

Wootton Rivers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 17th March 2016

Present:	David Wardlaw	Parish Council Chairman
	Clare Bamforth	Parish Council Vice-Chair
	David Butler	Councillor
	Michael Farr	Councillor
	Paul Neale	Councillor
	Steve Rawlings	Councillor
	Neil Worthington	Clerk
	Tony McGarry	NDP Leader
	Jerry Kunkler	Wiltshire Councillor
	PC Teresa Herbert	Police Community Beat Manager
Apologies:	Glenn Leech	Councillor

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising.

The Minutes of the Parish Meetings held on 18th January 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising :-

- Glenn Leech had recommended Stuart Taylor (Codewater Solutions) who had provided a quote to set up the website - £60 for the initial set up and £40 per annum for running costs. Any amendments would be at additional cost. Website has been set up using Wordpress and Stuart has issued instructions on how the site can be administered. He has also set up a new clerks email address to be used when the new laptop is purchased.
- David Wardlaw reported that Wiltshire Council has not yet acted on the request to cut back the hedge at Cuckoos Knob. *Action DW to chase.*
- Wessex Print had produced the new defibrillator sign which was now in place.
- A quote from Last Landscaping had been received for providing a base to the cricket mat - £1,000 including VAT. Tony McGarry was to submit an application to the Area Board for a grant for the full cost.
- David Butler had repaired the verge at the triangle damaged by a lorry turning around but noted that the road surface was cracking due to the heavy traffic and needed repairing. *Action: Neil Worthington to notify Wiltshire Highways.*
- The Canal & River Trust had replied regarding the query about the permanent moorings at Brimslade Lock to say that they were investigating and would report back although they would not be able to divulge details of any enforcement action they may take.
- Paul Neale raised the issue of the hedge cutting at the North end of the village which was incomplete. However, it was now too late in the season for it to be completed and David Butler advised that it would be finished next winter.

2. Declarations of Interest and the granting of dispensations.

Councillors were reminded of the Code for Conduct and the need to declare any interest relating to the items on the Agenda. David Butler declared an interest in the Noyes Farm development.

3. Report from Wiltshire Councillor

Following the recent Area Board Meeting Jerry Kunkler reported the following :-

- Wiltshire Council tax would rise by 2% this year as well as a special 2% social care levy as allowed by the Government. This would raise £16m but £10m still had to be found by savings from the overall budget of £900m.
- Wiltshire's aging population has put strains on the social care budget.
- The Pewsey Campus scheme had been presented at the Board Meeting, the cost had been approved and the scheme was currently out to tender.
- WR Village Hall Committee had been successful with their application for a grant to purchase new tables for the village hall.
- The Police had reported that they were now using more mobile services which meant that the requirement for fixed Police stations had reduced and that Pewsey Police Station may close.
- Wiltshire continued to invest in highways as this had shown to be a high priority in the public consultations recently carried out.
- The bridge at Woodbridge was still scheduled to be closed for structural repairs later this year.

Concern was expressed about the recent planning decision for houses at the Tesco roundabout in Marlborough and the effect it may have on village traffic using Wootton Rivers as a rat run to avoid congestion.

4. Report from Community Police Officer.

Teresa Herbert reported that no incidents had been reported in Wootton Rivers. Incidents in the surrounding area included burglary from outbuildings, barns and garages, poaching and forced entry to a dwelling to obtain keys for a vehicle later used in a ram raid in Hampshire.

Phone scams to elderly residents are also increasing.

Teresa advised that outbuildings should be made more secure and property should be marked to deter theft and make identification easier.

Teresa was willing to run a Community Event to inform residents about current police actions and crime prevention and would liaise with Nick Mitchell-Briggs regarding this.

5. Road Maintenance

A meeting had taken place with David Arnup and the Highways Engineer to walk through the village and identify problem areas. Following this meeting the ditches at the North end of the village had been cleared out.

Wilts Highways were committed to continue to flush out the high priority problem gullies regularly although other gullies may only get cleared every 2 years.

A working party had recently cleared all the gulleys and grips and David Wardlaw had finalised the gully schedule. Various sections were to be allocated to volunteers to keep them clear of debris and to give an early warning of problems.

It had been clarified by Wilts Highways that maintaining ditches which drained water from fields was the responsibility of the land owner even where those ditches were adjacent to roads.

A road sweeper had been through the village as requested but it was considered that there would be circumstances when quick action to sweep roads may be necessary to avoid silt and leaves entering the drainage system. In this event Wiltshire are unlikely to be able to act quickly enough and getting a contractor to carry this out may be necessary. *Action: Michael Farr to obtain a quote to hire a bucket brush.*

The replacement road bends sign had at last been replaced.

David Butler confirmed he would be clearing up farm debris with his JCB and would be remaking various field entrances.

Many villagers had taken part in the village clean up and had collected large amount of rubbish as usual. Thanks to all who took helped. Paul Neale reported that the following week he had spoken to a driver of a lorry at Hatt Gate who was dropping litter and had passed on the information to Wiltshire Council.

6. Planning Matters

The following applications had been considered since the last meeting :-

- Internal alterations and sunken patio at the Skylark – no objection.
- Revised application for stables at Wootton House – no objection.

The following applications were considered :-

- New field entrance – it was agreed that a site visit was necessary to fully assess the implications of this proposal – to be arranged before 29 March.

The following applications had been notified on the Planning Website although they had not yet been received by the Parish Council :-

- Work to trees at Owl Cottage
- Extensions and alterations to Wootton House

It was agreed to look at these applications on site at a date to be arranged.

Noyes Farm - David Wardlaw reported that he had spoken to Jonathon James the planning officer dealing with this application who was still working through the issues. It was understood that revised plans were being prepared which would come to the Parish Council for comment. He was also looking at issues with the Core Strategy. David had advised the planner that 2 new issues had arisen since the Parish Council comments, both affecting traffic – firstly, following the planning approval for a large

housing development at the Marlborough Tesco roundabout there was the possibility of increased traffic past the site and secondly, there had been confirmation that there had been two reported accidents at the Noyes farm entrance in the last 2 years.

Clarification was required on the status of the application and Jerry Kunkler agreed to speak to the planning officer to establish this. There was the possibility of entering into discussions with the developers to arrive at an acceptable scheme but, following discussions it was agreed to wait until the revised plans had been submitted before deciding if that option was to be considered. In the event that the scheme was still unacceptable the PC would be looking for Jerry Kunkler's support and if necessary to ask for the scheme to be called in.

Neighbourhood Development Scheme - Tony McGarry advised that Wiltshire Council has expressed concern that some of the stakeholders had not been fully consulted in accordance with the regulations and although this had been disputed the steering group had agreed to comply with the request for a further full 6 week consultation period to avoid any future legal challenge to the NDP validity. Therefore a further notice of consultation would be issued before re-submission to Wiltshire Council.

7. Finances

The following cheques which had been issued since the last meeting were authorised :-

- T McGarry - NDP expenses £97.43
- Groundwork UK - Return of unspent NDP grant £877.05
- Wessex Print - NDP printing £126.60
- Wessex Print - Defibrillator sticker £33.60

The VAT refund of £470.24 had been received.

Notice that the Parish Council application for a grant to set up the web-site and for the purchase of a new laptop, scanner, set up costs and training had been approved and the cheque was expected shortly.

It was agreed to ask Rob Mitchenall to do the annual internal audit again

Quotes for essential maintenance to the Recreation ground had been received :-

- New seats for the see-saw and 2 new swing seats - £244.97 + VAT from Active Toy
- Replacement gate post £240 + VAT from Last Landscaping

Both these quotes were approved by the Council unanimously.

Neil Worthington reported that St John's College had not issued an invoice for the Recreation Ground rent in 2015. An emailed reminder had not resulted in any response so a letter was to be sent. Provision for the rent had been made in the accounts but obviously we do not want any problem with payment of rent. *Action:*
Neil Worthington

BEAM – following email publicity of the weekly oil price, membership of the BEAM scheme had increased by approximately 10 people. The oil price was always competitive and in addition the parish Council receive funds which helped keep the PC tax lower.

An application for a donation had been requested for £50 for a celebration event to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. This was unanimously approved. The payee for the cheque would be advised.

8. Correspondence received.

None of relevance to the Parish.

9. Matters raised by the public / AOB

Steve Rawlings had been advised that the trees from the recreation ground were overhanging the car parking in South Bank. Sovereign Housing would cut these back but charge the tenants. It was agreed that a working party would be organised to carry out this work.

It was noted that the finger sign on the A345 at Clench was in disrepair although new direction signs had been erected before the junctions. As this was outside the Parish Jerry Kunkler undertook to speak to Wilts Highways. *Action: Jerry Kunkler*

Date of the next meeting – 9th May 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting and AGM for the Parish Council.