

# Wootton Rivers Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2024

### Present:

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

### 1. Apologies for absence from:

Steve Rawlings	Councillor
Shelley Whitehead	Councillor

### 2. Agreement of Minutes

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by Dean Cowley - Chair.

### 3. 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.

### 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Drains Up-date – The Clerk gave an update on the progress towards the repair of the drain. A meeting is being arranged by Councillor Jerry Kunkler with Andy Cadwallader to discuss the work required. The latest information is that this could take place next week and as soon as the time and date is confirmed the Clerk will advise on the Councillors and the other concerned residents.

Councillor Butler mentioned that he and Charlie Woodhead had carried out a survey of the drain and that they had seen evidence that there was also a blockage further down the pipe near the canal.

Charlie has also submitted an FOI to try and obtain a copy of the CCTV of the drain.

The council also resolved to support any application that is submitted to remove the trees near the car park bays if this is required.

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

Sewage System Overflow – The Chair reported that having spoken to the residents concerned since the floods, the issue was due to the amount of water entering the sewer and that Wessex Water had been very helpful and cleared up the area.

### 6. Planning

Council response to consultations regarding:

1. PL/2024/00339 – 3 St Andrews Close – Proposed single storey side extension.

No issues were identified by Councillors with the application, and it was unanimously resolved by the Council to support the application.

2. PL/2024/00647 – Dashwood - T1 Norway Maple - Reduce by up to 20% back to previous pollard points.

No issues were identified by Councillors with the application, and it was unanimously resolved by the Council to support the application.

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 issues were identified by Councillors with the application, and it was unanimously resolved by the Council to support the application.

## **7. Correspondence received.**

1. VisitWiltshire request to lobby on their behalf

The council agreed that on balance and having considered the recent letter from Wiltshire Council they would not take any action.

2. Community Resilience - Emergency Contact Hub.

A scheme to set up Emergency Contact Hubs is being proposed by Wiltshire Council. They have asked communities to nominate a building as an Emergency Contact Hub, so that there is a single identified location in the community which emergency services and the local authority can go to communicate important information and news in the event of an incident such as prolonged power outage, heavy snow or flooding etc. Councillors discussed the likely venues, and it was agreed the Royal Oak Pub was the best option as it has a generator power back-up system and heating can be maintained. The other option of the Village Hall was considered, but this is electrically heated and currently has no power back up in the event of a power outage.

It was agreed that the Clerk would respond and nominate the Royal Oak Public House as our Emergency Contact Hub. - Action the Clerk.

It was also agreed that Councillor Creasy would organise a specific meeting with Councillors Butler and Jones along with Amanda Giles to discuss how the Hub would be integrated with the other communications methods and draw on the existing frameworks set up during covid emergency. – Action Cindy Creasy.

It was also suggested that the Village Hall Committee investigate when they next have an electrician doing work on the facility, the cost of fitting a transfer box so that a generator could be used to power the building as this would provide an alternative venue with a large space. – Action VH committee.

**8. Matters Raised by the Public**

No more matters were raised.

**9. Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> of March.

Signed as a true record.....Date: 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2024

Dean Cowley – Chair