

Wootton Rivers Parish Council

Website: www.woottonriverspc.co.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th of July 2026

1. Present:

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

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 18th of May 2026 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. Report from Wiltshire Councillor

No report received

5. Report on Actions Arising from the Minutes

No items were raised.

6. Planning

1. PL/2026/03475 - Land North of Forest Road, Wootton Rivers, Erection of 1no. Rural Worker's Dwelling including garage with associated parking area. Use existing highways access from Forest Road.

Several residents who attended the meeting raised concerns regarding the proposal. The concerns were mainly around the continued 'creeping' expansion of the number of buildings on the site and the nature in which historically this had been allowed. The size of the development was also questioned given that the proposal was supposed to house a single rural worker, and yet was a very large dwelling including business premises.

A number of Councillors also expressed similar views questioning the size and location of the proposed development, the need for office accommodation and a meeting room and the large amount of provided parking. There was considerable concern that this might not be the end of the development at the site and that further expansion may follow.

Following the discussions a proposal was made by Councillor Creasy and seconded by Councillor Bamforth to object to the proposal on the above-mentioned grounds, and to request that any permission granted came with a condition that no further expansion would be permitted at the site in the future. This was carried by a majority of 4:3 and therefore an objection will be submitted into the consultation on behalf of the Council.

2. PL/2026/03208 – 35-36 Cuckoos Knob - Erection of a single-storey front porch extension and a single-storey front extension to form a garden room.

Councillors generally felt the proposals were in keeping and did not raise any issues. The proposal for a single storey extension will not be easily visible. The Council unanimously resolved to support the application.

7. Recruitment of Replacement Clerk

The Chair proposed that the Council start the process to recruit a new clerk to start in November 2026 by advertising the post locally in the Village. The hope is that a local resident can be recruited for the post as this is the preferred solution, rather than hiring from outside the village. This was agreed by Councillors, and the post will be advertised, and interviews will be planned to take place in time for the confirmation of recruitment of the new Clerk to take place at the scheduled September meeting.

8. Finance Report

The bank balances are as follows:

Community Account	£6,546.49
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Commercial Instant Access Account	£9,350.01
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(The balances include a second erroneous BEAM related remittance from Ford Fuels for £737.60 which the Clerk will attempt to repay to them again).

The following payments have been made since the last meeting which required approval:

J. Beames	£8.00	Bin bags
PCAP	£50.00	Council Donation
R. G. Mitchenall	£40.00	Audit Services
St Andrew's Church	£100.00	Council Donation
St John's College	£175.00	Recreation Ground Rent
Lloyd's Bank	3 x £4.25	Bank Charges

Council resolved unanimously to approve all the payments.

9. Police Report

Nicholas Mitchell-Briggs reminded residents to be vigilant following a recent incident where a person was discovered in a garden attempting to gain access to a property. He also mentioned that recent incidents in Pewsey are concerning and this again highlighted the need to remain alert and report any suspicious activity.

10. Correspondence Received

The Council had been thanked by PCAP for their donation.

11. Matters Raised by Councillors or the Public

- a) Tony McGarry asked about plans for the Recreation Ground. Councillor Bamforth responded that a grant had been obtained and that new equipment is being purchased with these funds to renovate equipment and a new shed is being purchased to house the sports equipment.

12. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on the 7th of September 2026.

Signed as a true record.....Date
Dean Cowley – Chair