

Wootton Rivers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th March 2018

Present:	David Butler	Vice-Chair
	Dean Cowley	Councillor
	Nick Jones	Councillor
	Glenn Leech	Councillor
	Steve Rawlings	Councillor
	Neil Worthington	Clerk
Apologies:	Cindy Creasy	Chair
	Anne Swift	Councillor
	Jerry Kunkler	Wiltshire Councillor

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 8th January 2018 were agreed as a true record and signed by David Butler who chaired the meeting in the Cindy's absence.

Matters arising :-

- Cutting back trees above car park bays – A reminder had been sent a couple of weeks ago but no reply had yet been received. A follow up email was to be sent. *Action: Clerk*
- Church Farm planning – Mr Findley, one of the executors of the estate, had advised that the family were making arrangements to fund and carry forward the development. He would also let the PC know when work was likely to proceed once that decision had been reached.
- Metrocount – Jerry Kunkler had confirmed that the PC needed to apply to the CATG to get a Metrocount installed. Cindy Creasy was trying to get clarification on various points before completing the application form. Discussion took place on the best location for the Metrocount as information was already available from the Church Farm planning application. Alternative locations were near the Heathy Close road, outside the Village Hall and between the canal and church. *Action: Cindy Creasy*
- Parish Steward – the visit scheduled for 24 Feb did not take place as he was assigned to emergency duties. The next visit is due on 21 March. (Post meeting note – we have since been advised that Parish Steward visits have been temporarily suspended as all Stewards have been diverted to carry out emergency pothole repairs following the winter weather.
- Road sweeper – the road sweeper had attended on 13 February.
- North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty presentation – demand for this to be reassessed.
- Ford Fuels – the 'thank you' letter had been sent.

- Community Infrastructure Levy – Anne Swift had reported that the likely payment from the Church Farm development would be £8,500 and can be spent at the discretion of the Parish Council. It was considered that the CIL should be spent on specific projects and not absorbed into general PC funds. It was possible that CIL would not be levied on the large house being built for the trust beneficiary as this could be classed as a self build and therefore subject to a Self Build Exemption. The financial impact on the likely CIL charge was to be assessed. *Action: Anne Swift*
- Road damage at the Triangle – the road surface had been inspected by a Wiltshire Highways Engineer who had recommended a full surface patch. This work had been added to the list of sites to be assessed at the start of the next financial year.
- The sign near East Wick had been inspected – the post is in good position but all the finger posts are rotten. Neil Worthington reported that he is trying to get a financial contribution from Highways to fund a repair. *Action: Clerk*
- Mud on Roads – Highways had said that they have a machine which would remove the mud on roads which had not been dealt with by the sweeper – attempts to get this machine continue. *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. No interests were declared.

3. Report from Wiltshire Councillor

Jerry Kunkler was unable to attend as he was attending the Pewsey Area Board meeting.

4. Report from Community Police Officer.

A Police representative was unable to attend but a written report had been submitted. Nick Mitchell-Briggs reported that there had been a spate of thefts from Transit vans using lock-picking devices capable of bypassing the lock system and leaving no sign of forced entry.

Thefts from cars in beauty spots continue despite reminders and signs not to leave valuables in cars.

There have been burglaries and thefts from many villages in the area but there were none reported in the parish.

The police were to be invited to attend the next PC meeting in person.

5. Neighbourhood Development Plan

Tony McGarry reported that Wiltshire had issued their Final Decision Statement following the Referendum. There had been a 49% turnout and 88.1% of those voting were in favour of accepting the NDP.

The NDP was therefore now in force and would be used to determine planning issues.

There is now a 6 week period for Wiltshire to receive any legal challenge to their decision to 'make' the plan – this period expires on 16th March 2018.

6. Planning

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

- 18/00669/FUL Extension to Cow Cubicles at Lady Margaret Dairy.

This application had been considered and it was agreed that there was no objection to the proposed works.

7. Finances

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

- £348.50 Last Landscaping – 3rd quarterly charge for grass cutting the Recreation Ground.
- £24.00 Wessex Printing Contact newsletter
- £23.98 Neil Worthington – purchase of print ink cartridges

The following cheque was approved and signed :-

- £100.00 St Andrew's Church Donation

The following payment had been received :-

- £709.70 from Ford Fuels Ltd – BEAM contribution

During the budget discussion at the last meeting the revised quote from Last Landscaping for grass cutting the Recreation Ground was discussed. There had been a large rise due to the increase in the number of cuts required and inflation over the 3 years since the quote was last revised. As a result of this proposed increase 2 additional quotations had been sought both of which were lower. The most competitive quote was from Idverde based in Devizes and recommended by Milton Lilbourne PC. The quote was for 17 cuts initially using a ride on mower while the ground was still soft but then using a tractor and mower with rollers which should improve the ground. It was agreed to accept this quote subject to the normal checks.
Action: Clerk

It was agreed to ask Rob Mitchenall to carry out the internal audit of the accounts as usual. *Action: Clerk*

8. Correspondence received.

Best Kept Village Competition – the annual invitation had been received but a leader needed to come forward to head up any entry.

General Data Protection Regulations – the National Association of Local Councils had produced a 60+ page toolkit for Parish Councils – initial inspection seemed to indicate that we would need to appoint a Data Control Officer to do an audit even though it was unlikely that WRPC held any personal data. A more detailed check of the regulations was to be carried out to ensure compliance. *Action: Clerk*

PCAP – the next meeting was 19th April at 7pm in Pewsey. David Butler would try to attend.

The annual Local Highway meeting will take place on 23 May 2018 at 7pm in Devizes.

9. Matters raised by the public / AOB

Enlargement of Field Entrance – Roger Geen enquired about the work being carried out at the bottom of Primrose Hill by East Wick Farm. David Butler advised that he had reinstated the field entrance to its original width so that the field could be accessed by vehicles if necessary. It was agreed that Cindy should liaise with Roger and David and report back. *Action: Cindy Creasy*

Recent Snowfall and Cold Weather – the village response to the heavy snowfall was discussed. There was agreement that the email messaging system had been useful and worked well to keep villagers informed, but it would be useful if it could also be used to publicise which access roads were passable. The rock salt supplied some years ago by Highways had been well used and Wiltshire Highways were to be asked to replace it for next year. David Butler reported that East Wick farm was contracted by Wiltshire to clear snow from roads.

Village Clean Up – Neil Worthington reminded the meeting about the Clean Up scheduled for 10th March.

Pothole outside Reeves Cottage – this had been reported numerous times and was being continually chased up. (Post meeting note – the repair was carried out on 9th March)

Blocked Gullies – Wiltshire policy was only to pump out gullies annually unless there was a risk of flooding to houses.

Fly tipping – the shelving dumped at the two bridges had been reported and removed.

Recreation Ground - The mole catcher had attended the Recreation Ground but needed to return as moles were still active. The cost should not exceed £75
Action: Cindy Creasy

Tony McGarry reported that he would organise a spring working party to clean the play equipment etc. Various repairs and maintenance were needed and one of the Wendy houses had reached the end of its life. He would prepare a budget for consideration. *Action: Tony McGarry*

Defibrillator – the heater in the cabinet seems to have stopped working. This was to be checked out. *Action: Clerk*

Date of the next meeting – 14th May 2018 in the Village Hall. This meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and will follow the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING which will commence at 7.30pm.