

# Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council

## MINUTES

### Public Liaison and Communications Committee Meeting Thursday 27 September 2007 Methodist Church Hall

**Present:** Cllrs D Thake (Chairman), B Roberts, D de Saxe and P Morris.

**In Attendance:** Jenny Oram (Clerk)

---

*The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm*

**283. To receive Apologies:**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Clifford (work commitments) and Cllr E Roberts (unwell)

**284. To receive Declarations of Interest**

None.

**285. To approve the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 26 July 2007**

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**286. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered by the Agenda**

Cllr B Roberts has been in touch with the Chair of Governors of Wye Primary School and has discussed the possibility of filling a vacancy on the Board of Governors.

**287. Public Liaison:**

**287.1 Report back from Wye Business Association's meeting with Damian Green MP:**

Cllr de Saxe, who attended the meeting, had already circulated a written report to the whole Parish Council. The meeting focused on the declining state of Wye Campus. Cllr de Saxe confirmed that there was no divergence of views between WBA and the Parish Council. Damian Green stated that if his approaches to Imperial College did not produce reasonable responses then he is prepared to ask questions in Parliament.

**287.2 The Parish Council's longer term strategy towards Imperial College:**

It is now public knowledge that Kevin Attwood, the deputy chairman of the Kent National Farmers Union and resident of Doddington, near Faversham, has been awarded the lease by Imperial College on the major portion of the old College farm. A recent article has appeared on [www.wattyler.com](http://www.wattyler.com) alleging that Mr Attwood had to assure Imperial College that his use of the land will be 'non-agricultural' and this has raised concerns in the village. It was agreed that the Parish Council should ask what the exact terms of the lease are when it has its next liaison meeting with Imperial College. The Parish Council must be very vigilant and must communicate parishioners' concerns effectively.

**287.3 Crown Bonfire event**

A further meeting with David Traske, Christine Woodman and Richard Boden (who has offered to build the bonfire) has been suggested for Tuesday 9 October. Neither the Clerk, Cllr Thake nor Cllr B Roberts are available that week. The Clerk will therefore seek an alternative date – preferably 16 October.

206  
Clerk

**288. Public Liaison: the Benefice**

The vicar is seeking a meeting to discuss the Parish Council's burial ground and has suggested two possible dates in October. Cllrs B Roberts and D Thake expressed a wish to attend the meeting but neither date is convenient. The Clerk will seek possible dates in November.

207  
Clerk

**289. Public Liaison: Wye Business Association (WBA)**

It was agreed that the Parish Council and WBA should maintain a close working relationship. To promote this, the Parish Council is interested in establishing a formal link with WBA via a named councillor. Cllr Thake offered to be the link and to speak to Ann Sutherland, the Chair of WBA, about the proposal. He will inform the Clerk if a formal letter is required.

DT

## **290. Public Liaison: Village Hall Management Committee**

Cllr E Roberts was not present to give a report of the previous evening's Village Hall Management Committee meeting. He had, however, telephoned the Clerk and she relayed his verbal report:

- A draft lease between the Charity and the Tennis Club has not yet been received from the solicitor. This needs to be progressed as quickly as possible so that the views of the Charity Commission can be sought.
- Fresh drawings have been requested from the architect. It is unclear if these have been provided.
- Arrangements to repair the vandalised playground equipment and lighting are being progressed.
- The idea of a tripartite group to address security issues, comprising the Village Hall, the Primary School and Neighbourhood Watch, needs to be followed up.
- The possibility of an increase in the Parish Council's grant to the Village Hall was raised.

Cllr Thake agreed to speak to Brian Boots, the Village Hall's booking clerk, about the possibility of establishing a tripartite task group.

DT

Cllr B Roberts pointed out that the Management Committee has to pay over £3,000 per annum for insurance. He also understands that the Management Committee is still concerned about the issue of public access to the tennis courts.

It was agreed that the two parish councillors who are Charity trustees and attend Management Committee meetings should make enquiries about the Charity's insurance cover. Now that a Minutes Secretary has been appointed they should also encourage the efficient recording of decisions in the minutes.

ER  
TD

## **291. Communications**

### **291.1 Website**

The Clerk reported that she had tried to put the names and contact details of all councillors plus the composition of the Council's committees onto a standard web page on the Council's mini-site on wyeweb.org. However, she had encountered problems and kept getting messages that a page could not exceed 4,000 characters (which presumably includes spaces). Even without the committee information, the list of councillors and their details appeared to exceed this total. The alternative might be to attach the information as a file. Concerns were raised as to the accessibility of such a file. It was agreed that Cllr P Morris and the Clerk will meet to experiment with the mini-site.

208  
PM,  
Clerk

The Clerk reported that the refurbished KCC parish website should be ready by the end of October. She hopes to receive a contract for the Parish Council to sign at its November meeting. It will then be possible for her to obtain training and start making use of the site.

The Wye Business Association now has its own website up and running. The number of separate websites in the village is increasing and the long term issue of a community website still needs to be addressed.

### **291.2 Parish letter**

Cllr de Saxe had circulated introductory paragraphs and suggested further content from which the Clerk had drafted a letter. Various amendments were suggested. The Clerk agreed

209-  
211  
Clerk

- To circulate a revised draft of the letter on 28 September;
- Check with Crown Print to find out if the letter could be printed during the coming week;
- Revise the distribution lists so that each councillor has an area in which to deliver letters.

## **292. AOB.**

None.

## **293. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 22 November 2007.

*The meeting concluded at 8.40pm*