

# Wootton Rivers Parish Council

www.woottonriverspc.co.uk

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2024

### Present:

Dean Cowley	Parish Council Chair
Steve Rawlings	Councillor
Shelley Whitehead	Councillor
Nick Jones	Councillor
Clare Bamforth	Vice Chair
David Butler	Councillor
Julian Beames	Clerk

### Apologies:

Cindy Creasy	Councillor
--------------	------------

### 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 excused himself from discussions regarding the planning application PL/2024/05474

### 2. Agreement of Minutes

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by Dean Cowley - Chair.

### 3. Report From Wiltshire Councillor

Jerry Kunkler advised that the next PCAP meeting is on the 25 July and any issues we want discussed should be advised ahead of the meeting. The Chair indicated his intentions to attend the meeting. The next Local Highways and Footpaths improvement Group meeting will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July and the next Area Board meeting will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September.

Jerry asked if the report on the drain CCTV inspection had been useful, and he was advised that it had, and that David Butler would try to ascertain which tree is causing the major issues. He will then advise Highways that he can apply to remove it and do the work if it is helpful.

Jerry was asked about verge cutting by David Butler as the farm have had to do several days of verge cutting to keep the roads clear and safe and avoid potentially dangerous situations with pedestrians in the narrow lanes being hidden from the view of tractor drivers. They have had cases where pedestrians have moved back into the grass on hearing an approaching vehicle and then been completely hidden from view until the tractor actually passed them. It was felt by Councillors that the new policy of not cutting back verges in very narrow lanes is now a danger to pedestrians and cyclists and also causes damage to cars. (Post meeting note: this will be raised by the clerk with PCAP to be put on the agenda).

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

##### **Drainage**

The Chair was due to attend the recent Flood Working Group Meeting but could not access the online meeting at the time. However, we have been advised that the repair of the drain is now on the capital works programme and the works should be done at sometime in the future. Until they are done, the drain will be monitored, and we will ask for it to be root cut in the autumn to keep it clear if the main work has not been completed by then.

#### **5. Report on Actions Arising from the Minutes**

##### **Parking Outside Upper Farmhouse**

A note was sent to all members on the Grapevine asking them not to park outside Upper Farm House

#### **6. Planning**

PL/2024/05474 – 1 Forest Road – Provision of hardstanding area for vehicular parking. There was a short discussion about the application, and it was mentioned that it was unfortunate that a piece of hedging would be removed but otherwise there were no major issues. The council would respond to the consultation with no objections but would point out that there is an important drain which runs under the land which needs to be considered when works take place.

#### **7. Finance**

The Bank balances were reported as follows:

Business Account:	£665.96
Treasurers Account:	£10,895.28

#### **8. Report on Police Matters**

Nothing to report.

#### **9. Correspondence Received**

None received.

#### **10. Matters Raised by The Public and Council**

Rob Mitchenall raised the issue of the village address signs which are currently placed near Southbank and outside the village Hall. He felt that these should be improved and made more professional. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate a new improved version and the costs associated with having these professionally printed on Perspex for mounting in the village plus clear signs saying Village Map.

Roger Geen raised the issue of the road recent flooding at the bottom of Primrose Hill and said that he had contacted Wiltshire Council regarding the blocked drain and

was awaiting a response. Following the discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would also contact Network Rail who own the land to discuss the problems we are having with their tenant, who has blocked the watercourse which previously allowed a lot of the water to drain away off the road.

Roger also raised the issue of potential planning changes which are being proposed by the new Government, such as the re-introduction of housing building targets and how these would affect the village. The Chair stated that he didn't believe it would affect the village but that the situation would be monitored.

The Clerk had recently read an article regarding village greens and asked if the Council had ever looked into whether the recreation ground could be registered as a village green in order to protect it. It was agreed that it should first be investigated to see if it is possible, and that the clerk would report back at the next meeting.

**Date of the next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is planned to take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2024

Signed as a true record.....Date .....

Dean Cowley – Chair