### **Christmas Lights**

Once again this was very well supported. Our thanks go to all who contributed.

##### **Looking Forward**

We need to refurbish the Children's Playground, opposite the Church. Local residents have expressed a wish to help design a project. There has also been interest in a BMX track and a Community Farm.

##### **District Councillors**

Welcome to our two new District Councillors – Val Shaw and Elizabeth Miles.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors and the Clerk for their support and efforts in the last year.

## 5. PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

The 2011/12 Accounts were examined by Internal and External Audit without significant comment. Expenditure was £57,306 and Receipts £71,166 of which some £16,000 of each related to the Community Centre. The Precept continues to be maintained at £37,500. The allotments project is costing the Parish Council £7,000 in 2012/3 and 2013/4. The Community Centre account has finally been closed – over £220,000 passed through the Parish Account saving large amounts of VAT under the Inland Revenue Village Hall VAT arrangements

## 6. WOOTTON SCHOOL – Mr Allen Perkins

### *Summary*

The main difference from last year's report is that there has not been any major building work this year. Otherwise there has been little change; academic results have been excellent and there has been the usual mix of other activities to broaden the children's experience of school.

### *Staff and school roll*

The teaching staff is unchanged from last year, but the school secretary has changed from full- to part-time, necessitating the recruitment of a supplementary part-timer. There are 111 children on the school roll and there are two vacancies. Twenty nine applications for admission in September have been received for the sixteen available places and of these, fifteen nominated Wootton as their first choice. Five of the applicants have siblings in the school, fourteen are in the catchment area and ten outside.

### *Budget*

The budget allocation for 2012-2013 was roughly £435 000 and present indications are that there could be a small surplus at the end of the financial year.

### *Academic results*

Results for the KS1 and KS2 tests were good. 17 children took the KS1 test and the numbers who reached or exceeded the expected level of 2b were: - Reading 16; Writing 14; Maths 16. 16 children took the KS2 test and the numbers who reached or exceeded the expected level of 4 were:- Reading 16; Writing 15; English 16; Maths 15. All the KS2 children made at least two levels of progress in English, 15 out of the 16 in Maths. The school's results were above average when compared with other schools at the county and at the national level. Reading counsellors continue to provide support for all the children in the school. French continues to be taught and the Latin club is still going.

### *Buildings*

No major building work took place last year but we did have hopes that we could obtain funding to enable us to install a mezzanine floor in the main hall. However the recent cold weather exposed some inadequacies in the heating system and a subsequent inspection recommended that a major refurbishment of the whole system be carried out. We are hoping to get a grant from the diocese for this work to be done in the summer; plans for the mezzanine have been put on hold for another year.

### *Other events*

The link with the Chinese school is being maintained by means of letters between children in the two schools and work is still in progress in setting up a link with a school in Kenya. The Rev Jon Williams is regularly in school to take some of the morning assemblies and services are held in St Peter's church at various times throughout the school year. The annual infant nativity play was performed for an invited audience from the village, followed by afternoon tea served by the children and this was very well attended, as usual. All the classes make regular trips up to Youlbury Camp to take part in a variety of outdoor activities. Swimming lessons for all the children form part of the normal curriculum and these are given at the Oxford Brookes University pool on their Westminster site. Regular events are organised by the children to raise money for a variety of charities and the parents' committee holds frequent social occasions to raise funds that are used to provide equipment that the school would otherwise find difficult to afford. To sum up,

the school continues to do well by the children. The teachers work hard to provide the children with a stimulating education and there is every encouragement for them to develop their talents, whatever they might be. Parents are fortunate to have such a good school on their doorsteps. The Chairman thanked Mr Perkins for his report. Following further discussion Mr Perkins commented that there was likely to be another OFSTED inspection and the governors were getting more closely involved in the running of the school.

**7. WOOTTON CHARITIES**

The Rev Jon Williams reported that they are attempting to close down the Wootton Charities. There had been no payments made since he arrived in the parish and the current signatories have moved out of the parish.

**8. REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

District Councillor Elizabeth Miles said that she was pleased to be involved with the Parish Council and willing to help in any way.

**9. MATTERS RAISED BY PERSONS PRESENT AT THE MEETING**

None

Signed .....Date.....

**Chairman**