

Wootton Rivers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th July 2023

Present:

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Dean Cowley Parish Council Chair

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 recorded.

3. Agreement of Minutes

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 15th of June 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by Clare Bamforth – Vice Chair.

4. Report From Wiltshire Councillor

Jerry Kunkler reported that the draft local plan was being considered by Wiltshire Council at its next meeting and that this would set out the strategy for planning development for in the County for the next plan period. The current plan expires in 2026. It is important as it lays out what type and how much development is planned in the various areas of the County. Jerry also highlighted that locally we have met targets for house building in the current plan period.

The next Pewsey Area Board meeting on the 18th of September will be attended by the new Wiltshire Police Chief Constable which will most likely be held in Pewsey.

Jerry then asked if there were any questions from Councillors or the public and an issue with regards to the increased level of low-level flights of military helicopters at night, flying over the village was raised. Jerry stated that obviously we live near to Salisbury Plain and that there has been an increased level of activity regarding all military training recently. Whilst obviously causing some disturbance there is not a lot that can be done as it is necessary training, and the village is on a route used by the helicopters to access the Pewsey Vale.

Jerry was also then asked about the fire which recently happened at Williams scrapyards in Milton Lilbourne. He reported that the Environment Agency are carrying out investigations and that there will be a report sometime in the future.

Grass verge cutting was raised and the current policy of only cutting the areas near bends was said to be an issue with the roads becoming overgrown. It was said this was both an environmental policy and a way to save money but the recent warm and wet weather had exacerbated the problem this year.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The clerk reported that the expected date for road surface dressing has still not been communicated although it is still expected to take place some time this summer. Some more remedial work on the road has recently been done in the village by contractors which is clearly a sign that it is likely to happen shortly.

With regards to the Parish Steward, we are expecting a visit on the 15th of July, and this will hopefully address some of the work which is outstanding.

6. Planning

- 6.1 PL/2023/04529 & PL/2023/04968 Forge Cottage – Demolition of existing extension; construction of new single storey extension; Replacement of two windows.

The general view of Councillors was that the proposed works would improve the property and that the small increase in size of the rear extension was not an issue as the rear garden was more than large enough to accommodate it. The replacement of the sloping roof with a flat roof and lantern window also reduced the overall height of the extension which was also beneficial. The replacement of the windows was also required and would maintain the building in a sound condition. A motion to support the application was proposed by councillor Nick Jones and seconded by councillor Steve Rawlings and was passed unanimously.

- 6.2 PL2023/04535 & PL2023/05008 – Manor Farm – Removal of existing roof and windows to existing conservatory and replacement with new. Construction of brick pier to dining room.

Councillor's views were that replacement of the existing structure which is in a very poor condition was justified and the new design was an improvement and will enhance the property. There were therefore no concerns raised. The construction of the brick pier in the dining room was also required for structural reasons and should be carried out. A motion to support the application was proposed by councillor Steve Rawlings and seconded by councillor Nick Jones and was passed unanimously.

- 6.3 PL/2023/05141 – Land off Forest Road, Wootton Rivers Marlborough Wiltshire, SN8 4NL – Construction of an additional cattle building

The Chair asked for views of councillors on the proposed work. The following points were raised by councillors in respect to the application.

1. The proximity of the new barn to residential properties at the North-East end of the village and the potential nuisance that this may cause as its construction will bring the overall development closer to the village.
2. The history of the planning process which led to the original two barns being built without consultation due to their original use being declared as for the storage of hay, and the subsequent change of use application which was submitted so they could be used for cattle.

3. The fact that the building is within the AONB, and the development is very prominent when seen from the surrounding countryside especially Martinsell.
4. The issues which have been experienced very recently with material being left on the road at the entrance to the site, and the dangers this has caused to motorists and other road users. Councillors were concerned that the additional cattle being kept on the site could lead to further issues. It was also noted that there was no information in the application as to the type of proposed surface for the planned roadway/track around the buildings and that if this isn't a made-up surface then it would be a potential issue in this regard.
5. The additional traffic which may be generated by movements to and from the site using an entrance on what is already a very dangerous bend, on a very narrow road.
6. It was recognised that this site is a replacement of cattle storage which was previously used in the centre of the village which has now been demolished and that the applicant has proposed to screen the entire development with trees which does appear to restrict the site so that additional development could not take place.

Following an extensive discussion, a motion was proposed by councillor Cindy Creasy to object to the application on the grounds of its proximity to the village, the creeping level of development of the site in the AONB and due to the issues further development could cause with regards to the road access and dangers posed by material being left on the roads. This was seconded by councillor Seve Rawlings and was passed following a vote by a majority of 4/2

Following the vote, it was requested by that a email be sent to the planning officer to try to and meet at the site during the site visit. Additionally, it was asked if the start of the current 30mph speed limit could be moved further North to include the site entrance.

7. Finance Report

The Clerk reported that the bank balances were as follows;

Treasurers Account	£1384.75
Business Account	£8298.80

The following payments which had been made needed to be approved by the Council:

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils	£106.09
BHIB Council Insurance	£468.22
St John's College – Rent	£175.00
IdVerde Grass Cutting	£276.38
CodeWater Solutions Internet /email	£90.00

A motion was then passed unanimously to approve the payments.

8. Report on Police Matters

Nick Mitchel-Briggs reported that there had been a recent burglary at Brimslade when one of the business units was broken into. A resident had reported seeing a vehicle parked at Cuckoos Knob that night but the video did not provide any useful information.

9. Correspondence Received

The only correspondence received was a an emailed letter circulated to Parishes from Citizens Advice Service requesting financial Support. Councillors agreed that the they were not is a position to offer support.

10. General - to discuss any other matters of urgency raised by Councillors or members of the public.

Councillor Butler informed the Council that work to fell trees was likely to happen around the Martinsell car park and that this could lead to its closure as some point in the near future.

11. Date of the next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is planned to take place on Monday 11th September 2023

Signed as a true record.....Date

Claire Bamforth – Vice Chair