

Wootton Rivers Parish Council

Website: www.woottonriverspc.co.uk

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

1. Present:

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

Apologies	
Cindy Creasy	Councillor
Shelley Whitehead	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.

3. Agreement of Minutes

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 8th of September 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. Report from Wiltshire Councillor

Jerry Kunkler reported that the next area board meeting will be on the 24th of November and that he would check to see if a funding request from the village hall was on the agenda.

There has not been any significant activity at Wiltshire Council recently other than the consultation which is currently taking place on funding.

The finger-post sign for the village on the A345 had not been repaired yet, (this is actually outside our parish being in Savernake), but Jerry had reported it, as had the Clerk, so we await a repair.

5. Report on Actions Arising from the Minutes

Drains and Flooding

1. The Chair stated that he had been in contact with Nell Light regarding the clearance of the ditch to the south-east of the village. Although a large portion of the ditch has been cleared the section furthest from the canal has not yet been cleared. It is important that this section is cleared prior to the winter to ensure that water from the drainage system doesn't start to back up into the centre of the village. Nell advised that she has been let down by

the original contractor but that she is looking to find another one to complete the task in the near future.

2. The Chair also reported that he did not believe the meeting between Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Nell had taken place to discuss the options for creating a catchment pond on the field behind Little House. Again, the Chair stated it was important that this meeting took place soon so that the project can progress.
3. Charlie Woodhead is in on-going discussions with the C&RT regarding the collapsed structure at the exit of the ditch into the Canal and a number of options are being looked at. The Clerk had been asked by the C&RT if the PC had any documentation relating to the structures and responded to say we have no information regarding them.
4. The Clerk noted that the area at the bottom of Primrose Hill continues to flood due to the grips being blocked behind the immediate verge. The grips are being cleared as far as they can be by the Steward on each of his visits, but this does not stop the flooding as the water has nowhere to go.
5. The heavy rain earlier in the day had fortunately not led to any flooding and the drainage system did cope, which is heartening, but as David Butler pointed out, the fields are not yet saturated, so the run-off was limited.

6. Footpath/Signage

It had been highlighted to the Parish Council that a number of the footpath signs are missing or have fallen over due to rusting posts.

Jerry Kunkler was asked if any funding is available for signage and he said that we should contact Stephen Leonard at Wiltshire Council to ask about the provision of signs.

The state of the stile at Heathy Close was also raised as an issue and it was requested that the Clerk write to the landowner to request that the stile is repaired.

7. Finance Report

The bank balances are as follows:

Community Account	£4,267.40
Commercial Instant Access Account	£9,316.34

There were a number of payments to approve.

- Lloyds Bank charges for the financial year to date of £4.25 for each account from May to October totalling £25.50
- Annual rent of the recreation Ground £175.00
- Information Commissioners Office Annual Fee £47.00
- Wiltshire Council Election Costs £340.00

The Council resolved to approve all the payments.

There was one up-coming payment to approve which is the Clerk Salary payment of £1,905.00. This was approved for payment by the Council.

The BEAM consumption figures for 2024/2025 have been obtained from Ford Fuels and the invoice issued. It was pleasing to see that the amount of oil bought through the scheme has increased slightly and that the Council's income has therefore increased a small amount to £737.60. This is well above the budgeted £600.

There is one invoice from Idverde which they have issued but there is an error in the wording of the invoice which means it has not been paid. The invoice states that the

amount is due for bin emptying rather than grass cutting. They have been contacted both by email and phone, but as yet have not re-issued a corrected invoice.

The next meeting of the Council on 15th of December will be the budget and precept setting meeting. The Clerk will be drawing up the budget proposal to circulate to Councillors and is expected to be in line with previous years given that the Council's finances for this year are broadly as forecast for the year to date.

8. Correspondence Received

A letter had been received from the South Western Ambulance Charity requesting a donation which had been circulated to Councillors. In line with its general policy not to donate to organisations outside the village, it was decided not to donate.

9. Report on Police Matters

In the absence of Nicholas Mitchell-Briggs there was no report.

10. Matters Raised by Councillors or the Public

Councillor Bamforth wanted to express her thanks to the Clerk for organising the planting of the donated bulbs. These have all now been planted around various communal grass areas and will hopefully produce a good display in the spring.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on the 15th of December.

Signed as a true record.....Date

Dean Cowley – Chair