

# Wootton Rivers Parish Council

## DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022

### Present:

Dean Cowley	Parish Council Chair
Nick Jones	Councillor
David Butler	Councillor
Anne Swift	Councillor
Julian Beames	Clerk

**1. Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Clare Bamforth, Steve Rawlings, and Cindy Creasy

**2.** Councillors were reminded of the Code for Conduct and the need to declare any interest relating to the items on the agenda. No declarations were made.

### **3. Agreement of Minutes**

The Draft Minutes Parish Council Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 were agreed as a true record and signed by Dean Cowley - Chair.

### **4. Report from Wiltshire Councillor**

Jerry Kunkler reported that a small additional budget had been set aside for improvements to road white lines and signage. If we had any items to be addressed, then the requests should be made to Matt Perrot the Roads Engineer for consideration.

The next LHFIG meeting will take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July and the next area board meeting is on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September.

Action: The Clerk to review signage and white line for potential requests

### **5. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**5.1. Rights of Way Up-date** - In cindy Creasy's absence this item was deferred to the next meeting

**5.2. Up-date on Trees on Forest Road. The Chair reported that the** landowner had responded to his letter and given her permission for work to be carried out by SSE on the tree to cut it back from the wires. SSE have raised a job in their system to attend and do the work and either the Chair or the Clerk will endeavour to meet them on-site to advise on the specific tree that requires attention.

**5.3 Report on the meeting with Matt Perrot W.C. - Roads Engineer – The Clerk** reported that he had met and discussed the various roads and drains issues with Mr. Perrot. For each item a course of action had been agreed and as a result a number of items including potholes, roadside edges and blocked

drains have been added to the MyWilts reporting system for attention. These have started to be addressed and actions are on-going on the remainder.

#### **5.4. Report on meeting with the Canal and River Trust (CRT). - The Clerk**

reported that he had met up with Bob Coles who is the Area Operations Manager responsible for the lock. Concerns was raised about the general condition of the lock and its facilities which have deteriorated significantly over recent years. In particular, the seat and gates need work and the general lack of maintenance to grass verges etc. Mr Coles agreed that the lock was not looking very 'cared for' and stated that the CRT had recently re-let the contract for grass cutting and that the new contractor was not performing as expected. This had led to the lack of maintenance to the grass around the lock and its surrounds. In addition, he said that with the current resources and budgets they were struggling to carry out routine maintenance such as painting and renovation.

This led him to ask if there was the possibility of the lock being adopted by a volunteer group from the village. He said this could be done in conjunction with the CRT who would support it by training volunteers to ensure Health & Safety, providing life vests. Materials such as paint and brushes would be provided.

On the subject of a lifebuoy, he stated that it was not CRT policy to have these at all locks but mentioned that a more economical and easier device to have available would be a throw line.

After some discussion it was agreed by the Council that a note should be sent to residents asking if there is any interest in forming a working group who could carry out a couple of working sessions a year to help improve the condition of the lock area.

Action: The Clerk to send a note out to seek residents support for forming a working party.

**5.5. Defibrillator –** The current defibrillator requires new pads and a battery by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July, but these are currently not available for our model due to worldwide supply issues caused by the pandemic. New items were ordered in June, but the supplier cannot currently give a lead-time as to when they will be available. Given that the current device is approximately 12 years old, is out of warranty and that it is a critical life-saving device, the general feeling amongst Councillors was that a new device should be purchased using money from the Council's reserves in order to continue to provide critical coverage, especially given current ambulance response times. The Clerk stated that from his research a new defibrillator equivalent to the current one would cost approximately £900.00 (including the VAT which would be recoverable).

A motion was proposed by Anne Swift to instruct the Clerk to purchase a new defibrillator equivalent to the existing one using money from the Council's financial reserves. This was seconded by David Butler and was supported unanimously by Councillors.

Action: The Clerk to procure a new defibrillator

## **6. Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Review**

The Chair reported that following a meeting with Wiltshire Council (WC) planners regarding the status of the NDP they had been re-assured that it was still likely to be highly effective in controlling development in the way the NDP envisaged. Concern had been raised due to the time since the NDP was put in place and the shortfall in WC's 5-year land supply. It was thought these factors might undermine the NDP. However, the advice of the planners was that due to the majority of the Village being a conservation area and within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) the NDP would still carry significant weight. Given this situation it was proposed that the planned review of the NDP should be delayed until the end of 2022 or early 2023 when the WC Local Plan will also be available and the NDP can be aligned with this.

## 7. Finance Report

The Clerk reported that the bank balances were as follows:

Treasurers Account	£4303.62
Business Bank Account	£6573.52

Receipts since the last meeting

HMRC	£195.12	VAT refund
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Payment approved since the last meeting were:

Anne Swift	£114.00	Printing of Jubilee Party Invitations
Imperative Training	£136.80	Defibrillator consumables

Payments authorised to be paid:

IdVerde	£276.38	Grass Cutting
J. Beames	£25.88	2 x bottles of wine for Rob Mitchenall as recompense for carrying out the internal audit
J. Beames	£7.99	Printer/copy paper

## 8. Report on Police Matters

Nothing to report

## 9. Correspondence received

Nothing to report

## 10. Date of the next Meeting

The date of the next scheduled meeting will (subject to confirmation) be on the Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022

Signed as a true record.....Date .....

Dean Cowley – Chair