

# Wootton Rivers Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016

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

### **1. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising.**

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising :-

The trimming of the hedge at Cuckoo's Knob had been carried out but needed to be cut back further to improve visibility. Jerry Kunkler suggested that this be put on the Parish Steward's list of work but if he was unable to carry it out David Butler undertook to do it during the winter.

An inadequate response had been received from the Canal & River Trust about the Brimslade moorings. A further attempt would be made to get clarification. *Action : Clerk*

The Community Emergency Plan template was to be completed following clarification from Wiltshire Council. *Action : Clerk*

The Village Hall Accounts had been circulated to all Councillors.

It was confirmed that the Designation of the Royal Oak as a Community Asset expired in July 2018.

The road surface next to the triangle had been reported to Wiltshire Highways who had inspected it but had advised that it did not meet the safety intervention level. It would continue to be monitored at their regular safety inspections.

A letter had been sent to the owners of the trees overhanging the canal parking places but there had been no response yet. It was agreed that an approach would be made to the SSE advising them of the danger to their overhead cables. *Action : Clerk*

## **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. None were declared and no dispensations were requested or granted.

## **3. Report from Wiltshire Councillor**

Following the last Area Board held on 4<sup>th</sup> July Jerry Kunkler reported the following matters :-

- He had been elected as Chairman for the next year.
- Robert Hall who had attended many Wootton Rivers PC meetings when he was Wilts CC member had sadly died.
- The planning application for the new leisure centre at Pewsey had now been submitted.
- The police had changed their method of organisation – see item 4.
- The Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) would be available in the Autumn.
- Various grants had been approved including one of £831 which had been submitted by Tony McGarry for the provision of a hard base to the cricket mat.

Jerry Kunkler advised that the Noyes Farm Development decision had not yet been made as further reports were awaited.

David Wardlaw reported that he had received various complaints about the poor state of the roads in the area. Jerry advised that many roads in the area were currently undergoing repairs.

## **4. Report from Community Police Officer.**

PCSO Jonathon Mills reported on criminal activity recently.

- Property stolen from shed at St Andrew's Close
- Garage burglary from Great Bedwyn
- Theft of tipper vehicle and tools from East Grafton
- Theft from vehicle from Wilton Windmill
- Distraction theft from Wexcombe

Police advice to protect property is to ensure that you have :-

- Security marked items
- Recorded serial numbers
- Photographed items
- Locked away items and secured them when not in use
- Secured access points into yard premises
- Revisit security features on property such as chains and locks, CCTV & lighting.

He also reported a number of incidents of attempted fraud by persons pretending to be from the Police on the telephone asking for card details.

Police advice on fraud is to be vigilant and never give bank or card details over the phone unless you are absolutely sure who you are dealing with. Advice and guidance can be found at <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk>

Following the replacement of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams by Community Police Teams the new base for our police area is now Devizes – the new system will be monitored to assess if this change alters the police response times.

Nick Mitchell-Briggs reported that there had been another unsatisfactory 101 call last week – there was a problem with reporting incidents quickly as the system was very longwinded – Jonathon was aware that the system was sometimes unsatisfactory and that complaints had been passed to senior officers.

## **5. Planning Matters**

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

- Field entrance opposite Apshill Cottage – no objection to this revised application on condition that the banking to prevent flooding was maintained.
- Removal of hedge at Youngs Cottage/ Village Hall Car Park – no objection.
- Fell 2 apple trees at Dashwood and replant – no objection.

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

- Extension to Wootton House

It was agreed to look at the application once it had been received.

The PC has also received advance notice of an application to carry out tree works in the churchyard and for the replacement dwelling at the Long House.

## **6. Recreation Ground**

Tony McGarry reported that following the successful grant application he had taken advice on the correct specification for the cricket mat base and the work required excavation, a layer of scalpings, wooden perimeter boards and a 5” thick concrete slab. He was in touch with the Active Toy Co Ltd and it was hoped that the work could be done before the August Bank Holiday fun run.

David Butler reported that the fence to South Bank was leaning and required straightening and new handles were needed on the see-saw. Tony was to ask Roger Dickens regarding the fence and Active Toy about the handles. New seats for the see-saw were already on order.

## **7. Neighbourhood Development Scheme**

Tony McGarry reported that the steering group had started considering the comments received back following the end of the consultation period and inserting the relevant parts into the NDP. It was anticipated that this process would be complete by late August when the document would be submitted back to the Parish Council for approval. Copies of the comments received from the consultees would be available to the Councillors.

## **8. Finances**

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

- St John's College – Recreation Ground rent 2016/17 £175.00
- D Sheppard – replace defibrillator light £58.80

The following payments were approved and cheques signed :-

- PCC – Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration £50.00
- Active Toy Co Ltd – swing seats £184.99
- Last Landscaping – grass cutting Rec Ground 1<sup>st</sup> quarter £348.60
- N Worthington- computer equipment purchased on behalf of WRPC £721.15
- WRVH Committee – legal fees £51.00

The grant cheque of £1,109 for the purchase of computer equipment, website costs etc had been received. A laptop, printer, back-up equipment and software etc had been purchased and delivery was expected this week. Setting up would be carried out with the assistance of Hew Helps.

Nick Mitchell-Briggs reported that 3 new members had signed up to the BEAM oil purchase scheme.

Notice of the National Salary Award 2016 - 2018 had been received from the National Joint Council for Local Government Services. Based on the agreed 78 hours per annum the new yearly rates for the Clerk's salary were £679.93 for 2016/17 and £692.09 for 2017/18. (Current pay was £657.38 pa).

## **9. Access to Young House**

Agreement had been reached with the owners of Young House to give occasional access through the Village Hall car park subject to a number of conditions. A copy of the letter is to be filed. Advice from solicitors had been necessary to clarify responsibilities and it agreed that the cost of £102 should be split equally between the Parish Council and the Management Committee.

## **10. Participation on Village Committees**

The necessity for villagers to participate in the Parish Council, Village Hall Management Committee and the Parochial Church Council was discussed and it was agreed to include an item in the next Contact and in the new villagers welcome letter.

## **11. Correspondence received.**

Complaints had been received about the large pub sign which had appeared on the triangle but which has now been removed. Planning permission was required for signs and the Parish Council would support a simple direction sign fixed to the fence. David Wardlaw agreed to speak to John Jones.

**12. Matters raised by the public / AOB**

Nick Mitchell-Briggs reported that the numbers on the crime information email list continued to increase.

**Date of the next meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

Parish Council Documents are available on the Parish Council Website - [woottonriverspc.co.uk](http://woottonriverspc.co.uk)