

Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council

MINUTES

Public Liaison and Communications Committee Meeting

Thursday 24 April 2008

Methodist Church Hall

Present: Cllrs D Thake (Chairman), D de Saxe, J Clifford, E Roberts and P Morris (members) and Cllrs J Woodford, T Donovan, P Sutherland and J Morris.

In Attendance: Jenny Oram (Clerk).

The meeting commenced at 7.05 pm

636. To receive Apologies:

Apologies were accepted from Cllr B Roberts (on holiday).

637. To receive Declarations of Interest

None.

638. To approve the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 24 January 2008

The Minutes of the last meeting were amended at very bottom of page 1 where 'visited Mr and Mrs Barnes' was amended to read 'spoken to Mrs Barnes'. They were then agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

639. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered by the Agenda

Parishioners and councillors remain concerned about the state of the Crown. The matter has also been raised at a meeting of Wye Business Association. Cllr J Morris reported that he had again spoken with Wendy Barnes and is confident that the Barnes' are fully aware of the Crown's deterioration and want to progress its refurbishment as soon as their lease is fully settled. It has been suggested that some recognition should be given to Donald Sykes for the work he has done in the past on preserving and enhancing the Crown. Perhaps the Parish Council and Wye Historical Society might place a seat in the vicinity with an appropriate inscription as a gesture of gratitude.

It will not be possible for the annual Wye bonfire event to be held in November in the Crown field as it will be sown with winter wheat. The bonfire used to be located just above the Crown below Crown field and it could possibly be relocated there. Meanwhile a lot of debris from past bonfires remains in the Crown field. It was agreed that

- The forthcoming Parish Letter should mention that there are volunteers willing to help refurbish the Crown but are waiting to hear from the tenants as to when any work can start. The Parish Council is aware of the issues that need to be resolved and will do all it can to facilitate a successful outcome.
- The Parish Letter should include a note calling for volunteers and an organizer to contact Cllr Jack Woodford who is keen to form some sort of Bonfire Society to ensure that Wye's bonfire and firework tradition continues this year.
- Debris left from previous bonfires on Crown field should be cleared at the expense of the Parish Council.

PC

640. Public Liaison: Imperial College London

The clerk had circulated a note to councillors reporting on the recent meeting on 22 April 2008 attended by Carol Jovanovic and Wendy Raeside (of Imperial College), Cllr David De Saxe and Cllr Don Thake (Parish Council) and Jenny Oram (clerk). There had been recent reports of the wholesale clearance of some of Imperial College's laboratories and many parishioners were concerned that important resources (e.g., books and maps) were being thrown away. Imperial College explained what was happening and what steps they had taken to dispose of materials to other institutions and bodies. Special collections of books that are currently in the custody of the University library in Wye will be returned to their owners. An up-to-date inventory of the College's Wye Treasures, is being made. Nevertheless the extent of the clearance is still seen by many as academic vandalism.

641. Public Liaison: Burial Ground – to receive an update from the clerk

The clerk reported that Francis Huntingdon and Cllr Bartley have surveyed the far end of the burial ground and a plan of the revised layout of plots, to avoid digging too close to the churchyard wall, is being prepared. There are various other issues relating to the burial ground, its landscaping and its expansion into the neighbouring allotments that need to be addressed. The clerk suggested that in the new parish year, beginning in mid-May, a project schedule needs to be drawn up for this and various other Parish Council activities so that targets and deadlines can be set.

642. Public Liaison: Wye Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity – to receive a report of the AGM from Cllr E Roberts and/or Cllr T Donovan as Managing Trustees

Cllr Donovan presented a report on the AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee. In her report the chairman of the Committee thanked Brian Boots for his support. She expressed concern over the slow progress on the Football Changing Room and vandalism round the children's playground. She thanked the Parish Council and its representatives for their help in achieving a satisfactory conclusion to the granting of a lease and licence to enable the Tennis Club to build a new clubhouse. Reports were received from the PCC, RAF Association, Badminton, Gardening Society, Mother and Toddler Group, Senior Football Club, Youth and Whist Clubs. Five other groups failed to present reports. There was discussion about the lack of progress towards the football changing room project. Little progress has been made towards fundraising towards an estimated cost in 2006 of £168,000. Work on the new Tennis Club clubhouse is due to start on 6 May 2008 and should be completed by September 2008. The tennis courts are now available for use by villagers who are non-club members and Spring Grove School are using the courts one afternoon a week. The Village Hall Management Committee decided that it did not wish to take up the offer of the old Tennis Club portacabin. The request for the map of the village in the Small Hall to be transferred to the Parish Council was noted and agreed. It was reported that lead on some of the roof area was stolen some 3-4 weeks ago. A plastic material will replace it. The certified accounts were presented and showed a satisfactory situation with reserve funding of £23,000. Both the chairman and vice-chairman have indicated that they will not stand for re-election at the first meeting after the AGM on 28 May 2008.

643. Public Liaison: Children's Playing Field Charity – to consider issues relating to the constitution of the Charity and the use of future funds

The clerk had circulated a report explaining that the Charity Commission requires the Children's Playing Field Charity to be run solely in the interests of the charity. To achieve this the Parish Council may set up a committee to deal with the Charity's affairs, take advice, co-opt members and report to the Parish Council which must ratify all its recommendations. Alternatively the constitution of the Charity can be altered so that the Parish Council no longer acts as sole trustee but as custodian trustee. Management of the Charity would then be in the hands of separate managing trustees (like Wye Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity) and would be totally independent of the Parish Council.

After some discussion it was agreed to recommend that the Parish Council sets up a new committee solely to deal with the affairs of the Charity. The committee will make recommendations for the Parish Council to ratify.

PC

644. Communication: to consider the draft of a parish newsletter

It was agreed that the parish letter should be distributed before the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr de Saxe had circulated a draft and it was agreed that notes should be added drawing attention to the APM and also calling for volunteers to organize this year's bonfire event (Cllr Woodford). A note should also be added explaining the trial period without any parking restrictions, yellow lines or bollards at the bottom of Bridge St (Cllr Clifford). The clerk will edit the final letter so that it fits into an appropriate layout and circulate it round councillors for their comments before getting it printed on 30 April.

645 Communication: to note website progress and agree any further steps including linking to other local websites

It was agreed that the parish council website should be linked to other local websites, including wyeweb. There is no need to seek the permission of the websites involved as they are already in the public domain.

PC

646. AOB.

Cllr Woodford reported that he is organizing a day trip from Wye to Paschendale by coach in October to mark the 90th anniversary of Armistice Day.

647. Date of next meeting

26 June 2008.