

Wootton Rivers Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th of November 2024

Present:

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

1. Apologies:

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| Cindy Creasy | Councillor |
| Shelley Whitehead | Councillor |
| David Butler | Councillor |

2. 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.

3. Agreement of Minutes

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 14th of October 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. Report from Local Councillor

Jerry Kunkler reported that the Pewsey Area Board meeting will be held on the 25th of November at the Rugby Club in Pewsey at 7:30pm. The Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police, Catherine Roper will be attending the meeting and any residents who wish to attend are more than welcome to come along and meet her.

Jerry was asked about the overall satisfaction of the Steward scheme and reported that there was still dissatisfaction with aspects of it. The clerk asked that in future when the Steward misses a visit due to leave, the timetable should be pushed back rather than the visits being cancelled as this had meant two visits this year had been missed. Jerry Kunkler said he would raise the matter with Andy Cadwallader on our behalf and also the performance of the Steward in general.

5. Report on Actions Arising from the Minutes

1. Royal Oak Community Asset - Wiltshire Council have confirmed the listing of the Royal Oak as a community asset following the application by the Parish Council. This recognises its importance to the local community as a meeting place and a focal point for community engagement.

2. Drains - Wiltshire Council contractors will be in the village on the 13th of November to carry out high pressure water jetting of the system to clean them of silt. This should help keep them flowing in the lead up to winter.

6. Steward Scheme – see above

7. Recreation Ground Maintenance

Following a recent inspection a number of pieces of the wooden play equipment have been found to be unsafe due to rot having set in. The affected items have been removed or fenced off. Where items can be economically repaired, the Council will look to do this, and other pieces will have to be removed. It was suggested by the clerk that an overall plan to manage the wooden structures was required as more of them are reaching end of life given their age.

Councillors agreed and there was general agreement that the focus of investment in collaboration with the Village Hall committee should be in the new play area for younger children.

Andy O’Shea will be asked to arrange the repairs, and it was agreed that the ring-fenced funds in the Parish Council account should be used to repair the fences and pay for a replacement gate which are needed, and the opportunity could be taken to move the gate to a more suitable location at the same time.

8. Planning

PL/2024/09646/PL2024/09667- Picketts Cottage

Single storey extension with opening in rear wall, enclosure of porch and internal alterations to form guest toilet and utility. Replacement windows, raising of chimney stacks to meet current regulations and installation of car charging point on garage.

Councillors in general supported the application but did note that the width of the proposed extension meant it might be more visible from the road. It was therefore felt that it would be preferable if the extension could be altered to follow the line of the existing building rather than projecting forward. Councillors also fully supported the replacement of the existing porch in a more traditional style. The Council therefore resolved to support the application with the above comments to be noted.

PL/2024/09770 - Owl Cottage

Proposed Tree Works - 1 - Beech tree - reduce lateral overhang by 2m 2 - Liquid Amber tree - reduce lateral overhang by 2m 3 - Cherry tree - crown reduce by 2m-3m 4 - Lawsonia tree - reduce by 0.5m 5 - Sycamore tree - crown raise by 5m 6 - Silver Birch tree - reduce lateral overhang by 1m.

Councillors resolved to support the application

9. Finance

The Clerk reported the Council’s bank balances as follows:

Treasurers account: £10,435.57

Business account: £592.67

There were three payments for the Council to approve.
The PCAP donation of £50.00
The St. Andrew's Church Donation of £100.00
Re-imbusement to the Clerk for items bought for the recreation ground for £27.96
Councillors unanimously approved all three payments

The clerk asked the Council to approve the up-coming payment of the Clerks salary of £1,866.00 which was unanimously supported and agreed to represent excellent value.

The Clerk raised the subject of the up-coming budget which will need to be approved at the next Council meeting. In proposing a budget, the clerk wanted the views of Councillors as to any changes or additions Councillors might want to see. Councillors generally expressed their satisfaction with the current budget strategy of raising the precept by a small amount above that required to break even in order to allow the Council to build a small fund for future projects.

The Clerk notified the Council that Lloyds Bank had written to the Council to advise that it was changing the Treasurers account into a Community Account which is designed for not-for-profit organisations. This will however result in a monthly charge of £4.25. Councillors agreed that this was unavoidable, and we would include the charges in the budget going forward.

10. Correspondence received

Wiltshire Council have written to the Parish Council asking us to complete an EV charging Survey. Wiltshire Council are planning to let a contract with a supplier who will install charging points across the county, and they are looking for information from local Parish Councils as to suitable sites. The Clerk will complete the survey but also liaise with the Village Hall committee as they are in discussion with potential suppliers for an installation in their car park.

Susie Brew has written to the Council asking us to complete an Access improvement survey.

HMRC have written to all Parish Councils asking to promote locally the new HMRC App and the clerk will put information on the noticeboard.

11. Matters Raised by the public.

The Chair has asked our local PCSO to speak to a local resident who is continuing to park on the junction of the village road and the bye-way outside Upper Farmhouse to remind them that it is an offence, and that they can be fined for doing this.

12. Next meeting - Monday 6th of January 2025

Signed as a true record.....Date

Dean Cowley – Chair