

Wootton Rivers Parish Council

DRAFT

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th of March 2024

Present:

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

1. Apologies for absence from:

None.

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. Councillor Nick Jones declared an interest in the item regarding the Royal Oak and would not take part in the discussions.

3. Agreement of Minutes

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 5th of February 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by Dean Cowley - Chair.

4. Report from Wiltshire Councillor

Jerry Kunkler stated that the area board meeting had taken place but unfortunately due to a planned change of venue this had resulted in the Chief Constable not actually making it to the meeting. She is now expected to attend the next meeting when that is held. The Wiltshire budget was passed by the full Council which will result in a 4.99% increase in council tax. Jerry reminded the council that grant funding is available and encouraged groups to come forward if they had projects that needed funding.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Operational Flooding Working Group Meeting and Drains Up-date – The Clerk gave an update on the drain near the canal. The clerk had attended the operational flood working group meeting to support the work to get repairs made to the drain. He had highlighted the residential flooding that had taken place because of the current defects. A meeting had also recently been held on site with Councillor Kunkler and Andrew Cadwallader from Wiltshire Council Highways to discuss the issues. As a result, a CCTV survey and root cutting was carried out on the 11th of March and a report on the state of the drains will be submitted along with recommendations as to what remedial action is required to Andrew Cadwallader. Discussions with the team carrying out the survey did highlight the fact that the drain was filled with roots but

was generally said to be in good condition with the root growth entering through the joins in the pipe.

The Chair mentioned that he should again contact Ms Davies regarding the felling of the trees near the canal as these are undoubtedly adding to the problems of root growth in the drainage system. Action: Chair to contact Ms Davies

6. Report on Actions Arising from the Minutes

None.

7. Roal Oak – Community Asset Registration.

With the up-coming expiration of the registration in September this year, Councillors agreed that the Royal Oak remained a vital community asset and that the registration should be renewed. This will be submitted in advance of the September 11th expiry date. Action the Clerk to raise this as an agenda item for the July meeting.

8. Planning

Decisions made since the last meeting:

1. PL/2024/00339 – 3 St Andrews Close – Proposed single storey side extension was approved.
2. PL/2024/00647 – Dashwood - T1 Norway Maple - Reduce by up to 20% back to previous pollard points – no objection raised.
3. PL/2024/00811 – Vale Cottage 1) - 2 x Field Maple trees - reduce by 30% to a pollard, 2) - Copper Beech tree - reduce by 20%, 3) - Ash tree - pollard by 50%, 4) - Holm Oak tree - reduce by 25%, 5) - Willow tree – fell, 6) - Ash tree - pollard by 25% - 30%, 7) - Ash tree - pollard by 50% - No objection raised.

Council response to consultations:

PL/2024/01758 – 2 The Fields – Pear tree fell. - The council raised no objection but did encourage the re-planting of a suitable replacement, where trees are necessarily felled.

PL/2024/02092 – Greenways – Cherry Tree – reduce by 40%. – The council raised no objection.

PL/2024/-10605 – Leveret House - Installation of below ground outdoor swimming pool, associated pool plant cabinet and air-source heat pump. Installation of domestic scale ground solar array. – The Council supported the application noting the use of green energy solutions. They did caution that nearby farming operations may result in dust and that if the pool does at any time need to be emptied suitable arrangement should be made to avoid the water leaking onto adjacent farmland.

PL/2024/02322 – Wicks Cottage, 7 Wootton Rivers – 1. Apple tree – fell, 2. 3 x Hawthorn trees – fell, 3. Scots Pine tree – fell, 4. Laurel - reduce to hedge height. - The Council raised no objection but did encourage re-planting of replacements in suitable locations.

9. Finance

The Clerk reported the bank balances as follows: Treasurers Account £1,422.39 and the Business Account £6,857.88

Two payments required approval which were:

1. £11.87 paid to J. Beames for the purchase of a replacement medical kit for the defibrillator.
2. £192.00 paid to the Village Hall for rental fees.

A motion to approve the payments was proposed by Councillor Rawlings and seconded by Councillor Creasy and this was passed unanimously.

The Clerk informed the Council that the contract to cut the recreation ground grass had been renewed with IdVerde after they had provided the lowest of three quotes received. The quotation was within the budgeted amount for this fiscal year.

10. Report on Police Matters

No report was available.

11. Correspondence received

A letter that had been received by the Council from a local footpath group offering help with maintenance had been passed to Councillor Creasy.

12. Matter Raised by Councillors and the Public

1. Councillor Butler pointed out that on the path leading from the back of the recreation ground there were some metal spikes protruding from the ground which had previously been part of steps, but these now could be a hazard. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Sam Keyes-Toyer to discuss how this could be addressed. It was also noted that the path is now quite steep at the top without steps and in wet weather is difficult to negotiate.
2. Recent damage to the grass verge close to the Railway line and the litter left in the area after recent track maintenance was also raised and the Clerk undertook to contact Network Rail to express the Council's concerns.
3. Residents were also reminded that the annual village clean-up will take place on the Saturday 23rd March at 10:30am starting at the Village Hall

13. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meetings will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on Monday the 20th of May.

Signed as a true record.....Date: 11th of March 2024

Dean Cowley – Chair