

WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Wootton Bassett Town Council held on Thursday 15th July 2010 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Station Road, Wootton Bassett.

PRESENT: Councillors: Steve Bucknell, Peter Doyle, Susan Doyle, Linda Frost, Owen Gibbs, Paul Heaphy, Mike Leighfield, Bill Roberts, Sanjay Soni, Jenny Stratton, Ernie Taylor and Steve Walls

Officers in Attendance: Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk
Michelle Temple, Administrative
Team Leader and Susan Huish,
Administrative Assistant

24. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mary Champion, Peter Roberts, Audrey Wannell and Chris Wannell.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007.

RESOLVED to note that no declarations were made.

26. WRITTEN REPORTS

Inspector Steve Cox was in attendance at the meeting to present a report from the Wiltshire Constabulary.

Inspector Cox informed Members of the 'to date' details about the Neighbourhood Policing Teams including team membership, current priorities and forthcoming community consultation events, all of which can be found on the Wiltshire Police Website; www.wiltshire.police.uk

He continued to report on the current Wootton Bassett priorities. Non-dwelling burglaries[sheds/garages/out-building] are predominantly on the Poets Estate but have affected other areas such as the Church Street allotments. The majority of the premises targeted have been in poorly lit areas that are not overlooked by other properties.

In May 2010, Wootton Bassett Police conducted a three night operation targeting these areas. This will be repeated in the near future.

There has been a reduction in this type of offence, however, from April to July there have been 45 offences within the town. This breaks down as follows;-

April – 17 offences

May – 13 offences

June – 12 offences

July – 3 offences

This is very much a focus of our policing attention at this time.

Turning to performance and other local issues, with the summer months approaching, history shows that there is often an increase in opportunist burglaries. There are 2 areas where all the community can help reduce this type of offence;

- Report any suspicious activity to police as soon as possible
- Always close and lock all windows and doors when you are not in the room, especially when leaving the house or in the garden. Double - check that doors and windows are locked at night before you go to bed.

Finally, turning to Crime and detections, Inspector Cox reported violence against the person has seen a 17.4% reduction, dwelling burglary an increase of 16.7%, criminal damage a 21.8% reduction,

non-dwelling burglary a 17.1% increase, theft from a motor vehicle 30.1% decrease and a 35.3% increase in theft of a motor vehicle.

Concerns were raised as to whether the Council wish to support the Dereham Motorcycle Club Charity bike ride on St Georges day 2011, and the Afghan Heroes Charity ride, again to be held on Mother's Day 2011.

It was RESOLVED that the Council support the two offers above but not to actively support any other motor cycle rides that are offered.

Further RESOLVED to record a vote of thanks to Inspector Cox.

James Gray submitted a written report as a Member of Parliament. The report detailed James Gray asking the Prime Minister whether he might consider repositioning the War Memorial from Camp Bastion at a suitable location in the town. Copy of report was attached.

RESOLVED to contact James Gray to advise him that the Council unanimously decided that it would be inappropriate for the memorial to be placed in Wootton Bassett.

Councillor Peter Doyle and Bill Roberts submitted verbal reports as representatives of Wiltshire Council.

Councillor Bill Roberts reported about a 64 bed care home to be opened in Wootton Bassett and issues relating to health care.

Councillor Peter Doyle reported that it had been recommended that Longleaze Special Education Needs Centre [SEN] remain open and a number of Highways issues.

27. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED to sign minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Thursday 13th May 2010 [WBTC/2/2010-2011]. Copies previously circulated.

28. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

In the absence of Councillor Mary Champion, Councillor Paul Heaphy reported on his attendance at Thunder Rally.

Councillor Steve Bucknell announced that you may be interested to look at the Prince of Wales Annual Review 2010, page 34/35, where you will see reference to his visit in February of this year.

29. TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS

RESOLVED to note that no questions were raised either with or without notice under Standing Order.

30. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Report on meetings of the Planning Committee held on Thursday 13th May 2010 [P/1/2010-2011], Thursday 20th May 2010 [P/2/2010-2011] and Thursday 24th June 2010 [P/3/2010-2011]. Copies previously circulated.

RESOLVED the reports be adopted.

31. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Report on meetings of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 11th March 2010 [A/6/2010-2011], Thursday 13th May 2010 [A/1/2010-2011] and Thursday 3rd June 2010 [A/2/2010-2011]. Copies previously circulated.

RESOLVED the reports be adopted.

32. REVENUE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report on meetings of the Revenue and Resources Committee held on Thursday 13th May 2010 [R&R/1/2010-2011] and Thursday 24th June 2010 [R&R/2/2010-2011]. Copies previously circulated.

RESOLVED the reports be adopted.

33. CONSULTATION REPORT

At a meeting of the Revenue and Resources Committee held on Thursday 24th June 2010, a report from Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk was considered. A copy of the report was attached for your information.

The Revenue and Resources Committee resolved to recommend that the Council adopt the procedure detailed in the report.

The Council's instructions were sought.

RESOLVED to adopt the recommendations.

34. COST OF VANDALISM

Report from Mr Ralph White, Grounds Maintenance Team Leader, regarding the current costings of vandalism. Copy was attached.

RESOLVED to adopt the report.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm