

# Wootton Rivers Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th October 2020

<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

Apologies received from Clare Bamforth & Jerry Kunkler

Cindy Creasy welcomed councillors and members of the public to this meeting of the Parish Council as authorised by the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 issued during the current pandemic.

### **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. Agreement of Minutes**

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 1st September 2020 had been issued for comment. It was agreed that item 9 should be altered to include the decision that the House Location Maps should be located at the Village Hall and on the rear of the noticeboard at South Bank and should have a large heading 'Village Map' so that it visible to delivery drivers. Subject to this amendment the minutes were agreed as a true record and will be signed by the Chair.

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

Anne Swift had fixed the larger laminated maps including the headings in the 2 agreed locations and would investigate prices for permanent replacements.

Cindy Creasy reported that she is discussing with the Canal & River Trust how the closure of the canal and towpath between WR and Little Bedwyn would impact Wootton Rivers. The closure from November to March is necessary for essential repairs and maintenance. Once the implications were clear they would be publicised through the email system etc.

The unlit street light at South Bank had been reported to Wiltshire Council.

Wiltshire Highways were being constantly chased to deal with the flooding outside the Church and an Engineer had inspected and reported that, contrary to information previously given, the root cutter had not yet been used. Post meeting note: the Engineer will again be here in late October with the Vactor machine, root cutter and camera "to get to the cause of the issue for once and all."

#### **4. Approval of Expenditure**

An invoice from Ideverde for £276.38 incl VAT dated 22.09.20 for grass cutting June to September was approved for payment.

#### **5. Planning**

##### **20/0729/LBC – Additional windows and rooflight Church Farm Redevelopment**

This application was for the addition of more windows and rooflight to units 5 and 6. The following points were raised:

- The application form states that consultation has been carried out with the Parish Council. This has not taken place despite the PC stating that they would welcome such a dialogue.
- The Design and Access Statement refers to only 1 additional rooflight being added but the first floor and roof plan drawings show 2 additional rooflights. It was noted that this is not the first time the drawings submitted for this development were inconstant and confusing.
- The number of rooflights in the first amendment to the original design (36 over the whole site) were considered to be excessive and agreement was reached between the developer and planning officer to reduce the number to achieve an agreed scheme. This application seeks to overturn that agreement and this planning creep should be resisted.
- Concern was expressed that amendments had been put forward which could have been included in the previous application and that yet again an additional Parish Council meeting had been necessary to consider more changes to the agreed design.
- The increase in the number of windows results from an internal re-design for which planning approval has not been requested, this being an application for Listed building Consent only. This should be queried with the Planners.
- The Conservation officer should be asked to comment on the additional windows and also on the rooflights as they previously objected to the number of rooflights which detracted from the agricultural look of the site and gave it a more urban feel.
- No reason for the additional rooflights has been given apart from the safety concern over a staircase but this has not changed from the consented design and many stairs in small cottages do not have natural light. No reason is given for the additional rooflight over the bedroom which already has a rooflight in the consented design.

Following further discussion, a proposal was tabled that no objection was to be made to the proposal for additional windows but an objection would be made for the additional rooflights. This was proposed by Anne Swift, seconded by Nick Jones and carried unanimously. A formal response incorporating the above comments etc was to be drafted and circulated to Councillors for comment/agreement before submission.

#### **6. Other Urgent Matters**

It was reported that the Village Hall Management Committee were in discussions with hirers to assess if demand existed for the Village Hall to re-open and what

measures would need to be introduced to comply with current Covid 19 legislation and guidelines.

A vote of thanks was expressed to David Butler and East Wick Farm for the access to their farmland during the lockdown and for the sunflower planting at the top of Primrose Hill.

**7. Date of the next meeting – 9th November 2020 at 7.30pm – this will be a virtual meeting held on the Zoom platform**