

Wootton Rivers Parish Council

Website: www.woottonriverspc.co.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th of March 2025

Present:

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

Apologies: None

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 were made.

2. Agreement of Minutes

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 6th of January 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Report from Local Councillor

Jerry Kunkler reported that Wiltshire Council had set its budget for the next financial year and there will be a 4.5% increase which is lower than the maximum permitted. In light of the upcoming elections, Jerry thanked the Council members for their support in the past years and also advised them that he is intending to stand again as a unitary Councillor. Jerry had attended the meeting with Andy Cadwallader in the village recently regarding issues with the drains and flooding (see next item for report).

4. Report on Actions Arising from the Minutes

Drains and Flooding– A meeting had been held in the village attended by Andy Cadwallader from Wiltshire Highways, Jerry Kunkler, Dean Cowley and the Clerk. The issues of flooding near the canal were discussed and it was agreed that the situation would be monitored as currently the system appeared to be coping. The Clerk raised the issue of the small area of missing kerbstones between the parking bays and the entrance to Manor Barn Lane. It was agreed an approach would be made to the LHFIG group to ask for a quotation with a view to having the work to kerb this area carried out, so as to avoid mud entering the drainage system.

The meeting then moved to the Northern end of the village near Chapel Cottage and Upper Farmhouse where issues are now occurring. It was agreed

that a request would be made to jet the system in this area and inspect it to see if there were any issues. It was also agreed that the drainage ditch which runs behind the village to the canal needs maintenance and that the landowner would be approached and asked to carry out the work. A work order has now been raised for the jetting and the landowner has been requested to carry out maintenance of the ditch.

The meeting then viewed the field behind Little House where there is potential to dig it out, to create a water storage area so that in times of extreme rainfall some of the runoff from the surrounding land can be captured and held rather than running immediately into the drainage system. Andy Cadwallader offered to engage with the Council's land drainage team to give advice and he also stated that there could be grant funding available from Wiltshire Wildlife for such works.

Trees on Forest Road - The dangerous tree which was leaning on the wall has now been felled and other trees addressed. This has greatly improved the situation and closes this long-standing issue.

5. Finance

The Clerk reported the Council's bank balances are as follows:

Treasurers account: £1,578.31

Business account: £9,268.09

There were no payments to approve.

6. May 2025 Elections

Councillors and parishioners were reminded that there are local Parish Council elections currently planned for 1st of May this year and that those interested in standing as Councillors will have to complete the normal formalities to register as candidates. It is expected that the Notice of Election will be published on the 12th of March.

7. Correspondence received.

None

8. Matters Raised by Councillors or the public.

Councillor Nick Jones mentioned that he had seen the note about the BEAM price being banded in Burbage according to the amount of oil being ordered and it was agreed we would ask Nicholas Mitchel-Briggs if this applied to our scheme also.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the new Council will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting on the 19th of May.

Signed as a true record.....Date

Dean Cowley – Chair