Wootton Rivers Parish Council

Website: www.woottonriverspc.co.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th of September 2026

1. **Present:**

Dean Cowley	Parish Council Chair
David Butler	Councillor
Nick Jones	Councillor
Shelley Whitehead	Councillor
Steve Rawlings	Councillor
Julian Beames	Clerk

Apologies

Clare Bamforth	Vice Chair
Cindy Creasy	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 for this meeting.

3. **Agreement of Minutes**

   The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 6th of July 2026 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. **Report from Wiltshire Councillor**

   Jerry Kunkler was unable to attend due to a clash of meetings. He had emailed a report which stated that as the Council had been in summer recess there was not much to report. He mentioned that a new Parish Steward had been appointed and that he should be contacting the Clerk soon. The next area board meeting is on the 3rd of November.

5. **Report on Actions Arising from the Minutes -** No items were raised.

6. **Issues with the Electricity Supply**

   Following the recent power cuts the Council had made two formal complaints to SSEN regarding the continuing issues that are being experienced. The Council had asked for an explanation of the problems, a plan of action to address the issues and a temporary back up supply for the Village Hall as a resilience measure until SSEN's performance improves. The complaint has now been escalated to the Head of Region review.

   We are waiting a response from SSEN which has been promised by no later than the 9th of September. It was agreed by the Council that no matter what the outcome of the complaint was, a face-to-face meeting with a representative of SSEN would be requested to discuss the issues.

7. Parking issues on Forest Road

A resident had raised with the Council the problem of cars parking on narrow sections of the road and opposite entrances to properties which make it difficult for large vehicles to pass and for vehicles to enter or exit from driveways.
It was agreed that the Council should remind everyone not to park directly opposite driveways and to ensure that if they have visitors or park in the village to attend events, they take care to avoid causing an obstruction at narrow points on the road. This is especially important at busy times of the farming year when lots of agricultural activity is taking place. The Chair also undertook to draft a note that can be put on the windscreens of offending vehicles.

8. Planning

PL/2026/03475 - Land North of Forest Road, Wootton Rivers, Erection of 1no. Rural Worker's Dwelling including garage with associated parking area. Use existing highways access from Forest Road.
The Chair had received an up-date from the Senior Planning Officer who is dealing with the application. She has informed the Council that the Landscape Officer was not happy with the siting of the building within the plot and that she had also requested a review by a specialist agricultural consultant regarding the stated need for a dwelling on the land to tend to the cattle. It is likely that the application will have to be amended if it is to be approved and that it would then go out for another round of consultation if this was the case.

9. Recruitment of Replacement Clerk

The Chair informed the Council that an applicant; Kiran Haisman, who resides in the village had been interviewed by himself and two other Councillors. Following this successful interview, he proposed that she be appointed as the new Clerk. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Shelley Whitehead, and Councillors unanimously approved the proposal. The new Clerk will start the handover in the coming weeks and officially take up the appointment on the 1st of November 2026.

10. Finance Report

The bank balances are as follows:

Community Account	£5,367.76
Commercial Instant Access Account	£9,357.95

(The balances include a second erroneous BEAM related remittance from Ford Fuels for £737.60)

The Parish Council had received two donations from the Village Hall totalling of £421. 60 and £79.90 to allow the Parish Council to buy replacement equipment for the Recreation Ground.

The following payments have been made since the last meeting which required approval:

Fort Builders	£128.38	Fencing for the Recreation Ground
IdVerde	£377.87	July Invoice - Grass cutting
IdVerde	£ 377.87	September Invoice – Grass Cutting
J. Beames	£8.00	Printer paper
Defib World	£73.19	Replacement defibrillator pads

J. Beames	304.69	3 x 5L of paint for Railway Hut renovation
Net World Sports	401.73	Various items of equipment for the Rec.

Council resolved unanimously to approve all the payments.

The Clerk requested approval from the Council to repay Ford Fuels for their second erroneous payment that they had made into the Councils account. This was approved by the Council.

11. **Police Report** – No report

12. **Correspondence Received**
A request had been made by the Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee for the Parish Council to approve the purchase of a new storage shed and shed base for the Recreation Ground. If approved, the Village Hall would be willing to donate the cost of these to the Parish Council. The Parish Council gave their approval for up to £1,000 to be spent by the Council on this project, once the donation has been received from the Village Hall Committee.
Councillor Jones questioned whether an alternative type of store could be purchased rather than a shed. It was agreed to liaise with the Village Hall and the Recreation Ground team to agree the best option.

13. **Matters Raised by Councillors or the Public**
Councillor Jones informed the meeting that he had spotted hare coursers in the village and warned everyone to be aware. If anyone spots hare coursers, they should immediately dial 999 and not approach the people involved.

Councillor Butler mentioned that the surface of the road on Martinsell Hill was now very ‘glassy’ where the hot weather had melted the tar. He believes this will become an issue in the winter when wet or icy. It was agreed to contact the Milton Lilbourne clerk to highlight the issue to them. It will be reported on the MyWilts app and Northern Highways will be contacted by email.

Councillor Jones asked for the hedge on the South side of the to be trimmed as it has not been done recently.

A resident raised the issue of the paths between Clare Cottage and the back of the Pub being overgrown. The Chair undertook to contact the landowner to ask that the vegetation is cut back.

The problems with continued flooding at the bottom of Primrose Hill was raised. It was agreed that when the new Parish Steward arrives in the village, he will be asked to clear the ditch on the western side of the road to allow water to drain down to the lower field.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on the 9th of November 2026.

Signed as a true record……Date ……..
Dean Cowley – Chair