

Wootton Rivers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th November 2018

Present:	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
Apologies:	Glenn Leech	Councillor

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. David Butler and Anne Swift had declared an interest in Agenda item 7 (planning applications at Noyes Farm) and David Butler declared an interest in Agenda item 13 (pre-planning application at Primrose Hill) and they therefore would withdraw from the meeting while these items were discussed.

No further interests were declared.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd September 2018 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

Cutting back trees over car parking spaces – contact with Wiltshire Council had resulted in the trees being inspected by their independent consultant who had submitted a report to the Highways Dept. We are waiting to hear what the report contained and what action may be proposed. Jerry Kunkler was aware of this and would chase Richard Dobson.

Defibrillator - the new heater could not be fitted as it had been supplied with the incorrect voltage. The supplier had been informed and we were waiting for a response. The lamp to the dusk to dawn light had been replaced.

Alternative location for signboard – the most suitable location was on the verge at the bottom of South Bank. Enquiries were to be made to Aster Housing who own the verge. *Action: Clerk*

Clarification on reported plans to move canal moorings – The Canal & River Trust had confirmed that they had no plans to move the long-term moorings.

Royal Oak direction sign – Wiltshire Council had advised that a sign would need planning permission. Discussions had taken place with the Traffic Engineer about a simple sign to be attached to the existing signpost on the chestnut tree triangle. John Jones confirmed that this would be acceptable initially but he may want to apply for an additional sign at a later date. All councillors agreed that the proposed sign would

be visually acceptable and this should be progressed and an estimate of cost obtained for consideration by John.

Action: Clerk

Network Rail issues – Complaints had been made about the litter and apologies received. If the issue arises again photographs need to be taken and a complaint made as soon as possible so that NR can investigate and deal with the offenders. NR were making a check on the gates which had been damaged

4. Report from Wiltshire Councillor

Jerry Kunkler reported on Wiltshire Council and Pewsey Area Board issues:

- The new leisure centre had been handed over and was being fitted out and would open at the end of the month.
- The next Area Board meeting would be held at the leisure centre on 3rd December 2018.
- There was still a small amount of money left in the AB grant budget.
- The Metrocount had been delayed due to a reduction in team personnel.
- Wiltshire Council's budget was currently overspent by £2.4m but this was being managed – vacancies which occurred were not being filled.
- There would be a further reduction in the Government grant next year which would be difficult as adult care costs and children's services face growing demand and expenditure. This would mean that many of the smaller things WC currently do would no longer be possible and parishes should consider if they should raise their Precept to be able to make up the shortfall in services.
- Everleigh recycling centre was being closed but there were no plans to close the Marlborough centre.

Jerry was meeting Martin Dobson (Highways Engineer) and would discuss the following issues

- The road sweeper had been to the village but had only swept the sections of roads where there were kerbs.
- The gully tanker was needed to pump clear the many blocked gullies – this had been promised for November.
- Repairs to the signboard at the East Wick junction.

A replacement Parish Steward had attended in October and had carried out all the work requested. Criticism of our Parish Steward had been made at the October PCAP meeting. He had attended last week and had done most of the requested tasks before being called away to an emergency. His next scheduled visit is 5th December – report any tasks to Neil Worthington.

5. Report from Community Police Officer.

No police officer was able to attend the meeting and no report had been received. This lack of communication had also been noted at the PCAP meeting.

Nick Mitchell-Briggs reported that he had received no communications from the police recently and they had not even acknowledged his reports of suspicious vehicles at Martinsell. He was going to write to the police to complain as this was not satisfactory and was not what was expected from a Community Policing Team.

6. Works to Hedgerow

Cindy Creasy reported that numerous residents had expressed concern about the works carried out to the hedge alongside Forest Road. Mr Blanchard (the landowner) explained that the hedgerow had been neglected for many years prior to his purchase of the land and needed radical work to improve it. The work was being carried out under the Countryside Stewardship scheme and involved coppicing the trees to encourage regrowth and to planting a new hedgerow. The work had been inspected by the Forestry Commission who had advised which individual trees should be kept.

Mr Blanchard advised that he had no plans to carry out similar work to any other hedges. The question of how the cuttings were being dealt with was raised. Mr Blanchard said he was trying to get them removed for use in a biomass boiler which councillors confirmed was the preferred option, as burning on site would be very likely to cause a nuisance and distress to residents as well as the risk of reducing visibility on the road.

Concern was expressed that there is no longer any protection if there was drifting snow this winter. David Butler commented that both he and Mr Blanchard would need to keep the road open to enable farm operations to continue and he confirmed that his snow plough was currently being repaired and, like last year, would be available to help keep the roads clear

7. Planning

The following applications had been received since the last PC meeting:

18/09643/FUL Tree work at Bay Tree Cottage

18/09846/FUL Tree work at Clare Cottage

These applications had been delegated to the clerk to decide, after receiving comments from councillors, and a No Objection comment had been made to the planners.

The following new applications had been received:

18/03046/FUL Noyes Farmhouse – altered plans

18/09502/LBC Noyes Farmhouse – Listed Building Consent

David Butler and Anne Swift had declared an interest in these applications and withdrew from the meeting while they were discussed.

Another site visit had taken place and it was noted that the revised plans showed that the extent of the proposals had been reduced from the previous application (which the PC had supported) and remained out of view from the street. It was therefore unanimously agreed to continue to support the application.

18/10401/TCA Tree work at Mulberry House

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

Canal boats – advice on the procedure to investigate boats on the long-term moorings being used for permanent residency had been obtained from the Planning Authority. It was agreed to continue to monitor the situation as the number of boats of concern seems to have reduced.

It was noted that there were a large number of boats moored outside the village. If there were any issues that people were concerned about in relation to these then residents should report them in the first instance to the Canal & River Trust.

Church Farm – a meeting was to be organised in the New Year with the Antrobus Trust to discuss the next steps for the development. Anne Swift and Steve Rawlings agreed to attend. *Action: Clerk*

8. Recreation Ground

Tony McGarry reported that the Recreation Ground and playground equipment was in good condition and the new cricket net skirts had been fitted.

No decision on a providing a hard base to the basketball net had been made but it could be done later as a working party project.

Cutting back of the perimeter bushes etc would be needed – working party to be organised in Spring.

Approximately £570 remained in the budget and the only expenditure anticipated was the purchase of a replacement Wendy house which would cost approx. £150. Expenditure on a new Wendy house was agreed by Councillors.

9. Rights of Way

Anne Swift reported on the meeting with Mr Blanchard to discuss access to the field and there were 2 options:

- a Permissive path could be applied for which would give access with the landowner's permission. This would give access except for one day when the path would be closed to prevent the establishment of continual use. The disadvantage was the permission could be revoked at any time by the landowner.
- a Right of Way could be applied for from Wiltshire Council who require evidence of a minimum of 20 years continual use. If the landowner objected there would be a public meeting. The disadvantage to the landowner would be that the establishment of a ROW may devalue the land. If this option was chosen Wiltshire Council would take over the process although gathering the necessary evidence would have to be done by the ROW group.

The main issue affecting residents was that the closure of the path meant that walkers had to use the narrow road. After discussion councillors agreed that a permissive path would be the most constructive way of achieving what we want, but would need more details of how the scheme works before committing to proceeding on this basis. Anne undertook to get more information. *Action : Anne Swift*

Anne reported on the new ROW group which was currently doing an audit of the ROW network. Signage was in an appalling state with many signs missing or broken. Once this information is complete she would come back with proposals and funding requirements.

10. Finances

Online banking was now operating but needed amendment as payments can be made with only one councillor authorising rather than two, which was what had been requested. Also, Dean Cowley had not yet received the necessary bank card and card reader. Lloyds had been notified.

The following payments had been made since the last PC meeting and were agreed and authorised:

Huck Nets (cricket net skirts)	£98.64
Idverde (grass cutting 2 nd Quarter)	£270.96
Wessex Print (printing Contact)	£22.20

The following cheque was authorised and signed :-

- Tony McGarry (payment to Dobie Wyatt for eyelets in the cricket nets) £36.00

The clerk's salary was now due which was confirmed as £971.38 based on the agreed method of calculation. This would be paid by BACS.

The Financial update was presented. Total cash in hand was £7,027.57. The budget for 2018/19 had been set at £3,772 and it was anticipated that actual expenditure would be approximately £3,304. The saving had been mainly achieved by the change in grass cutting contractor. The amount reserved for the recreation ground maintenance and equipment was currently £571.96

Information had been received from Wiltshire Council about the Precept for 2019/20 and the latest date for submitting our request was 25th January 2019

11. Correspondence received.

Requests had been received from PCAP for contributions for:

- Assistance with running costs for PCAP
- Contribution towards the purchase of a 'raiser chair' for the Pewsey first responder to assist in helping elderly patients to get off the floor following a fall

Both these items would be considered when setting budget for 2019/20.

12. Matters raised by the Public

David Butler had declared an interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting while it was discussed.

David Wardlaw had approached the Parish Council, and through its residents, for comments on his proposal for a self-build bungalow on the site of the old agricultural buildings at Primrose Hill.

Cindy Creasy stated that the PC was unable to offer planning advice and emphasised to Councillors that the PC was not being asked to make any binding decision at this time. David Wardlaw gave the background to the proposal which was driven by a desire to downsize but to stay in the village. The owners of the site had not yet agreed to sell the site and had previously expressed the possibility of it being used for equestrian facilities.

The proposal was discussed and the following comments were made:

The positives include

- A 3 bed dwelling would increase the stock of smaller houses in the village especially if permitted development rights were removed
- The old barn would be restored
- There would be low visibility from the surrounding area and little disruption to the landscape although the access would need careful design to maintain the rural nature of the entrance

- There would be some connection to nearby buildings of similar type and appearance
- Meets a housing need for a resident to downsize through self build

The negatives include

- Concern about the creation of precedence for similar redundant isolated barn buildings in the village - the PC would want clarity of the criteria and uniqueness of the proposal being submitted so that it cannot be used for other sites
- The site is outside the built-up area of the village
- The possibility that the development would create an area which could be subsequently classed as infill for future development.

Generally, the overall view was that there were cautious positives in the proposal but the PC would welcome seeing further advice from Wilts planners.

Date of the next meeting – 14th January 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.