



**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 5 September, 2007 at 6.30 p.m.  
in Wye Methodist Hall, Bridge Street, Wye**

**Present:** Ann Sutherland (Chairman), John Claydon (Vice Chairman), Dave Dubber (Treasurer), Richard Boden, Mary Braithwaite, Ian Cooling, Delia Copland, Mike Copland, Jane Gow, Jeanette Henderson, Jeff Higgins, Nigel Ings, Bill Lane, John Morris, Zoe Rushforth, Brian Sharp, Lorraine Stevens, Nicola Warren and Jack Woodford.

**Apologies:** Barry and Janet Hullett.

Ann welcomed Bill Lane of Bishop's and Wye's Borough Councillor, Jack Woodford to the meeting.

## 1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (Wednesday, 27 June, 2007) were agreed as a true record. New minute-takers were sought for future meetings. Ann felt that some brief notes with actions would be adequate and encourage someone to volunteer.

## 2. Member's five-minute talk

Ann Sutherland gave a talk (as Peter Begley had sent his apologies). She explained how, before coming to Wye, she had been an art buyer and Peter had worked on the client liaison side of the advertising business in London. Although they had run their vegetable shop for 20 years, they had in fact carried on with some advertising work. Now the shop has become Ticketyboo where they are selling a range of gifts including jewellery and quality English ceramics such as those by Lucienne de Mornay. They offer a very personal service and will get hold of particular items for customers. Ann also exhibits and sells her own work in the shop. She also undertakes commissions and showed some examples.

## 3. Matters arising

### 3.1 Parking in Wye

Mary Braithwaite and Nigel Ings had drafted the letter which was about to be published in Business Wyse and had been sent to Wye Parish Council. John Morris reported that it would be discussed at their Planning Meeting. A lengthy discussion followed. Mary Braithwaite pointed out that for business development the principle is needed that individual businesses cannot be expected to find designated parking. It was decided to wait to hear the Parish Council's reply.

A letter had also been sent to ABC's Paul Jackson, with copies to KCC Highways, asking for a date for marking out the carpark alongside Gregory Court. John Morris reported that he was going with Jack Woodford and Jenny Oram to meet KCC Councillor Keith Ferrin in Maidstone on Friday. Ian Cooling suggested building on the visit to Keith Ferrin and asking him to address a WBA meeting. Ann suggested Mike Copland should draft a letter to the Parish Council and it was subsequently suggested that this could be presented to Keith Ferrin at the forthcoming meeting. [The meeting was subsequently cancelled].

More lengthy discussion followed. Members were fed up that money promised for so many years was being taken away. There was concern that what is currently being proposed reduces parking spaces. Nigel Ings pointed out that the democratic mechanism had failed as the Parish Council was unable to get its points across to Kent Highways. John Morris suggested getting parking onto the Parish Council agenda and WBA voicing its concerns. It was agreed to raise the matter at the forthcoming WBA meeting with Damian Green.



## 3.2 Wye website

Ann would liaise with Zoe Rushforth.

## 3.3 Business Wyse

John Claydon encouraged more contributions - new articles as well as updates on their businesses from members. 1,200 copies would be printed. Ann reported that distribution costs £30 for the Wye and £45 for Wye and Brook.

## 3.4 Community Stall

More would be known after tonight's Farmers' Market meeting.

## 3.5 Second tourist sign

All is in hand.

## 4. Wye Borough Councillor, Jack Woodford

Ann introduced Jack Woodford to the meeting. He had been elected in May 2007. Jack explained how he is able to submit questions a week before ABC meetings and he encouraged everyone to let him have their questions. Nigel Ings explained how the Parish Plan Steering Group required information which Jack might be able to help obtain. Further discussion followed and Ann thanked Jack for attending the meeting.

## 5. Parish Plan Survey Results

Nigel Ings tabled the results on businesses. Open questions were being analysed and the final version will be sent round and a village-wide event will be held to validate it. The first part of the Parish Plan exercise focused on land use questions and associated things like parking. People were concerned about keeping young people in the village and providing affordable housing for them. The Inspector will look at popular opinion so the results are extremely powerful. Brian Sharp thanked Mary and Nigel.

## 6. Meeting with Damian Green (Friday, 14 September, 2007)

As Mary had brought up the subject of the College, Ann proposed inviting Mary to lead the meeting. Ann will email Damian Green's secretary with the areas to be discussed. It would be important to work out what we want to come out of the meeting, so Ann invited Mike Copland to set the ball rolling. Mary and Mike would liaise with Ann beforehand.

[The meeting with Damian Green subsequently took place as planned at the Devil's Kneading Trough and was attended by Ann Sutherland, John Morris, Brian Sharp, Robert Earll, Jeanette Henderson, Jenny Lye, Nigel Ings, Mary Braithwaite, Mike Copland, Delia Copland and Dave Dubber. Wye Parish Council Chairman, David de Saxe also attended as an invited guest.]

## 7. Subscriptions

Subscriptions were slow in being paid. The amount (£20) was discussed but this was felt to be about right. Richard Boden suggested the incentive of just listing paid-up members on the WBA side of the planned Farmers' Market / WBA cloth shopping bags! Richard would be looking into prices and min/max order quantities.



## 8. Venue

Members had raised the possibility of varying the venue for WBA meetings and having some meetings in the village itself. The Methodist Hall costs £10 so that would mean an annual outlay of £80 from WBA funds. John Morris disagreed with this proposal and pointed out how Dave Dubber supplied refreshments and printed out agendas for meetings held at the Devil's Kneading Trough. Lorraine Stevens kindly offered to hold some meetings in the village itself at Crown Coffee. Further discussion followed and it was agreed to continue at the Devil's Kneading Trough with the occasional visit to Crown Coffee every three months. Ann thanked Dave and Lorraine for their generous offers.

## 9. Any other business

### Street Party

Ann reported that she had applied for a grant for two barbecues and asked for an ABC grant for electricity. Future storage and tractor assistance for the lights will be needed as Wye Court Farm is for sale!

### Book-keeping

If anyone needed help, Richard Boden could recommend a book-keeper from Hastingleigh

### Charity sponsorship

Zoe Rushforth had recently raised over £2,000 for the MS Society and Nicola Warren was about to spend five nights on an uninhabited island to raise funds for the Anthony Nolan Trust. Ian Cooling also drew attention to the Charity Book Fair he was organizing for the Kent Air Ambulance on 15 September.

## 10. Dates of forthcoming meetings

**Meeting with Damian Green** – Friday, 14 September, 2007

**Social Evening** - Friday, 21 September, 2007, 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at the Devil's Kneading Trough

**AGM** - Wednesday, 24 October, 2007, 6.30 p.m. at Crown Coffee **(later changed to the Devil's Kneading Trough)**

**Wednesday, 14 November**, 6.30 p.m. at the Devil's Kneading Trough

**Wednesday, 28 November**, 6.30 p.m. at the Devil's Kneading Trough

### WBA 2007 Street Party

**Sunday, 2 December, 2007**, put up Christmas Lights

**Friday, 7 December, 2007**, Street Party

**Sunday, 6 January, 2008**, take down Christmas Lights