

# Wootton Rivers Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th March 2019

<b>Present:</b>	Cindy Creasy	Parish Council Chair
	David Butler	Parish Council Vice-Chair
	Dean Cowley	Councillor
	Nick Jones	Councillor
	Steve Rawlings	Councillor
	Anne Swift	Councillor
	Neil Worthington	Clerk
	Jerry Kunkler	Wiltshire Councillor
	PCSO Paul Whiteside	Wiltshire Police

**Apologies:** None

### 1. 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.

Nick Jones declared an interest in Agenda item 12 (Nomination of the Royal Oak as an Asset of Community Value).

No further interests were declared.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 14th January 2019 and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

### 3. Matters arising from the Minutes

Cutting back trees over car parking spaces – the Parish Council had written to Fowler Architects (who were acting as the landowner's agent) to notify them of Wiltshire Council consultant's report which had highlighted the damage and injury that would occur when the wall eventually collapses due to the trees bearing on it. Wiltshire Council had advised that no further action can be taken by the PC.

Alternative location for signboard – the best location seemed to be adjacent to the letter box at the bottom of South Bank and nearby residents were to be consulted. To make additional space it was agreed to see if the litter bin could be re-located at the bottom of the track up to Mud Lane where there is a problem with dog waste.

*Action: Clerk*

Church Farm meeting – The PC had been advised that new planning applications were about to be made for the Church Farm site and the owner wanted to have an informal meeting to explain the changes being proposed and the reasons for them. A suitable date was to be agreed. *Action: Clerk*

Village Clean Up – this had taken place and was well attended. Thanks to all those who took part.

Liaison with Wiltshire Tree Officer – David Wyatt had agreed to visit the village and give advice on assessing the visual value of trees in the landscape to assist the PC when considering applications for tree works.

*Action: Clerk/Cindy Creasy/Dean Cowley*

#### **4. Co-option of new Councillor**

Following Glenn Leech's resignation last month Cindy expressed the Parish Council's appreciation of the contribution he had made to the Council's work during the time he had served on the Council.

Wiltshire Council Electoral Services Officer had advised that the PC could now proceed with co-opting a new Councillor and the necessary notices advertising the vacancy had been posted. Clare Bamforth had come forward and offered to join the Council. A motion to co-opt Clare to was proposed by Anne Swift, seconded by David Butler and was carried unanimously.

#### **5. Report from Wiltshire Councillor**

Jerry Kunkler reported on Wiltshire Council and Pewsey Area Board matters:-

- At the recent Area Board meeting it had been agreed that the Pewsey children's centre was now to be run by a local nursery
- All grants had been fully spent for the current financial year
- The new Community Engagement Officer, Richard Rogers, had now taken up his role
- The fund raising for the purchase of a Raizer chair (to safely and easily lift fallen persons) had been successful and sufficient funds to buy 2 chairs for the Pewsey first responders had been raised
- Wiltshire Council had increased council tax by 2.99%
- A meeting chaired by Jerry to discuss the Parish Steward scheme in the area had taken place (see later item).
- Jane Scott, leader of Wiltshire Council was standing down later this year
- The Vale Leisure Centre in Pewsey was fully open and attracting many new members
- The next Area Board meeting was due to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> May at East Grafton

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

PCSO Paul Whiteside informed the meeting that locally opportunistic burglaries, thefts from vehicles and incidents of anti-social behaviour were increasing in the local area. Wootton Rivers had so far not been affected but he would encourage residents to continue to be vigilant and maintain security measures.

If there were any issues that needed to be raised with the Police Paul advised that he held regular surgeries in Pewsey library.

The issue of parked cars and vans blocking the road between the canal and rail bridges was discussed and the Police could take little action unless the road was actually blocked. If yellow lines were in place enforcement would fall to the Council's officers not the police. It had been established that yellow lines would be very expensive to get put in place, contrary to the NDP guidelines and would probably just displace parking to other areas nearby.

Following discussion it was agreed to write to the Canal and River Trust asking them to encourage parking in the bays further down the road and to post polite notices on the offending vehicles requesting that the road is kept clear for emergency and farm vehicles. *Action: Clerk*

## 7. Planning

The following application had been received since the last PC meeting:-

### 19/01231/TCA Tree work at Tregarthen

This application had been delegated to the clerk to decide and a No Objection comment had been made to the planners.

## 8. Finances

### Payments

The following payments had been made since the last meeting and were authorised by Councillors:-

Codewater Solutions (website hosting)	£40.00
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The following new payments were authorised to be made:-

N. Worthington (sundry items below)	£60.86
• new bulb for defibrillator light	£2.99
• rubbish sacks for the clean up	£7.49
• printer ink cartridges	£50.38

D.L. Stevens (mole catcher for Recreation Ground)	£60.00
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The BEAM payment from Ford Fuel Oils had been received £852.48

### Financial Report

Deposit Account		4569.41
Current Account	1843.28	
Less liabilities	<u>160.86</u>	<u>1682.42</u>
Total funds in bank		£6251.83

Neil Worthington reported that this was all as anticipated when the budget was reviewed in January. The end of the financial year was at the end of March and the final end of year figures will then be able to be reported.

### Online Banking

The current situation for online banking was reviewed. Currently payments are processed by the Clerk but the bank does not act on the instructions until authorised online by either Cindy or Dean. Further guidance had been sought to confirm that this process was in order and confirmation had been found in the 'The Good Councillor's Guide to Finance and Transparency 2018' published by the National Association of Local Councils which states that 'where electronic banking is used, arrangements should be in ensure that at least 2 people are involved in any transaction, one of whom must be a member.' It was agreed that the current arrangements were therefore correct and no changes to them were required. The situation with signing cheques remains that 2 members need to sign these and Cindy, Dean, David and Steve remain as the current signatories.

### Recreation Ground Grass Cutting

Idverde had quoted £921.28 + VAT for the same level of service as this year which was a 2% increase and was within the budget allowance. As the grass cutting had been carried out to a satisfactory standard it was agreed that this quote should be accepted. *Action: Clerk*

### **9. Rights of Way**

Anne Swift reported that she had met with Stephen Leonard the RoW officer for Wiltshire regarding the path across Mr Blanchard's land. He confirmed that if we chose to seek a permissive path then we could request that this remained in place for 50 or even 100 years. There was concern about whether it was likely that cattle would use the field as calves were now being kept in the new barn – if there were cattle in the field and the current openings were blocked Mr Blanchard would be obliged to install whatever means of access were necessary for the permissive path. Wiltshire prefer gates rather than stiles. Any request for a path should stress the dangers of walking down the road.

Anne agreed to draft a letter to Mr Blanchard requesting a permissive path.

The process of collecting evidence to support more than 20 years uninterrupted use of the path were quite onerous and there was discussion about whether it was necessary to be undertaken. Clarity was needed as it was felt that once a permissive path was in place the period for establishing 20 years use would end.

*Action: Anne Swift*

Anne reported that all footpaths and signage had now been inspected and the group were working out what new signage was required.

### **10. Roads and Highways**

#### Parish Steward

The meeting with Ringway and adjoining parishes had taken place to discuss problems with the Parish Steward scheme. Various measures had been put in place to improve communications and the performance of the steward and these will be reviewed in 3 months time. The next visit of the steward is on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

#### Maintenance

The works promised by Richard Dobson which should have been carried out by now had not been. He has been repeatedly chased and an update from him has just been received with further assurances that works will be carried out. It was agreed to continue chasing and escalate if necessary. *Action: Clerk*

### **11. Royal Oak**

At the last meeting it had been agreed to list the Royal Oak as an Asset of Community Value subject to understanding any major issues from the Royal Oak's perspective. Following a meeting with John and Nick Jones, and after receiving further advice from Wiltshire Council, the application had been made. Wiltshire had now requested copies of plans showing the boundaries of the nominated site and a further meeting with the RO was required to agree precisely what areas should form part of the application. *Action: Cindy Creasy/Clerk*

It was confirmed that the moratorium on a sale can only be triggered by a properly constituted community interest group. It was agreed that the PC could facilitate a group to undertake a feasibility study and plan what would be involved. Dean Cowley

agreed to take the lead to look into how this group might be formed and what relevant talents were available in the village to contribute to it.

## **12. Recreation Ground**

The mole catcher had visited and dispatched the current residents.  
A working party would carry out the annual tidy up on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

## **13. Correspondence received.**

PCAP – a letter expressing thanks for the PC donation to fund the Raizer chair and for running costs had been received.

Ramsbury Estates had written to inform the PC that many ash trees on their land were affected by ash dieback and they were felling affected trees.

SSE had written to promote their scheme to support vulnerable residents in the event of a power cut and offering to come to speak at a PC meeting. It was felt that this would not be the best method of publishing the scheme and details would be put in Contact later in the year.

A request had been received to consider finding out more about setting up a Community Led Housing group. It was felt that this was not an issue relevant to Wootton Rivers but would be reviewed later.

## **14. Matters raised by the Public**

The street light past the railway bridge was obscured and tree branches needed to be cut back. *Action: Clerk*

The grips on Martinsell needed to be recut as they were not diverting water off the road. *Action: Clerk*

**Date of the next meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This is the Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.**