

**Wield Parish Council**  
**Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall**  
**On Thursday 26 May 2016 at 8.15pm**

**Minutes**

Present; Alwin Hutchinson (Chairman), Bob George, Robert Grande, Kate Gibbons and Catherine Simons.  
14 members of the public also attended

1. **Apologies:** Rob Cooper.
2. **Minutes of the last APM** – were agreed as correct.
3. **Matters arising**
  - a. Glass in telephone box in Lower Wield – will be repaired as soon as possible.
4. **Chairman's report**

1. I thank all members of the WPC for their very helpful support and advice, which during the last busy year they have brought to bear on WPC issues. May I also thank County Councillor Mark KG for his tireless support for the village, for which we are most grateful – even though I sense we have from time to time been guilty of rather taking his support and efforts for granted; the PC really is most appreciative.
2. The major item of concern during the past year has been the state of Wield's road network. Roads, which in the first instance, are little more than the original cart tracks roughly smoothed and covered with an inadequate wearing surface are unsurprisingly unable to sustain the ever increasing weight and volume of traffic. Add to this severe flooding during the last winter resulting in huge potholes, roadside edge erosion and dangerously smooth wearing surfaces. Remedial repair work has been at best laggardly and short term. Things are, however, looking better; we have recently been working more closely with HCC Roads Division, and are promised more substantial road repairs to start this June. With a view to monitoring the state of our roads and ditches, and to initiate simple repairs, the tasking of a Lengthsman is being investigated.,,in rural areas regardless of I do not see an easy win!
3. Winter flooding was once again an issue. HCC came to the rescue in Upper Wield where a long forgotten culvert was successfully reinstated and in Middle Wield where the drainage system was restored. Despite a rather puerile funding fight between EHDC & HCC, self-help planning continues towards clearing the crucial ditch between Barton Farm & Battle Corner.
4. On a happier note, the council received a lovely reply from Buckingham Palace following the sending of a letter of congratulations to HM The Queen regarding her long reign.
5. Flag Pole. Thanks to David Cowley for his generous gift of a superb Flag Pole – now in situ.
6. PC membership. Thanks are due to Lucy Whittome who has resigned after 4 years of service. We welcome in her place as it were, Catherine Simons.
7. Wireless broadband arrived in Wield; there are currently 17 subscribers. A major improvement to the promised service, an all-important fibre connection to the parent server as promised has slipped to in mid-June – (delays caused by unhelpful monopolistic BT OPENREACH).
8. All houses in Wield have been issued a new W2W information booklet and all incoming new residents will receive a copy. A data base of email addresses of all Wield residents is being compiled and at present responses have been received from 52% of households.
9. Looking forward, I have 4 items:
  - We look forward to the completion of the long promised repair to the village notice boards and in addition to the manufacture of a new board to be placed opposite the Yew Tree pub.
  - We still need to find a home for the Queens Jubilee oak tree; beside the play park is a possibility.
  - We will investigate setting up a PC Web Site.

- Finally, the Council (along with all other village institutions) is happy to lend its support to Wield's major Summer Event on Sun 10<sup>th</sup> July, "Royal Carriages".

## **5. Councillor's reports**

### **Cllr Cooper - Roads**

It is important to say that the PC are very aware of the state of the roads and that we are working hard with HCC to get them resurfaced. It not as simple as it may seem especially given the very restricted budgets, from central government, with which HCC are working.

We have managed to make reasonable progress this year, much of which has yet to start, but we have found that the best way to get the council on board is to show willing to do some of the work such as clearing some of the drains, where possible, ourselves. The other method is to be patient and keep pushing for progress and updates regularly. As a result of this we have a good relationship with Derek Rawle at HCC who came to the village to meet with both the Chairman and I. We had a good meeting and Derek Rawle was very sympathetic to the problems that we have in the village. We took the opportunity to also point out other villages in the area that have had significant improvements and how nice the road from Lower Wield to Bradley was. I would add that it does help if local people from Upper and Lower Wield write in to the council as all requests are logged and go towards getting work moved up the work list.

With regard to the work to date this year:

- Flooding around Dell cottage was due to a blocked pipe which was pressure cleared and is running to a soakaway. The good news is that the bend and ditch that always floods across the road is also clear. This is now running very well and the ditch is emptying very nicely.
- The flooding outside the Bromfield's is the only problematic one left. The weir was unblocked and water now runs into the property opposite. The problem is that it used to run out into the field at the rear of the property but the farmer has filled that in and the water now has nowhere to go, thus the gully keeps silting up. We will keep monitoring this problem.
- We have had drains and the hips dug out at the junction of Yew Tree Lane and this now is clear when it rains heavily.
- I have been assured that the corner by Ferney Down Farm will be completely resurfaced; the job has been agreed and will commence in June/July.
- The Drove has very little surface left and again assurances have been given that a top coat will be applied with work will commencing June / July.
- Agreement has been given to put in a passing place from The Yew Tree pub to the junction however Derek is waiting for this to be passed by the budget committee.
- There has been a lot of pot hole filling throughout the year, the main areas have been Yew Tree Lane and Preston Candover Road out of Upper Wield. Work sheet have been put in for Lower Wield to be done and markings on the road have been done ready.

We have made headway with the council, not as fast as we would like but much is down to a good relationship and understanding; as a result we are moving forward and hopefully we will see more improvements over the next 12 months.

### **Footpaths**

In much better condition now but the weather has improved.

BOATS – some have been re-opened but future management is currently under discussion and a decision is expected in the summer.

### **County Councillors report (Cllr Mark Kemp Gee)**

Cllr Kemp Gee said that he would be standing for reelection next year but because of proposed boundary changes may not be as a councillor for Wield. A decision about the boundary changes will be made in the near future.

Cllr Kemp Gee said that HCC leadership is regarded as '**outstanding**' and HCC Children's services department was one of only 10 in the country regarded as '**good**'. He mentioned the many other HCC departments and their excellent work with children, youth services, secondary and primary schools, adults and the elderly and the funding that had been put into obtaining 98% coverage of superfast broadband across the county.

Cllr Kemp Gee was pleased to observe the work promised for the roads in and around the village of Wield. See attached for full report.

***Cllr Kemp Gee was asked if the number of large, heavy lorries passing through the village could be reduced/restricted.***

*Cllr Kemp Gee reminded the meeting that a great many of the lorries were connected with either agriculture or employment and that HCC were committed to encouraging both.*

*It was suggested that a weight restriction could be imposed. Cllr Kemp Gee agreed to explore the possibility.*

## **6. Report from Wield Education Trust**

The report was given, on behalf of the Trust, by Mrs C Hutchinson, secretary to the trust.

Mrs Hutchinson said that the finances of the Trust were in very good standing with good balances at bank and fewer than usual books distributed last year. During the year 60% of the children in the village received help from the Trust with a total of 35 grants being made. 16 children received books and 12 children received tennis coaching during the Easter holiday.

See attached for the full report.

***Max Konig (considers himself to be new to the village) thanked the trust and said how much his children appreciated their books.***

***Catherine Simons pointed out that the timing of the invitation to some children was a little late. The invitation would be better appreciated if sent in July so that books could be ordered for forthcoming exams during the following year.***

*Mrs Hutchinson agreed to investigate the matter.*

## **7. Report of Wield Village Hall Committee**

The report was given, on behalf of the committee, by Phil Pullinger.

Maintenance has continued with the interior of the hall being decorated (windows still to be done) and the weeds in the carpark and surrounding hard surfaces now under control.

The main user of the hall is still Training 4 Dogs. The lease on the flat ends at the end of May but a new tenant is due to move in on 1 June. This also provides a good income for the VH Committee.

The theme event for the summer is to be held on 10 July to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

See attached for a full report.

## **8. Questions from the public –There were none.**

## **9. Date of the next APM – 23 May 2017**