

Wootton Rivers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 5th September 2016

Present:	David Wardlaw	Parish Council Chairman
	Clare Bamforth	Parish Council Vice-Chair
	David Butler	Councillor
	Michael Farr	Councillor
	Glenn Leech	Councillor
	Paul Neale	Councillor
	Steve Rawlings	Councillor
	Neil Worthington	Clerk
	Tony McGarry	NDP Leader
	Jerry Kunkler	Wiltshire Councillor

Apologies:

PC Teresa Herbert	Police Community Beat Manager
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1. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising.

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 18th July 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising :-

The trimming of the hedge at Cuckoo's Knob was still required. Jerry Kunkler was to speak to Highways.

The Canal & River Trust would not inform the PC whether or not boats are moored with or without their consent, but confirmed that should there be any issues requiring enforcement they would address them.

Neil Worthington reported that the SSE Tree Surveyor is organising the cutting of branches next to the cables overhanging the car park bays. The surveyor had been told by the landowner's Agent that once this work had been done the trimming of the higher branches would be carried out.

The direction sign for the Royal Oak had been discussed with John Jones and it was agreed that a brown sign could be fixed to the existing signpost on the triangle. The Clerk would make enquiries.

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.

3. Report from Wiltshire Councillor

Jerry Kunkler reported the following matters :-

- The Parish Steward scheme starts in October.
- Planning permission for the Pewsey Leisure Centre had been granted and work would start soon – the build time was 60 weeks.

- During construction a gym at Fordbrook Estate would be available but with no pool or squash facilities.
- Wiltshire Council's grant from central Government for 2017/18 is likely to be reduced by £17/18m and therefore Council Tax increases will again be necessary.
- A new Youth Worker starts later in the year but there seems to be no demand from Wootton Rivers for the activities on offer.
- Amendments had been made to the application for the extension to Wootton House following comments from the Parish Council.
- No decision had been made on the Noyes Farm development – talks between the developers and the planners were still taking place.
- Jerry was aware of the forthcoming application for the development at Church Farm.

Paul Neale highlighted that bins were being left on the road after being emptied and causing a hazard to traffic. Jerry agreed to speak to the Tracy Carter the officer responsible.

4. Report from Community Police Officer.

Teresa was unable to attend but had issued a report as follows :-

- No crimes in Wootton Rivers had been reported since the last report of 17th July.
- There had been 5 reports of the theft of tools, ladders and garden equipment from motor vehicles in Burbage, Wilton, Chisbury and Great Bedwyn.
- A report of attempted burglary from a building site Portacabin in Burbage.
- Forced entry to garage & outbuildings and theft of tools and garden equipment in St Katharines and Oxenwood.
- Criminal damage to conservatory window in Buttermere.
- From 17th October the policing of East Wiltshire is being integrated into a larger Policing team relocated in Devizes, equipped with laptops and mobile phones to allow for an increased presence in rural areas.
- Teresa's new role will be Community Co-ordinator covering East Wiltshire including Marlborough and Devizes.

5. Planning Matters

The following applications had been considered since the last meeting :-

- Work to trees in Churchyard – the Parish Council had approved the application except for the proposed felling of the 10no lime trees alongside the footpath. Wiltshire had now issued a Notice of Split Consent approving all the work requested except for felling the lime trees - instead giving permission for them to be pollarded for the next 10 years.
- Extension to Wootton House - the Parish Council had no objection to the proposal but had wanted the rear elevations doors and windows to be amended to be the same style as the original house.

Church Farm

The Parish Council had attended a meeting with Michael Fowler Architects to be shown the proposals for the redevelopment of Church Farm. The scheme involved :-

- the conversion of the 2 existing farm buildings into 3 bed properties
- 2 new semi-detached single storey properties to replace the open fronted barn adjoining Vale Cottage
- One new 4 bed house and a new 6 bed house at the rear of the site
- The 6 bed property was intended to be occupied by one of the site's owners and was noted as being outside the Conservation Area.
- The existing farmhouse would be sold in its current condition with part of the farmyard as the garden.

The planning application was expected shortly and would then be formally considered.

The Long House – a site meeting to decide on the application to construct a replacement house would be held at 9.30am on 10th September.

6. Neighbourhood Development Scheme

Tony McGarry reported that the steering group were considering the comments raised in the consultation process and addressing the issues raised.

When this process was complete the document would be submitted back to the Parish Council for approval – a meeting between the Steering Group and Parish Council was anticipated in October to sign off the document when it would then go forward to Wiltshire's Independent Consultant for further review.

It was anticipated that the referendum on the NDP would take place in February 2017.

Tony reported that a further grant application of £1,000 had been made for expenses and printing costs.

7. Recreation Ground

The following works had been carried out recently:-

- The swing seats had been replaced
- The see-saw seat and handles had been replaced and checked by Active Toy Ltd
- The rotten post to the ladder frame had been replaced under warranty
- The gate post had been replaced and the leaning fence straightened
- The concrete base under the cricket mat had been constructed.

Tony McGarry reported that Active Toy Ltd had issued various quotations for the cricket base work and that the last one issued had been for the reduced amount of £831.55 excluding plant hire, and that this was the one which had been used to obtain the grant from the Area Board and the one approved by the Parish Council. Unfortunately, Active Toy Ltd were now saying that this quote had only been issued by them to enable the grant application to be made and the earlier more expensive quote was correct.

It was agreed that Tony should write to Active Toy explaining the facts of what has been authorised and agreed and if they still dispute this a meeting will have to be held with them to examine the email/audit trail etc. There is a potential liability of £744 arising from this misunderstanding.

It was agreed that any future orders for sums over £500 should be issued on an official Parish Council order.

Tony reported that following the successful August Bank Holiday event he had received a cheque for £350 for the Recreation Ground funds from the PCC. He was disappointed that it was not more – it was suggested that in future the split of funds should be agreed before the event. However, he had received a further donation of £100 from an anonymous supporter of the playground which was much appreciated.

It was agreed that in future budgets an allowance of £300 for maintenance of the playground equipment should be included. Future replacement of equipment could not be funded from the precept but would need fund raising/grants etc.

8. Parish Steward

The Parish Steward should be in place in October and the Parish Council would need to have a system in place as we would be responsible for directing what work he should carry out. Requests for work to be carried out should be directed through Neil Worthington.

There seemed to be some confusion about the role of Co-ordinator which was to be clarified.

9. Vodafone Open Sure Signal programme

Information had been received from PCAP that Wilcot and Oare had installed Vodafone's Open Sure Signal unit to improve their mobile signal and that coverage had improved. It was agreed that this should be investigated further. *Action : Clerk*

10. Finances

The External Audit had been carried out by Grant Thornton and no comments had been made. The Audit had been published on the PC website and no fee was payable as the turnover was below the threshold amount.

The following cheques which had been issued since the last meeting were authorised :-

- Active Toy Ltd – cricket base and see-saw parts - £1,117.82

The following payments were approved and cheques signed :-

- Tony McGarry – plant hire charges £175.19
- WRVH – hire of Village Hall for meetings £96.00
- Hew Helps – set up WRPC computer £90.00

The following payments had been received :-

- Wiltshire Council grant for cricket base – £831.55
- PCPP - £350.00
- Donation to Recreation Ground £100.00

It was noted that maintenance was needed to the Village notice boards. Materials would cost approximately £100 for new backboards etc and this expenditure was approved.

11. Wiltshire Parish Emergency Scheme

Wiltshire were offering materials and equipment to cope with winter weather and floods so long as the Parish submitted a weather plan. This was discussed and it was considered that the equipment was not required this year as the previous tonne bag of salt delivered last year and stored by David Butler had not yet been used.

The recent downpour had temporarily flooded the road outside the Church but following clearing of straw etc from gratings had quickly subsided. However, a quantity of mud had been left throughout the village which was to be cleared by a working party.

12. Correspondence received.

There was an invitation to attend a meeting with Wiltshire Council about future savings and how they can help local communities do more for themselves. No one was available to attend.

13. Matters raised by the public / AOB

Tony McGarry reported that the gully down from the East Wick junction needed clearing. *Action : Clerk*

David Butler advised that East Wick Farm hedges would start to be cut in September but that the remaining high hedge opposite Bank Cottage was now owned by Blanchards farm.

Date of the next meeting – 14th November 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Parish Council Documents are available on the Parish Council Website - woottonriverspc.co.uk