

Wootton Rivers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st September 2020

(Remote Meeting held on-line using Zoom platform)

Present:	Cindy Creasy	Parish Council Chair
	Clare Bamforth	Councillor
	Dean Cowley	Councillor
	Nick Jones	Councillor
	Steve Rawlings	Councillor
	Anne Swift	Councillor
	Jerry Kunkler	Wiltshire Councillor
	Neil Worthington	Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from David Butler.

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 Coronavirus 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. None were declared.

2. Agreement of minutes

The Draft Minutes of the meeting dated 8th June 2020 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and will be signed off by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising

Village Hall Car Park – an email had been sent to Brewis Ltd and Nell Light and a reply had been received which confirmed that the contractors will be informed that they should not use the car park. A start date for the construction had not yet been agreed but the PC would be informed before commencement.

The external audit documents had all been signed, posted on the PC website and the external auditor notified.

The Risk Register which had been updated and circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting was approved.

The recreation ground gate had now been secured by a combination padlock and the grass cutting team had been given the code.

4. Report from Wiltshire Councillor

Jerry Kunkler reported on recent news from Wiltshire Council

- Pewsey Leisure Centre was now open again
- Next year's budget would be challenging in order to compensate for the reduction in Business rates received by the council due to impact of the Covid 19
- Jerry had noted the recent flooding near the Church – many other areas also had similar problems. However, the bottom of St Andrews Close which was badly affected by flooding some years ago was draining well (see item 6 of the minutes)
- Wiltshire Council were consulting on the changes to the Local Plan and there were also national consultations on the proposed changes to the planning process being brought forward at national level. Wiltshire are currently working through the proposals. If the national framework changes this will impact on the Neighbourhood Plan, although it remains robust at the moment. Cindy asked if Wiltshire were going to issue some guidance on what the implications would be for small villages like Wootton Rivers and what would be the effect on the Neighbourhood Plan and JK undertook to ask the officer concerned.

5. Police Report

Monthly emailed report and crime update have now been discontinued and the police have advised that the following options are available

'Parishes can obtain the crime figures from a site called POLICE. UK. This allows the user to look at their area and see what crimes have occurred and where. You can also access Area board reports from the relevant area website from Wiltshire Council. The area board report will still be created and sent out at the same time. Other information can also be obtained from social media websites such as Facebook and twitter (Pewsey, Devizes, Marlborough and Wiltshire Police pages) This will give you more information than what can be supplied in these reports.'

It was noted that the abandoned car near the canal had been removed by the Council.

6. Road Maintenance

The street light at the bottom of South Bank had been reported as not working and JK undertook to request the repair and requested further details of the location.

Action: Jerry Kunkler/Cindy Creasy

White lining at the junction near East Wick Farm had been carried out.

The serious flooding which had occurred at the Church entrance during last week was discussed. Despite the gullies and pipework throughout the village being cleared over a 4 day period in June (including the removal of the roots which had been assumed was the cause of the problem) it appeared that the pipework was again blocked. Malcolm Bevan, Highways Area Manager, had been contacted again to get the clearance team here but we need to keep pressing for a permanent solution.

Action: Clerk

Wiltshire have previously said that they will not carry out any preventative work and it is up to the PC to monitor the gullies and put in a request for the tanker to visit when necessary. (There is only one team providing this service for the whole of Wiltshire). A request was put in just prior to the recent flood.

A sweeper is needed to remove the mud deposited in the car park bays and this was to be requested.

Charlie Woodhead had offered to get a drainage engineer to look at the flooding problem to see if they could suggest a solution that could be put forward to Highways.

Mud and debris at the side of the roads was a problem that WC seemed unable to deal with – the road sweeper was ineffective and the possibility of a working party was suggested.

The Parish Steward service had been haphazard this year – this had been blamed on Covid 19 and no visits are scheduled in August. Next visit is due 16th Sept 20.

7. Planning

The following application had been received since the last meeting and had been determined by the Clerk acting as the delegated officer:

20/05041/TCA The Halt - Work to trees – no objection.

Notice had been received that a Tree Preservation Order had been put in place for the lime tree in the garden of Wootton House on the boundary with Church Farm. There was support for this to provide protection during the works to Church Farm.

Cindy Creasy had looked at the Government proposals for changes to the planning system and advised that the consultation period for the interim changes required any comments to be made by the beginning of October. It was noted that there were many changes proposed that seemed to impact on the opportunities for parish councils to comment on individual planning applications as long as developers complied with the proposed national or county framework for acceptable design. It was agreed to wait until guidance had been received from Wiltshire to see if that generated anything that we wanted to respond to. It seemed that the Government wanted to impose a very top down process. Jerry Kunkler suggested that the PC could also write direct to our Danny Kruger MP.

8. Finances

8.1 The current financial position was reported as follows:

Bank Account	Current Account	£3,482.56
	Deposit Account	£4,572.45
	Total	£8,055.01

Income received since the last meeting - nil

8.2 The following payments which had been made by BACS since the previous meeting were authorised;

Idverde grass cut April – June	£276.38
Wessex Print – Summer Contact	£21.00
T McGarry – padlock	£20.99
N Worthington	
Zoom - June & July	£28.78
Wessex Print – Rec posters	£8.40
Defib Shop – battery & pads	<u>£92.40</u>
Total	£129.58

8.3 Budget review – based on the costs so far received and anticipated it seems likely that the agreed budget of £4050 will be exceeded by approximately £50 taking into account the £100 contingency allowed. This includes the Covid related costs for Zoom and the unexpected costs of tree removal and by the savings which had been made on the budget for grass cutting, insurance, defib monitoring and spares, and a few sundry other items. However, the funds previously ring fenced for the Recreation Ground have been expended and there may need to be some expenditure for repairs to some of the timbers which have deteriorated.

Cindy Creasy reported that the Village Hall Management Committee had received a grant from 'The Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Scheme' and that they had generously offered the PC £1000 to be allocated to the Recreation Ground as the main fund-raiser (the August Bank Holiday fun-run) could not be held this year. Cindy Creasy formally thanked the VHMC for the donation which was gratefully accepted.

Idverde Ltd have confirmed that cost grass cutting will remain the same as last year and as Tony McGarry is happy with the quality of service it was agreed to continue the contract for 2020/21.

It was confirmed that the reporting regime for the defibrillator has changed and reports are now directly sent to the South West Ambulance Service. There is therefore a small saving as the previous monitoring service made an annual charge of £49 pa.

9. Other matters

Permanent house location map – the temporary one has started to deteriorate and needs to be updated with changed house names etc. It was agreed that larger laminated maps with a large heading ‘Village Map’ visible to delivery drivers should be fixed both the Village Hall and on the rear of the South Bank notice board as a temporary measure. Prices should also be obtained for weatherproof vinyl printed maps. A new board will need to be fitted on the South Bank notice board post.

Action: Anne Swift

Broadband meeting with MP – Danny Kruger MP was organising a meeting to discuss the rural broadband service in Wiltshire villages and we had requested an invitation. It was agreed that either Julian Beames or Amanda Giles would attend as they had good technical knowledge.

PC website – there was now a legal requirement for our website to be WCAG 2.1 compliant for it be accessible to people with various disabilities. At first site it appeared that a lot of work would be necessary to alter our website to fully comply but there was a disproportionate burden assessment which may relieve us of the need to make wholesale changes. The first task was to establish further information about the requirements and then to carry out an assessment of our website. Any necessary changes would then be made and an accessibility statement published. It was agreed that this first stage of this process should be undertaken and enquiries made to see how other small councils were complying. *Action: Clerk*

Canal - Roger Geen advised that he had been informed that a long section of the canal was to be closed over the winter for a number of repairs and this may have implications for the number of boats remaining in WR. This was to be checked out with the C&RT. *Action: Cindy Creasy*

10. Dates of the next meeting – 5th October 2020 (Planning Meeting)

9th November 2020 (Full Meeting)

