

Wootton Rivers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 14th November 2016

Present:	David Wardlaw	Parish Council Chairman
	Clare Bamforth	Parish Council Vice-Chair
	David Butler	Councillor
	Michael Farr	Councillor
	Glenn Leech	Councillor
	Paul Neale	Councillor
	Steve Rawlings	Councillor
	Neil Worthington	Clerk
	Tony McGarry	NDP Leader
	Jerry Kunkler	Wiltshire Councillor

Apologies:
PC Teresa Herbert Police Community Beat Manager

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising.

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 5th September 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising :-

- SSE had been chased to carry out the cutting of branches next to the cables overhanging the car park bays which had not yet been carried out. *Action: Clerk to chase.*
- The Royal Oak had been given details of Wiltshire Highways procedures for obtaining a brown direction sign at the triangle. The cost seemed very expensive and it was clarified that funding for any signs would not come from Parish Council funds.
- The Parish Steward had made the first of his monthly visits to Wootton Rivers although it appeared that little work had been carried out. His next visit was scheduled for 16th November and a list of jobs had been forwarded to him.
- Blocked gullies had been reported via the My Wiltshire App but the response received was usually that 'as no houses were threatened, and it was not a road safety issue' other more pressing needs took priority.
- Jerry Kunkler advised that Richard Dobson had been appointed the new Engineer for the Pewsey Area and we should email him about these issues and copy Jerry in. *Action: Clerk*
- The Vodafone Sure Signal scheme was no longer operating.

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. None were declared and no dispensations were requested or granted.

3. Report from Wiltshire Councillor

Jerry Kunkler reported the following matters :-

- The Police Community Policing Team model had started last month and he had noticed an increase in the Police presence in Pewsey.
- The Area Board meeting had taken place last week when it was confirmed that there were no plans to close the Everleigh Recycling Centre.
- Grants were still available for local needs especially schemes for youth activities. A further grant for the additional cost of the cricket net base had been made to Wootton Rivers.
- Wiltshire Council were heading for an overspend of £8 – 10m for this year and measures were in place to ensure a balanced budget. The overspend was due to increased demand for adult care and safeguarding children.
- Agreement had been reached with central government for the next four years grant and proposed changes to the business rates which will give more financial certainty. However, savings of £15m would still be necessary from the budget (approximately £960m) for 2017/18.

4. Report from Community Police Officer.

Teresa was unable to attend but had issued a report as follows :-

- The Community Policing Team (CPT) model had commenced in October. This combines Neighbourhood Policing, Response teams and Local Crime Investigators so that there is a larger team of officers and police staff available to attend incidents etc.
- Current priorities include traffic matters particularly speed enforcement.
- There has been an increase in non-dwelling burglaries to farms and other out-buildings.
- Local crimes include a burglary to a canal boat in Wootton Rivers in October and an altercation between a dog walker and gamekeeper.
- Enquiries continue following the abduction of the red setter dog near Ram Alley.

5. Planning Matters

The following applications had been decided since the last meeting :-

- The Long House – the PC had approved this application following a reduction in the roof height. Wiltshire Council had since approved the application.
- Noyes Farmhouse – the PC had objected to the proposed new house as it was felt that the location of the house was detrimental to the character and setting of the Conservation Area. The proposal to convert the old barn into accommodation was approved. However, this application was withdrawn before it was considered by Wiltshire planning department.

The following new applications were considered :-

- Wootton House – variation to plans to replace rear bi-fold doors with a bay window. This was approved as it was in agreement with the previous Parish Council recommendation.

- St John's Cottage – fell apple tree – there was no objection to this proposal.

The Council had received a letter about a proposal by Blanchard's farm to build a storage barn North of the village near the old chalk pit which did not require planning permission as it was covered by Permitted Development Rights.

6. Neighbourhood Development Plan

Tony McGarry gave an update on the NDP :-

- The Steering Group had considered the responses received following the consultation with local landowners and incorporated them into the NDP where considered necessary.
- These alterations were discussed with the Parish Council (following the first part of this PC meeting). As there were no comments which required revision, the Steering Group would now proceed with completing the NDP for final issue and approval from the Parish Council, subject to any further comments from individual Councillors.
- The NDP would then be passed to Wiltshire Council who would appoint an independent examiner to assess it. The target date for sending to the Council was mid-December.

7. Finances

The following cheques which had been issued since the last meeting were authorised :-

- Hew Helps – additional computer set up - £30.00
- Wessex Print Centre – printing Contact - £21.00
- Last Landscaping – 2nd Quarter grass cutting - £348.60

The following payments had been received :-

- Groundwork UK – NDP grant – £1,010.00
- Wiltshire Council – 2nd grant for cricket net base - £235.00

The following payments were approved and cheques signed :-

- Neil Worthington - Clerk's salary - £679.93

It was reported that Tony McGarry had met The Active Toy Co Ltd who were still requesting additional payment for the cricket net base. It was resolved that the Clerk would go through the documentation to see what liability the Parish Council had to pay this additional amount. *Action: Clerk*

PCAP had requested a donation towards their running costs – it was agreed to make a payment of £50 as last year.

Ford Fuel has reported that the Wootton Rivers oil buying scheme members had purchased 112,253 litres of oil in the last year. This would represent a sum to repaid to the Parish Council of £561.26

8. Village Traffic

It had been suggested that a record of traffic accidents and near misses in the village are compiled so that a review of speed limits etc can be carried out. It was agreed that :-

- A notice should be put in Contact asking people to report incidents
- Nick Mitchell-Briggs should ask the police for any statistics that they have collected regarding accidents
- It was noted that Easton Royal had imposed a 20mph speed limit without having to construct any traffic calming measures which it was thought would be detrimental to the Wootton Rivers Conservation Area. *Action : Clerk to contact Easton Royal to establish how this had been achieved.*
- Jerry Kunkler had advised that requests for 20mph limits should be made to the CATG group through Ros Griffiths. The PC would be expected to pay for 20% of the costs of setting up the scheme.

9. Correspondence Received.

Notice of a meeting to be held on 23rd November had been received to discuss canal issues with Parish Councils and canal users. David Wardlaw would endeavour to attend.

Notice had been received that BT were again reviewing public payphone removals and the Wootton Rivers phone was one of the ones being considered. BT records indicate that no calls had been made from the payphone in the last 12 months and it was agreed not to challenge the proposal.

A request had been received to provide historical reports to the Environmental Agency in order to extend the groundwater flood warning service. It was agreed that no action was necessary.

10. Matters raised by the public / AOB

No reports.

Date of the next meeting – 16th January 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Parish Council Documents are available on the Parish Council Website - woottonriverspc.co.uk