



WOOTTON and EAST HUNSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Wootton Community & Sports Centre, Curtlee Hill, Wootton, Northampton, NN4 6ED
Tel: 01604 705055 Fax: 01604 705777

MINUTES

***Meeting of the Parish Council held at
Wootton Sports and Community Centre, Curtlee Hill, Wootton, NN4 6ED
on Wednesday 15th July 2009 at 19:00pm***

Present: Cllr. Nunn, Gonzalez De Savage, Savage, Bartley, Collard, Rayner, Penny, Prescott & Pickett

1. Opening Procedures

- a. To receive and approve apologies for absence – Apologies received from Gary Gurney (work commitments) apologies approved.
- b. Confirmation of [Minutes](#) from 18th June 2009 and the 30th June 2009 – it was resolved to sign the minutes as a true record.
- c. Declarations of interest – Cllr Bartlett – last item on Street Doctor agenda due to work for David Wilson.

2. Police and public session (15 minutes maximum)

The police were represented by Kevin Smith who informed that the following stats applied to the first quarter of the year. Overall crime figures were 22% down, burglary 33% down, Robbery – 2 offences in June (only this year), Vehicle crime 57% drop and antisocial behaviour 9% increase. Violent crime increased by 33% during this period.

A member of the public raised the issue of parking at the primary school in Wootton. The problem has increased since the new gates were installed. The Parish Council objected to these gates being allowed and will now write to Northamptonshire County Council to reinforce this objection in view of the problems it is causing. It was also agreed to invite the Head teacher to our next Parish Council meeting and change the meeting venue back to Wootton on the 16th to enable the parishioner who raised the concern to attend. The police are visiting the school and do place notices on vehicles who are parked illegally. It was also agreed to speak to the Borough Council asking for traffic wardens to patrol the area concerned at the appropriate time to act as a further deterrent for parents.

A member of the public asked if the ex-clerk had received settlement out of court and if so why was the public not informed.

Chairman responded that matters of personnel could only be discussed within the Council, any requests for information should be put in writing to him personally and he would determine the appropriate response.

Another member of the public pointed out that settling out of court was not an omission of guilt but a way of keeping costs down for both parties.

A request was received for an overhanging bush to be cut back near to the bus-stop on Water Lane, also bushes overhanging on Wootton Hope Drive to be dealt with.

A request was made for the Borough planning department to be contacted to request that new developers notify residents of boundaries and responsibilities regarding hedges.

It was agreed to place an article in the Link Magazine to remind residents that it is their responsibility to ensure that overhanging bushes/trees are cut back.

A member of the public voiced his concern about the noise made by youths in the car park of the community centre at night. He was disappointed with the response when he phoned the telephone number allocated to PCSO – Kevin Smith has taken the gentleman's details and will deal with the issue directly.

3. Walk in the Park – to review Walk in the Park 2009, and to consider and approve plans for Walk in the Park 2010.

A presentation was made by Cllr. Bartley summarising the Walk in the Park event 2009 he passed thanks to the Walk in the Park Committee and all areas of the Council that supported the event (Appendix 1) The approximate burden on the precept was £3k against a budget of £20K – the event was a huge success with ticket sales far surpassing themselves and with good weather there were over 14,500 people attending. Feedback has been extremely positive. The exposure for the parish and ability to accommodate a diverse age range of people is a credit to the organisers. Despite the size of the event it retained a safe family atmosphere thanks to the work of the Police and the PCSOs

It was proposed that the event was held again on the 2/3rd July 2010 again over the same format as this year – Tickets for the Friday night and a free day on the Saturday. The budget proposed was for £20K requirement from the precept – based on the figures for this year but contingency made for the weather not being so favourable and grant funding not been available in the current climate. £15k to be carried over from this years budget.

Cllr. Savage proposed that the event should go ahead with Cllr. Bartley managing the project, it was unanimously agreed to support the event and resolved to run the event as presented by Cllr Bartley.

4. To consider the application for Co-option of a new Councillor.

Brandon Eldred had presented a co-option form for the council to consider to fill the vacancy. He was keen to benefit the local area and was felt by Councillors to have valuable experience and contacts to benefit the council. Cllr. Collard nominated Brandon to be councillor this was seconded by Cllr. Savage there was a full show of hands and it was resolved to welcome Brandon to the Council.

5. Finance:

- a. To approve the payments made in June 2009 – the approval list was presented to councillors a discussion took place and it was resolved to approve the payments. The clerk enquired whether the councillors would prefer to receive the payment schedule in their packs before the meeting and it was resolved to retain the procedures of the last few months of reviewing and approving the payments during the council meeting.
- b. To approve the year end figures for BDO Hayward audit report and completion of the Annual governance statement. – the item was withdrawn as the accounts had not been signed off by the internal auditor in time.

6. To approve the proposed insurance quotation provided by Came & Co.

A quotation has been received from Came & Co using Aviva for our future insurance resulting in a substantial saving. The Company were recommended to us by Ncalc And a second quotation received from Co-operative bank .

It was requested that our current insurers were contacted regarding an potential claims coming forward during the time we were insured by them – if we were not to renew our policy with them.

Came and Co. To be notified of incidents that may have happened during the last three years and on this basis the council resolved to approve taking the insurance with Came and Co for the 3 year discounted rate.

7. Exclusion of press and public

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

8. Personnel matters

None to report

9. Administration and Service requests

An up to date Street Doctor report was issued to councillors (appendix2)

A request was made for the dog bin on water lane to be emptied. Further signage on Woodgate Road and Curtlee Hill regarding Dog fouling was requested.

The planters in the parish were in need of watering and attention – it was agreed to Cllr Penny to meet with the EMOs on Friday 17th to discuss a plan of action and also to contract

out watering. The planter at the top of Water Lane has been vandalised and the one on the brick top roundabout near to the Row Tree Road junction needs immediate attention. Planters were still needed for Simpson Manor. The council agreed for Cllr Penny to establish a plan for the parish to ensure all year planting was carried out.

Cllr Gonzalez De Savage asked for the roundabout near to Caroline Chilsholm school to be trimmed as well as other areas in the parish. A request has been received by the football clubs to repair the goal mouths as the area has sunk. A notice needs to be given to all hall hirers outlining the procedures in a fire drill or in case of a fire. The IT club for older residents will be organised for the autumn.

Meeting closed at 10.30

| **10.** Date of Next meeting – Wednesday 16th September 2009 at Wootton Sports and Community centre.

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