

# Wootton Rivers Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th November 2019

<b>Present:</b>	David Butler	Parish Council Vice Chair
	Clare Bamforth	Councillor
	Dean Cowley	Councillor
	Nick Jones	Councillor
	Steve Rawlings	Councillor
	Neil Worthington	Clerk
	Jerry Kunkler	Wiltshire Councillor

Apologies received from Cindy Creasy & Anne Swift

### **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. No interests were declared.

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

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 2nd Sept 2019 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

The Clerk reported that he had received a comment from a parishioner regarding the Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2019. This concerned a comment made at the meeting which inaccurately quoted the Neighbourhood Plan in relation to the number of new properties to be built. Although correctly recorded in the minutes it was agreed that the minutes should be amended to agree with the wording of the NP in the interests of accuracy. The amended minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

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

Good Verge Guide - the guide had been circulated to the Councillors and it was agreed to support the adoption of this with the proviso that certain narrow lanes may require more than one cut a year to ensure road safety and that visibility splays should always be kept clear.

Polling Stations – the review had been completed stating that no change was needed to the current arrangement.

Royal Oak – notification had been received shortly before the meeting that Wiltshire Council had listed the Royal Oak as an Asset of Community Value for a five-year period. The letter received was to be clarified as the date for the expiry of the 5 year period was incorrect and should be 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Post meeting note – a revised decision letter had been received with the correct end date.

2019 Model Financial Regulations – to be reviewed. *Action: Clerk*

Community Governance Review – the review of parish/Area Board boundaries had been looked at in more detail and no action by the PC was required. The PC would be informed if there were any proposals which would affect Wootton Rivers.

Tree work at Recreation Ground – a 3<sup>rd</sup> quote was still required for the necessary tree work. It was noted that there may be ash trees on the Rec affected by ash dieback and the tree surgeon should be asked to check the situation.

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

Jerry Kunkler reported that the next Area Board meeting would be held on 11<sup>th</sup> November in Burbage Village Hall and there would be a presentation about Community Safety.

Two Raizer chairs had now been purchased.

The Area Boards had been asked to reduce the number of meetings from 6 to 5 per year to reduce costs.

Meetings/consultations would soon be held to identify community needs in the area. Following discussion about the lack of response from the Highways Engineer to PC emails JK advised that Malcolm Bevan should be copied into emails etc.

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

No representative from the Police was in attendance and Nick Mitchell-Briggs was unable to attend due to illness. He had written a detailed article in the recent Contact about the widespread computer scams, unsolicited telephone calls etc.

The October police report had been received and included advice for farmers on dealing with mud carried onto roads. Priorities for the area include combating retail theft in Marlborough, anti-social behaviour in Pewsey, rural crime and a spate of burglaries. The recent crime update did not report any incidents of crime in Wootton Rivers, but as always, keep vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

#### **6. Winter Preparation**

The PC had requested a supply of salt from Wiltshire Council but that this was dependent upon the preparation of a Snow Plan to show how the village would deal with a heavy fall of snow. It was considered that this was an excessive requirement as the parish was very small and had adequately dealt with incidents in the past. The availability of the salt was to be checked and David Butler undertook to collect it. He would also check on the snow blower which was with Wiltshire Council for repair.

*Action: David Butler*

It was noted that the grit bin between the bridges had been damaged and may need replacement. *Action: Clerk*

#### **7. Planning**

**19/09152/TCA – Tree work at Kennet Cottage.** This application for tree work had been delegated to the Clerk to decide, and after a site visit and receiving no adverse comments from councillors, a No Objection response would be made.

**19/09686/TCA – Tree Work at Orion.** This application for tree work had been delegated to the Clerk to decide, and after a site visit and receiving no adverse comments from councillors, a No Objection response would be made. The applicant had advised that he intended to plant replacement trees which would be a more suitable size for a garden location.

**Church Farm planning applications** – Wiltshire Council had granted approval for applications 19/04526/FUL and 19/04209/LBC but had included numerous conditions including the removal of permitted development rights, the necessity for contamination and archaeological investigations and approval of external materials.

It was anticipated that further applications may need to be made to redesign the internal layout of the dwellings.

Neil Worthington reported that he had recently spoken to the Planning Officer regarding the application for the 5 bed house at the rear of the site following the rejection of the revised design. No appeal had yet been received but the applicant had 6 months from the decision date to lodge an appeal – ie before the end of February. Meanwhile, the permission for the barn like dwelling (application no 16/11051/FUL) remains in place.

**Replacement trees** – the Tree Officer had confirmed that it is not possible to enforce the requirement for replacement trees to be replanted in the Conservation Area unless the felling is of a tree covered by a Tree Protection Order. The PC agreed that replacement trees should continue to be encouraged although it was noted that in many situations it was not always practicable to find suitable space to replant. The possibility of finding an alternative location for tree planting to take place was discussed but that this would also require the setting up of a system for the purchase, planting and maintenance of the trees.

## 8. Finances

### Financial Report 2019/20

#### Balance at Bank

Deposit Account		4570.73
Current Account	3423.20	
Less payments authorised / in progress	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3423.20</u>
Total funds in bank		<u>£7993.93</u>

Amount set aside for expenditure on Recreation Ground £761.00

#### Budget Review

Expenditure at the end of the year was expected to be within budget :-

Agreed Budget		£4045.00
Expenditure to date	1421.00	
Anticipated further expenditure	<u>2491.00</u>	
Anticipated Total Expenditure		£3912.00

#### Income/Payments

The proceeds of the Bank Holiday Fun Run of £248.00 had been received which has been added to the above reserved sum for expenditure on the Recreation Ground.

The following payments were authorised and would be paid by BACS

- Wessex Print Centre – October Contact printing - £21.00
- Neil Worthington – Clerk’s salary – £1270.10 this amount would be subject to PAYE to be paid to HMRC

## 9. Rights of Way

Clare Bamforth reported that the RoW group had written to local landowners asking if they would consider removing the footpath stiles on their land and agreeing to leave a clear gap which is Wiltshire Council’s recommendation to make footpaths more accessible. If this is not practicable Wilts would recommend replacing stiles with gates. It was noted that many of the stiles were in poor condition and needed repair.

The cost of new gates was being costed and Jerry Kunkler gave advice on making an application to the Area Board for funding.

Blanchards Farms had agreed to the establishment of a permissive path across their land to provide an alternative route to walking along the road. They had no plans to install gates but would create a clear gap for walkers alongside the farm gates. The Parish Council agreed with this proposal but would request that the gaps be maintained. Blanchards were also going to install signage.

## **10. Roads and Highways**

Neil Worthington reported that more of the works promised by Wiltshire Highways had been carried out – the potholes at the sides of the road near Brimslade have been filled and the damaged reflective signs on the road opposite the pub had been replaced.

The following works are still outstanding

Cleaning the edges of the roads covered in mud etc using a heavy duty sweeper

Resolving the blocked drainage gullies below the East Wick road junction

Report on the findings of the CCTV survey outside Manor Farm.

The Parish Steward had attended in October as scheduled but had been called away on an emergency after an hour and had not been in the village since. The next visit was due 13<sup>th</sup> November.

## **11. Correspondence received.**

Claire Perry MP had written thanking Parish Councils for their work and to advise that she was standing down from Parliament at this election.

The minutes of the recent Village Hall Committee had been circulated to Councillors. PCAP had provided funding for the purchase of two chairs with arms for each village hall to assist infirm people and these had been ordered after consultation with the Village Hall Committee.

The next PCAP meetings were to be held on 30 Jan, 23 Apr, 22 July and 22 Oct 2020.

Network Rail had advised that they would be cutting back vegetation next to tracks overnight between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Wiltshire Highways had advised that the main road would be closed to traffic outside Noyes Farmhouse for a drainage connection between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December.

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

It had been reported that the textile re-cycling bin had not been emptied recently.

The Clerk reported that the firm who emptied the bin on behalf of Wiltshire Air Ambulance had gone out of business and WAA were seeking an alternative.

The street light on the corner of South Bank was unlit. *Action: Clerk*

## **13. Date of the next meeting – 13th January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**