

Wootton Rivers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th November 2021

Present:	Dean Cowley	Parish Council Chair
	Clare Bamforth	Vice Chair
	David Butler	Councillor
	Cindy Creasy	Councillor
	Nick Jones	Councillor
	Steve Rawlings	Councillor
	Neil Worthington	Retiring Clerk
	Julian Beames	New Clerk
Apologies	Anne Swift	Councillor
	Jerry Kunkler	Wiltshire Councillor

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. None were declared.

2. Agreement of Minutes

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 6th September and 18th October 2021 were agreed as a true record and signed by Dean Cowley.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Verge cutting – information on which verges needed to be frequently cut during the summer for safety reasons had been submitted to PCAP for them to collate prior to forwarding to Wilts Council. Wilts would take this information into account when reviewing the once a year cutting policy.

Rec access - Steve Rawlings had widened the access so that it is now wide enough for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Requirement to update Neighbourhood Plan – Dean Cowley reported that he had written to Wilts Council asking for clarification on whether we should wait for their draft consultation plan before updating the NP. An extensive reply had been received which did not answer our query. It was agreed that the WC letter should be circulated to Councillors and Dean and Cindy should go through it in detail and come forward with a recommended course of action at the next meeting.

Action: Dean Cowley/ Cindy Creasy

Green waste lorry liquid discharge – the issue had been raised with PCAP and discussed at their meeting on 21st October. Other parishes had agreed that this is an issue but felt that probably little that can be done about it. Susie Brew from PCAP agreed to contact Wilts Council about the issue.

Martinsell Hill road – the issue of flooding at the bottom of Martinsell Hill had been raised with the Highways Engineer (Rich Dobson) who had met with Paul Oatway (Chair Milton Lilbourne PC) as the road is in Milton. It was reported that the issue was due to the ditches at the side of the road collapsing. Wilts are putting together a works programme for a JCB in the coming weeks and this work is on the list. David Butler reported that he had carried out some work in the area to prevent cars becoming stuck in the holes which had formed at the side of the road.

Drainage work in village – The road engineer had also been chased for dates when the promised alteration work to the road drainage in the village and the cleaning out of gullies was going to take place but had not yet provided that information.

Action - continue to chase - Clerk

It was reported that the Parish Steward who should have been here in November had been called away to Potterne where there had been flooding and a land slip. No dates for 2022 had yet been issued. Councillors expressed concern about the number of times the steward had been seen in the area parked up but not actually working which did not reflect well on the perception of the Council and it was agreed to speak to Jerry Kunkler about this. A meeting had previously been held early in 2019 with JK and the surrounding parishes to address this issue which had resulted in improved performance for a period but this had not lasted. *Action: Clerk*

Defibrillator - the dusk to dawn bulb had been replaced.

4. Appointment of new clerk

Dean Cowley reported that the appointment process for a new clerk had been concluded and an offer of employment, subject to Council approval, had been made to Julian Beames which had been accepted.

A proposal to approve the appointment was made by Dean Cowley and seconded by Clare Bamforth and supported unanimously.

Neil Worthington reported that he had had meetings with Julian to begin the handover process and that he would complete the minutes and actions from this meeting before handing over the parish laptop when effectively the changeover will come into effect. Support will continue to be available whenever necessary.

5. Report from Wiltshire Councillor

Jerry Kunkler was unable to attend due to another meeting but had reported that there was little business going on due to restructuring of new directors who are about to take their posts.

6. Police matters

Neil Worthington had checked the police website for the latest dates available and there was a record of one vehicle crime in the parish, a burglary, in August and none in September.

7. Planning

There were no new applications to consider but the following updates on outstanding applications were reported.

Church Farm – approval had been given for the attenuation pond (20/02848/FUL) which the planning officer had said cleared all outstanding planning issues on the development. Dean Cowley reported that the site owners had stated that they would be formulating a plan of action and would keep the Parish Council informed when activity on site was likely to commence.

House near Canal – (PL/2021/06929) – the application had been removed from the WC website and was marked as Invalid due to an issue with the boundaries. The Highways consultation which had been published had stated that the vehicular access did not conform to the required standards and was unacceptable.

House near Manor Farmhouse – (PL/2021/06385) – no decision had yet been made but the Conservation Officer’s report had been published which stated that no dwelling should be allowed on the site due to the harm caused to surrounding heritage buildings and the Conservation Area.

8. Finance

The current financial position was reported as follows:-

Balance at Bank

Deposit Account	5,350.58
Current Account	<u>4,573.17</u>
Total funds in bank	<u>£9,923.75</u>

of which £2,138.34 was ring-fenced for Recreation Ground maintenance and new equipment.

Income/Payments

The following payment had been received - £1098.34 from the Church PCC as 50% proceeds from the August Bank Holiday fete and fun run event.

The following payments which had been made were approved by the Council

idverde July-Sept grass cutting	£276.38
Wessex – Contact Autumn 21	£23.00

The following new payments were approved for payment by BACS

Clerk salary 2020/21 - based on 3 hours/week @ £10.04 = £1566.24 (subject to PAYE)
Neil Worthington (payment to Viking for printer ink & paper) £79.75

BEAM

Figures for the year up to the end of October had been received from Ford Fuel Oil and showed an increase of 18.8% from last year to a total of 176,699 litres. Nick Mitchell-Briggs agreed to check the summary to ensure all the new members had been included. Assuming all was correct an invoice will be sent to Ford requesting payment of £883.50

Budget

Neil Worthington reported that the planned expenditure for this year (2021/22) was £4056 and that he anticipated that the outgoings will be very close to that figure (although there were still over 4 months of the financial year to go). However, due to the increase in the BEAM rebate the anticipated income would increase by £140 so that the overall financial position would be better than expected.

Precept

Wiltshire have provided this year’s tax base figure which has slightly increased meaning that our precept can increase by £33 without showing any increase to an individual’s tax. The precept request has to be made by 18th January 2022 so it was agreed that the next PC meeting would be scheduled for 10th January before which the draft budget for 2022/23 and various funding options would be circulated.

9. Correspondence received

Wilts Highways had offered bags of road salt use in the village during winter and David Butler confirmed that they had been delivered and were being stored at East Wick until needed.

Details of a Community Environmental Toolkit published by Wilts Council were available to help plan projects to improve biodiversity. This was to be taken into account when the NP was updated.

10. Matters Raised by the Public

A number of empty cooking oil drums had been tipped behind the village hall and had been reported to Wilts for clearance. However, because the land was classed as private they would not clear them. Dumping of similar items had occurred in other locations and the possibility of tracing the offenders should be investigated.

Action: Dean Cowley

Rights of Way update – Cindy Creasy reported that Amanda Giles was now leading the group and they hoped to bring back a report to the January meeting with plans to improve the most used paths in the parish.

Telephone box – as BT were reportedly decommissioning old style telephone boxes and selling them cheaply a query was raised whether it would be possible to purchase one for use as a book swap/information point as in other villages.

Action: Clerk

Date of the next meeting - 10th January 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall