

Wootton Rivers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th September 2017

Present: Cindy Creasy Chair
David Butler Vice-Chair
Glenn Leech Councillor
Anne Swift Councillor
Neil Worthington Clerk

Apologies: Dean Cowley Councillor
Nick Jones Councillor
Steve Rawlings Councillor
Jerry Kunkler Wiltshire Councillor
Jonathon Mills/Teresa Herbert Wiltshire Police

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising.

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 10th July 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising:

- Cutting back trees above car park bays – Neil Worthington reported that he had been in contact with Mr Tucker’s agent again but had recently received an email from Mike Fowler who had confirmed that a tree consultant had been retained to inspect and report on the trees.
- Play equipment inspection – this had been carried out recently by Tony McGarry and Neil Worthington and all equipment was in good order except for the cricket net would soon need to be replaced. Last Landscaping had done a good job in preparing the grass for the Food Festival but the general grass cutting regime may need to be addressed to see if the cuttings could be removed on a regular basis.
- Glenn Leech had reviewed the Clerk’s salary and would write up a proposal for the Parish Council to consider when setting next year’s budget.
- The new welcome pack had been prepared by Anne Swift and would be printed after final amendments had been made.
- Neil Worthington reported that he was now in direct communication with the Parish Steward and this seemed to have improved matters. He now reported back after his visits and had recently carried out filling of small potholes, applied weed killer to kerbs and footpaths, cleared gully grids of vegetation, cleaned road signs and cut back growth which was obscuring visibility. The next visits are due on 18th October, 15th November and 13th December. He has also reported tasks which require more resources to Wilts Highways for further action. The blocked gully at the bottom of the hill up to Lady Margaret Dairy had been reported some time ago - to be checked to see if any action has been planned.

- Clarification about the Canal & River Trust's policy for their long-term moorings had been received. Their view is that full time residential use at a long-term mooring is not an issue for them (as the license providers), but it is up to the Local Planning Authority to establish that a mooring is being used as a primary residence, and whether planning enforcement is necessary. It was agreed not to take any further action at this time.
- A letter had been sent protesting about the change in the planning process which are now only issued online – other parishes had also expressed concern. A reply had been received which confirmed that the system could not be changed as it was part of the Council's budget setting exercise. However, Wiltshire had confirmed that for larger, more complex applications they would be asking developers to send copies of the documents direct to parish council which addressed the Parish Council's main concern.
- The Lloyds bank mandate with the new signatures had been returned. The new signatures are Cindy, David, Steve and Dean. Once conformation had been accepted by the Bank the move to online banking would be investigated.
- Neil Worthington confirmed that the declaration required by the Pensions Regulator had been made and accepted. This needed to be regularly updated to ensure compliance.
- Cindy Creasy had spoken to Wiltshire Rights of Way and they had offered to meet to discuss the extent of the work they will carry out and what assistance they can provide for other work required. Anne Swift will be organising a meeting with the RoW team.

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.

Councillors who had not yet completed the Register of Members Interests were reminded that this was a legal requirement and should be done as a matter of urgency.

3. Report from Wiltshire Councillor

Jerry Kunkler was unable to attend as he was at an Area Board meeting.

4. Report from Community Police Officer.

Wiltshire Police had issued their report for September. There were no incidents in Wootton Rivers.

Crimes in the surrounding area included:-

- Thefts from vehicles including from beauty spot parking areas
- Thefts from farms
- House burglaries

Two men have recently been sentenced to 44 months for numerous thefts from vehicles and there are positive outcomes on some burglaries which have resulted from targeted police patrols.

Hare coursing and poaching is being addressed as a new police priority.

5. 20mph Speed Limit Proposal

Nick Mitchell-Briggs had issued his report on the process of establishing a 20mph speed limit and it was clear that this would be not be a quick or simple process. However, it was generally agreed that the 20mph limit would be desirable as there are very few footpaths in the village and there has been an increase in the number of children in the village.

It was evident that a champion would be needed to lead the process.

To ensure that the village wanted a 20mph limit it was agreed that some gauge of public opinion was required. Cindy agreed to draft a simple question which would be put in the November Contact. *Action: Cindy Creasy*

6. Neighbourhood Development Plan

Councillors received an update from Tony McGarry (chair of NDP steering group). The Independent Examiners report had been received. The Steering group had discussed and clarified the modifications made by the examiner in his report with Wiltshire Council and had briefed PC members. The changes recommended by the Examiner are in order to ensure the plan complies with national and local legislation and guidance. All the changes made by the Examiner must be accepted for the plan to proceed. Councillors agreed that all residents should be briefed about the changes, and the next steps, via a hand delivered letter. They also agreed that a Public Meeting should be held to provide an opportunity to discuss the plan and the changes made to it. The next steps after this will be for Wiltshire Council to publish a Decision letter in which they confirm all the changes to be made. A referendum will then be held with 56 working days - hopefully before Christmas.

7. Complaints about smell arising from sewage spreading

The Parish Council had been copied into complaints to Blanchards Farm about the recent incident of sewage sludge being used on fields close to the village. It was agreed to write to Blanchards to ask why the situation arose and what are their plans to prevent similar incidents in the future. *Action: Clerk*

8. Planning

The following application had been considered since the last meeting :-
17/06562/FUL – Side extension to No 1 The Fields – the PC had issued a qualified response in support of the application subject to restrictions on the size of the extension and the design of the porch and windows.

17/07881/TCA – Tree work, St Andrews House - no objection.

The following new application had been received :-

17/06608/FUL & 17/07232/LBC - Comfrey Cottage – works to house. A response was required by 12th October and a meeting on site was to be arranged.

The recent planning approval for Church Farm was discussed and although there was no procedure to challenge any parts of the decision it was agreed to contact the Architects to try to ensure that the PC were kept informed of design development, submission of sample materials and building timescales etc. *Action: Clerk*

9. Finances

No cheques had been issued or money received since the last meeting.

The following cheque was authorised and signed :-

- Neil Worthington – ink cartridges for printer - £20.98

The expiry date for the defibrillator battery and electrode pads was 3 November 2017. The cost of new ones was currently £88.80 + VAT. The purchase of new battery and pads was authorised.

10. Correspondence received.

The next PCAP meeting was on 19th October 2017 at 7pm in Marden Village Hall.

The recycling centres were closing for a period while they were being reorganised following a change in management companies.

Marlborough would be closed 2 October to 12 October 2017

Everleigh would be closed 23 October to 28 October 2017

North Wessex Downs AONB had offered to show their presentation in the village. Further details were to be requested. *Action:Clerk*

A briefing note about Wiltshire's Core Strategy had been received which showed how the NDP fitted into the planning process. Tony McGarry requested a copy.

11. Matters raised by the public / AOB

Tony McGarry enquired if there had been any progress with recruiting new members for the Village Hall Management Committee. Councillors agreed to talk to people they knew to encourage further volunteers.

Date of the next meeting – 13th November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.