

Wootton Rivers Parish Council

Website: www.woottonriverspc.co.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd of February 2026

1. Present:

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

Apologies	
Steve Rawlings	Councillor

2. Declarations of Interest and the granting of dispensations.

Councillors were reminded of the Code of Conduct and the need to declare any interest relating to the items on the agenda. There were no declarations made for this meeting.

3. Agreement of Minutes

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 15th of December 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. Report from Wiltshire Councillor

Jerry Kunkler was unable to attend the meeting in person but had sent an update via the Clerk. Jerry reported that tomorrow there will be a full Council budget setting day with a probable increase in Council tax of 4.99%. The next area board meeting will be a business meeting only being held at Pewsey Library on the 18th of March at 11.a.m. The next LHFIFG meeting will be on (teams) on 13th May at 2pm as there was one just last week. Potholes are still a problem and apparently the Parish Stewards are filling them in at "pace".

Following on from Jerry's report regarding potholes there was a general discussion about the number of potholes around the village and the priority regarding filling them. It was generally understood that the priority is safety, so potholes on high-speed roads are attended to first and then minor roads are attended to by the stewards when they are in the area. It was however stressed by the Chair that it is everyone's responsibility to report any new potholes they see as they will only be fixed if they are reported using the MyWilts app. If anyone's car is damaged and the pothole has not been reported, then it will be impossible to make a claim against the Wiltshire Council

5. Report on Actions Arising from the Minutes

Drains

The Chair was very pleased to be able to report that the situation with regards to drainage in the village has improved considerably because of the actions of the Parish Council, Wiltshire Council and many of the residents, who have all contributed in some way to improving the drainage situation. As a result of everyone's efforts, despite the recent very wet conditions there has been no residential flooding, and the drains have coped well. The Chair wanted to particularly thank Richard Bradford, David Butler, Charlie Woodhead, Nell Light and Sam Keyes Toyer for their efforts in improving the situation with the drainage around the village.

Flooding at bottom of Primrose Hill

The Clerk mentioned that following contact advice from Wiltshire Council he had recently again contacted Network Rail regarding the continued flooding on the road. It is hoped that following research and advice regarding proscriptive easements that we can convince Network Rail that the currently blocked exit from the grip into their land must be re-opened to allow water to drain off the road at this point.

Footpaths

Councillor Bamforth had forwarded a copy of the previously completed footpaths signage survey to the Chair and Clerk and stated that whilst it held a lot of information is was probably out-of-date now.

It was agreed that the priority should be to signpost the major routes which are most heavily used. Councillor Creasy said that in light of this she would try to update the knowledge of the state of the signage and report back so that hopefully we can get the major routes signposted with the small finger signs that Wiltshire Council have said they can provide.

It was also mentioned that it would be a good idea to see if we could make the booklet that had been produced by David Wardlaw available at the pub to raise funds. This could then be advertised on the WRPC noticeboard for walkers.

6. Planning

PL/2026/0821 / PL2026/09212 – Pheasant Cottage - Downstairs lavatory and handbasin to be created out of an existing former entrance lobby and a wooden home office to be built in the garden

The Chair asked Councillors if they had any views on the application and in general Councillor's agreed that there were no issues with either of the proposed developments. The Council unanimously resolved to support the application.

There had been one further application received regarding tree works at the Old School and the Clerk advised he would handle it under his delegation with no objection to the proposal.

7. Finance Report

The bank balances are as follows:

Community Account	£2,069.64
Commercial Instant Access Account	£9,344.65

There were two invoices to approve for payment which were:	
Idverde covering the grass cutting for the remainder of 2025	£280.01
Lloyds Bank charges	£4.25
Council resolved unanimously to approve both payments.	

8. Police Report

There were no significant events to report from the quarterly parish report received from Wiltshire Police

9.

10. Correspondence Received

There was no correspondence to report

11. Matters Raised by Councillors or the Public

- a) Councillor Bamforth as the Council’s representative on the Village Hall Committee informed the Council that the Village Hall have offered to donate sufficient funds to the Parish Council so that the Council can purchase a piece of play equipment specifically aimed at younger children. The Village Hall committee will advise the Council of the specific piece of equipment which the Council should purchase with the funds they provide.
Councillor Bamforth proposed a resolution that the Council agree to accept the donation and purchase the equipment for younger children on the Recreation Ground using these funds. This resolution was seconded by Councillor Creasy and was unanimously passed by the Council.
- b) Libby Brennan wanted advised the Council that the stream which normally runs through her garden has dried up despite all the wet weather. It is thought that this is probably due to the water currently being diverted into the canal from the stream to stop flooding at Lock Cottage. The culvert which takes the stream under the road may also be restricted by debris and this is being investigated by David Whitehead.
- c) Councillor Creasy mentioned that the first bulbs that were planted in the autumn around the village are now starting to come up and are bringing some extra colour to the communal grass areas around the village.

12. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on the 18th of May 2026.

Signed as a true record.....Date

Dean Cowley – Chair