

Wootton Rivers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th November 2017

Present:	Cindy Creasy	Chair
	Dean Cowley	Councillor
	Nick Jones	Councillor
	Steve Rawlings	Councillor
	Anne Swift	Councillor
	Neil Worthington	Clerk
	Jerry Kunkler	Wiltshire Councillor
Apologies:	David Butler	Vice-Chair
	Glenn Leech	Councillor
	Teresa Herbert	Wiltshire Police
	Tony McGarry	NDP Leader

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising.

The Minutes of the previous Meetings held on 11th September and 17th October 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising :-

- Cutting back trees above car park bays – Michael Fowler had written to confirm that all of the trees had been evaluated by a qualified arboriculturalist and a management plan has been produced. We should hear of Mr Tucker's proposals in the near future.
- Sewage sludge spreading – Mr Blanchard had replied to the Parish Council's letter blaming the problem on the contractor running behind schedule and the unusual calm conditions. He had agreed in future that spreading would only take place early in the week to avoid the smell at weekends. After discussion it was agreed that a letter should be written asking the farmer to fully comply with the specific code of practise guidelines e.g. the use the correct equipment, use the weather forecast to choose suitable conditions for spreading, not create a mess on the roads, incorporate within 24 hours etc.
Action : Clerk
- Church Farm planning – Fowler Architects had replied to the Parish Council letter regarding the detailed planning process with the news that the Trust were now planning to sell the site and the Trust's benefactor would no longer be occupying the large house. Concern was expressed that the original decision to support the application had partly relied on the assurances given that as the benefactor would be living on site the scheme would be specified and constructed to a high quality. This was no longer the case if the site was now being sold to the highest bidder. It was agreed to write to Chris Findley, one of the trustees, to obtain confirmation that the site was in fact being put up for sale and the likely timescale. We should also request to be informed who the new owners were and when the sale was complete so that a dialogue could be started with them. Concern was expressed that a new owner may

seek to alter the agreed plans. *Action : Clerk* Post meeting Note – Mr Findley had replied to our email that the information we had received was incorrect and there is no current intention to sell the site and relations of the Antrobus family are still very much involved with the development of this site.

- North Wessex Downs AONB presentation – the proposed presentation would be a 2 minute film followed by 40 minute slide show and a Q&A session. It was agreed that Councillors should look at the film online to judge if the presentation was likely to be of interest. *Action: Clerk to send link*

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. All Councillors had completed the Register of Members Interests but there was concern that the online forms had skipped various stages so that the Register was incomplete. *Action : Clerk to check & advise.*

3. Report from Wiltshire Councillor

Jerry Kunkler reported on Wiltshire Council and Area Board meetings :-

- Savings of £500,000 had been agreed to the bus services. Many of the late buses had been cancelled and the new timetable would be published in January.
- Construction of the Pewsey leisure centre was on time and the current opening date was October 2018.
- Wiltshire Council were promoting a tree planting scheme to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War 1. Parish Councils had until the end of November to sign up to receive free trees which would then be planted and maintained by the Parish. The scheme was jointly organised by the Woodland Trust who would advise on suitable trees to be planted. It was agreed that finding a suitable area of land which was publicly accessible may be difficult but a village email could be sent asking for suggestions.
- Wiltshire were consulting on the £23 million savings required in the next financial year 2018/19.
- The next area board meeting was on 8th January 2019

4. Report from Community Police Officer.

Wiltshire Police had issued their report for November. In the absence of a Police representative Nick Mitchell-Briggs reported as follows :-

- There had been a major operation against uninsured vehicles as it was now very easy to check through the Motor Insurance Database. In 2016 Wiltshire Police seized almost 1000 vehicles and already this year the figure was over 850. Over 50% of seized vehicles were crushed.
- Despite warning signs, another vehicle was broken into at Martinsell car park and a handbag stolen.
- There had been 3 burglaries from outbuildings targeting garden tools.
- There had been a large theft of oil from an outside tank in Clench Common.
- 3 males had been arrested for hare coursing earlier today.

5. 20mph Speed Limit Proposal

As agreed at the last meeting a note had been included in Contact to try and gauge what the community felt about trying to lower the 30mph limit to 20mph.

Cindy Creasy reported that only two people had replied – one for and one against although a straw poll seemed to show more people in favour than against. No one had come forward offering to lead the process.

From the Metrocount data used in the Church Farm planning application it seemed unlikely that the results would support a 20mph limit application.

Jerry Kunkler who was now Chair of the CATG offered to support an application for a further Metrocount to be installed to get up to date readings and it was agreed that this should be requested. It was agreed to install this directly outside the Village Hall as the straightest section of village road. *Action: Clerk*

6. Parish Steward / Road Maintenance

The Parish Steward on his last visit had reported that he had asked for a road sweeper, grip cutter and gully tanker as there was a limit to what he could achieve himself. These had not materialised so an email to his supervisor had been sent. A road sweeper had now been promised within 2 weeks but that grip cutting and gully clearance would only take place as the contracted-out schedule and no dates could be provided.

The Parish Steward was scheduled to visit again on 15th November and he was to be requested to do what he can without mechanical assistance.

It was agreed that after the road sweeper had been through the village the situation would be assessed and if necessary a work party organised to carry out any remaining works.

The fencing along the railway line had been replaced and information had been received that Wiltshire Highways now planned to install a new kerb along this section of road. As this would not be in accordance with the NDP Wiltshire Highways had been contacted to see if new kerbs were planned.

7. Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Steering Group have made the changes requested and were about to submit the final version of the plan which Wiltshire Council would check for compliance with the Decision Notice. On 13th December they would publish the documents to allow the Referendum to take place on 25th January 2018.

After the vote, and assuming more than 50% of the voters were in support, the NDP must then be formally adopted by Wiltshire Council within 8 weeks.

8. Planning

The following application had been considered since the last meeting :–
17/06608/FUL & 17/07232/LBC – Work to Comfrey Cottage – no objection.

17/09853/FUL – Primrose Cottage – no objection, but as no details of materials were provided it was recommended that the joinery should be painted timber to match the cottage and the rooflight should be a conservation type.

17/06562/FUL - The application for a new extension to No 1, The Fields had been approved by Wiltshire Council but they had accepted the Parish Council recommendations regarding the size of the extension, the porch and window design and brickwork bond.

9. Finances

The External Audit report had been received from Grant Thornton; they had raised no queries and had signed off the accounts for 2016/17. These had been published on the PC website.

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

- £48.00 Wessex Printing for Contact.
- £99.13 Tony McGarry for payments made to Wessex Printing for NDP printing. It was noted that these were unexpected costs due to the requirement for an extra public meeting and changes to documents required by Wiltshire Council and the Independent Examiner. As the previous NDP Grant had been signed off these costs were additional to the budget.
- £88.80 Neil Worthington for new battery and pads for the defibrillator which had been installed. Their use by date was 31st July 2020.

The following cheque was authorised and signed :-

- Neil Worthington – Clerks salary £692.09 There was no payment due to HRMC for tax or NI on this amount.

Information had been received on setting the Parish Council Precept which had to be reported to Wiltshire Council by 19th January 2018. A draft budget would be circulated in early December. *Action : Clerk*

Ford Fuels had been requested to provide the BEAM figures so the rebate can be requested.

It was agreed to carry over the consideration of the Clerk's pay to the next meeting when the budget would be agreed.

10. Correspondence received.

A request for a donation to help with funding for St Andrew's Church had been received. It was decided to deal with this at the same time as agreeing the budget and Precept.

General Data Protection Regulations come into force next year and may require implementation by the Parish Council – details are sketchy at the moment and further information should be issued by Wiltshire Council and National Association of Local Councils.

Wiltshire Council are consulting Parish Council's about the review of the Wiltshire Core Strategy and are holding a series of briefing meetings. Cindy Creasy said she would attend if possible.

11. Matters raised by the public / AOB

A number of resident's had expressed concerns about water from a swimming pool at Cuckoos Knob had been running down the hill on two occasions recently. It was agreed to contact the owner to find out further information. *Action : Cindy / Clerk*

Date of the next meeting – 8th January 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.