

Wootton Rivers Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24th of June 2024

Present:

Dean Cowley	Parish Council Chair
Cindy Creasy	Councillor
Steve Rawlings	Councillor
Shelley Whitehead	Councillor
David Butler	Councillor
Julian Beames	Clerk

Apologies:

Nick Jones	Councillor
Clare Bamforth	Vice Chair

1. 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. No declarations or dispensations were declared or sought by Councillors.

2. Agreement of Minutes

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 20th of May 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by Dean Cowley - Chair.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Drainage

A copy of the report from the CCTV inspection of the drain has now been received by the council and it shows that there are multiple defects in the drain where it runs behind the car park bays near the canal. There is one area where the pipe has sagged and so it permanently has standing water in it. There are multiple locations where there is significant root growth into the drain which was so bad that the CCTV camera could not penetrate it. In the overall summary of the report the drain's operational condition is categorised as being at level 5 (on a scale of 1 to 5) which defines it as being at high risk of backing up or causing flooding.

We have been informed by Wiltshire Council that the drain has now been added to the list of projects to be addressed, but we do not yet have timescales. There is a meeting of the Operational Flood Working Group on the 26th of June and the Chair will attend the meeting remotely to hopefully get further information.

Trees on Forest Road.

The Clerk was contacted by the Wiltshire Council Arboricultural Officer following a meeting on site in the village to view the trees which are growing over the car

parking bays. She wanted confirmation that the Council did in fact want the trees felled as she was concerned at the loss of such a significant amount of tree canopy in the village. The Clerk confirmed that due to the fact they were endangering the power cable and leaning on the wall, the Parish Council had indeed asked for them to be removed. She then confirmed that in that case she would approve the removal of the trees but would require a replanting scheme to be agreed.

4. Report on Actions Arising from the Minutes

Parking Outside Upper Farmhouse

The Chair stated that he had not contacted the car owner regarding parking at Upper Farmhouse and it was agreed that a note would be put out on the Village Grapevine to request people refrain from parking at the location.

5. Planning

9.1 PL/2024/04890 – 2 The Fields – Construction of boot room extension, front porch, carport and shed.

There was a brief discussion on the alterations being proposed and there were no issues raised by councillors. The Council therefore unanimously resolved to support the application.

PL.2024/05121 – Forge Cottage – Listed building consent for internal repairs and alterations to address water ingress.

Councillors reviewed the proposed scope of works and considered that it was essential work to address the problems of water ingress and that it would not have any effect on the external appearance of the listed structure. It was therefore unanimously resolved by the Council to support the application.

6. Finance

The Bank balances were reported as follows:

Business Account:	£665.96
Treasurers Account:	£10,895.28

The following payments which had been made since the last Council meeting needed to be approved:

1. St John's College – Recreation Ground Rent	£175.00 (Ref 24/4)
2. Idverde – Grass cutting	£330.30 (Ref 24/5)

The Council unanimously resolved to approve the payments.

7. Report on Police Matters

Nothing to report.

8. Correspondence Received

None received.

9. Matters Raised by The Public and Council

Anne Swift asked that the Council record their thanks to David Butler for providing such great support in moving the railway hut to its temporary location in the village. The Council agreed and expressed its gratitude for the help provided.

The Clerk also asked the Council to thank David Whitehead for his kind help in removing the grass cuttings from the Recreation Ground, which made a huge difference in the overall appearance and condition of the space ahead of the fete.

Date of the next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is planned to take place on Monday 8th July 2024

Signed as a true record.....Date

Dean Cowley – Chair