

# Wootton Rivers Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd September 2019

<b>Present:</b>	Cindy Creasy	Parish Council Chair
	Clare Bamforth	Councillor
	Dean Cowley	Councillor
	Nick Jones	Councillor
	Steve Rawlings	Councillor
	Anne Swift	Councillor
	Neil Worthington	Clerk

Apologies received from David Butler & Jerry Kunkler.

### **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. Nick Jones declared that he had an interest in the Nomination of the Royal Oak as Asset of Community Value (item 11 of the Agenda). This was noted but, as this item is only to confirm that the new application is now being submitted to Wiltshire Council and no discussion or decision was required, it was not necessary for him to withdraw from the meeting. No further interests were declared.

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

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 22nd July 2019 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising which were not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

### **3. Report from Wiltshire Councillor.**

Jerry Kunkler was unable to attend the meeting as he was attending an Area Board Meeting. He had advised that there were no issues for him to report.

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

The last Police report that had been received was for July. There had been no issues affecting Wootton Rivers.

### **5. Recreation Ground.**

Tony McGarry reported that although the August Bank Holiday event had been a success financially, raising £248 for the Recreation Ground, it had not been fully supported by the village. Although advertised in Contact, notices throughout the village, via the email group and by the new advertising banner there were still villagers who had been unaware of it ! It was agreed that advertising for future events should emphasise that the money raised provided essential funding for the maintenance and improvement of the Recreation Ground.

On a brighter note Tony reported that Rec looked immaculate and the new grass mowing contractor was doing a good job. Also, the problem with users not neatly returning equipment to the shed now seems to have been resolved.

Two quotes for work to 3 trees to remove dead branches etc had been obtained and a third quote was awaited. Contractors had advised that there was no danger to users and the work would best be done during the Autumn after the leaf fall. It was noted that the lowest quote so far would seriously deplete the Recreation Ground funds but the work needed to be carried out. Planning permission would be needed for the work to trees as they were in the Conservation Area and the successful contractor would be asked to apply for this.

It was decided not to involve St John's who had paid for tree work previously. Tony was thanked for all the work he does in keeping the Recreation Ground and equipment in great condition and it was noted that it was now being well used, especially as there were now more youngsters in the village than there had been for some time.

## **6. Planning**

**19/07981/TCA – Tree work at Wicks Cottage.** This application for tree management work and the removal of 2 fruit trees 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.

**19/08186/TCA – Tree Work at Canal.** This application for work to remove branches from around a HV transformer 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.

**Church Farm planning applications** – Cindy Creasy reported Wiltshire planners had refused the application 19/03278/FUL for the revised design for the 5-bed house at the rear of the site. The applicants had been given advice on the design of this house but had only wanted to make small alterations to their preferred design. The case officer's report is detailed and thoroughly sets out the grounds for rejection.

The revised scheme for the 6 proposed houses at the front of the site, application 19/04526/FUL, is still open and the planning officer is waiting for the applicants to submit revised proposals addressing the issues he had identified upon his initial inspection of the application. Representations had been made to Jerry Kunkler for an extension to the 14 day period we would have to comment on any revisions. Roger Geen raised the issue of conflict between Core Policy 48 and Wiltshire's infill policy and this would be considered and advice sought.

## **7. Finances**

The following payments which had been made since the last meeting were authorised:

- AED Locator (defib monitoring) - £58.80
- Information Commissioner's Office (data protection fee) - £40.00
- NALC/WALC (annual subscription) - £103.30

The following payments were authorised and would be paid by BACS

- Idverde (1<sup>st</sup> grass cut 2019/20) - £270.96
- Idverde (2<sup>nd</sup> grass cut 2019/20) - £270.96
- Wessex Print ( Contact) - £21.00

## Financial Report

Deposit Account		4570.35
Current Account	3846.94	
Less payments authorised / in progress	<u>666.22</u>	<u>3180.62</u>
Total funds in bank		<u>£7750.97</u>

Neil Worthington reported that expenditure for 2019/20 so far was within budget.

Included in these figures is the ringfenced amount for the Recreation Ground - £513.00 (this excludes the £248 from the recent event which is to be paid in by BACS)

### **8. Rights of Way**

Anne Swift reported that the inventory of all the parish footpath intersections had been completed and Bill Parshall planned to meet Stephen Leonard from Wiltshire RoW team to see what funding would be available from to provide the missing signage.

It was noted that various stiles needed repair and the RoW group would contact the landowners as it was their responsibility to maintain access.

The letter to Mr Blanchard requesting a Permissive path across his field for a period of 50 years would be sent shortly but needed to be amended to request that the existing access points which were being obstructed be cut back.

### **9. Roads and Highways**

Neil Worthington advised that gully clearance Vactor had attended recently (the 3<sup>rd</sup> visit) and he was chasing Wiltshire's Highways Engineer for details of what work had been carried out and for the result of the CCTV survey of the suspected blocked drain. It appeared that work still remained to be carried out as the gully at the head of the run opposite the Royal Oak had not been cleared.

The heavy-duty road sweeper had been promised in the next few weeks.

The Engineer had tasked the Parish Steward with the filling of potholes at the sides of the road near Brimslade and up Martinsell Hill and it was anticipated that this would be carried out on his next visit due 17<sup>th</sup> September. As the Clerk would not be available that day Dean Cowley agreed to check on the Steward.

The following items were reported as needing attention and would be reported

- The gully outside the drive to Young House appeared to be sinking
- The gully and drain at the bottom of Primrose Hill needed unblocking and a more permanent solution found

### **10. Royal Oak**

Following agreement on the extent of the listing the application and plans had been prepared and were about to be sent to Wiltshire Council.

### **11. Correspondence received.**

PCAP had requested that we consider and adopt The Good Verge Guide which gives guidance on the maintenance and protection of verges and would help them improve the service received from Wiltshire Council whilst protecting these important habitats. Agreed to circulate this to Councillors for comment. *Action: Clerk*

Wiltshire Council are consulting on their review of polling stations. It was agreed that no change was required to the arrangements in Wootton Rivers. *Action: Clerk*

Wiltshire are consulting on their review of the Planning Core Strategy and a meeting would take place in Marlborough Town Hall on at 18.00 on 18<sup>th</sup> September. Dean Cowley would attend if possible as there may be implications for the development of the Neighbourhood Plan in the future.

The 2019 Model Financial Regulations/Guidance had been issued. This was to be reviewed to see if there were any implications. *Action: Clerk*

An invitation to request a Community Governance Review had been received from Wiltshire and although it was unlikely to impact on Wootton Rivers Cindy Creasy agreed to look at the information to see if any response was necessary. *Action: Cindy Creasy*

The Police and Crime Commissioners had issued his annual report and Force Management Statement. They are available on these links

<https://www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk/article/1844/Annual-report>

<https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/article/4911/Force-Management-Statement-2019->

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

Concern had been expressed about the branches from the trees overhanging the car park spaces being so low that they were touching cars. The Parish Steward would be asked to cut these back. *Action: Clerk*

## **13. Other matters**

Cindy Creasy advised that she would be stepping down from her role as Chair for a short period for health reasons but that arrangements were in place for other Councillors to step in where necessary to ensure that the Parish Council continued to carry out its duties. The Council and villagers present expressed their support to Cindy and hoped she would be able to return to full health and participation as soon as possible.

## **14. Date of the next meeting – 4th November 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**