

**WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017**  
**at 7.30pm**  
**Village Hall**

**MINUTES**

**Present**

Cllr A Warner (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr J Thomas  
Cllr K Braden  
Cllr S Gabbatiss  
Cllr. B Gubbins  
Cllr. L. Seymour  
7 members of the public  
J Carlin (Clerk)

The meeting opened at 7.30 pm

1. **Apologies:** District Cllr Cottrell Dormer, Cllr Loftus
2. **Disclosure of Interest:** K Braden (school governor (4)) Cllr Seymour and Cllr Warner (playing field management committee (5))
3. **Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017:** The Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

**Presentation by Chris Elliott, Chair of Governors, Wootton Primary School :** As outlined in the report at the Annual Parish Meeting, like many other small rural schools, finances for the primary school are tight as costs increasingly outweigh income, and this will in time become unsustainable. Funding allocations from the education authorities have not kept pace with inflation, resulting in the school being forced to make cuts in spending and, in recent years, school reserves have also had to be drawn on to support the budget. The Governing body are considering a number of things to address this, including conversion to the Oxfordshire Diocesan multi academy School Trust which will be able to provide some additional support and flexibility in the short term.

The other main initiative being considered by the Governors is the redevelopment of the school in the village to increase capacity to 105 places and also enable some of the services it currently has to outsource, due to the physical constraints of the current school, to be brought in house. This would allow the cost base of the school to become financially sustainable in the longer term.

The main problem is that the current school site has a difficult layout to improve and this is limiting the physical ability to grow the school. The current school capacity is around 70, however pupil intake at the bottom of the school is limited by the school layout. Also there is no available space and resources to provide either a pre-school in the village (a natural feeder to the school) or extended pre- and after-school care provision to support working parents. The lack of these facilities do not make the school attractive in comparison to some others in the local area, but both could be provided as part of a redevelopment of the school.

In addition, long-term consideration needs to be given to the West Oxfordshire Local Plan for housing which has identified over 300 additional homes in Old Woodstock. These are in Wootton's catchment area and would create additional school demand that would need to be met.

The three options being considered for the redevelopment of the school are:

- i) To re-model the existing site of the school – this has been dismissed as not viable due to the limited size of it and constraints of the existing buildings
- ii) To retain the existing site and acquire an additional site within the village to provide the additional capacity
- iii) To relocate to an entirely new site in the village and build a completely new school – the most costly at an estimated £3m. The sale of the existing school would offset part of the costs but remaining funding would need to be identified, including the potential for that in part to come from the new school being part of a development.

  
11/9/17

For options ii) and iii) the Governors have identified a potential site on the land behind Marriott Close. Preliminary discussions have taken place with the Oxfordshire County Council and the agent for the landowner. Further consultation is planned in due course with parents at the school and West Oxfordshire District Council.

Our thanks to Chris Elliott and the Governors who attended the Parish Council Meeting for presenting such a clear and balanced report of the situation. No one wants to lose the school in Wootton and we wish them every success in their eventual decision.

#### 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes which are not covered elsewhere:

- **Wootton Website:** Cllr Gabbatiss reported that the main problem is getting people used to visiting the site and sending information to be put on – he is always happy for anything to be sent to him for inclusion (simongab.btinternet.com). Eventually it is hoped to have individuals responsible for topic pages. **Cllr Gabbatiss** to order a banner to advertise the website which can be moved round the village. **Nicholas Tomlinson** offered to help in arranging a meeting with interested individuals.
- **Defibrillator Spares:** two replacement pads and one battery have been ordered and put in the defibrillator. One spare pair of pads to be ordered. The Defibrillator to be checked annually.
- **Fund Raising for new play area:** Graham Lawrence, Playfield Management Committee outlined proposals for the new playground and recreation area. The existing Seesaw and climbing frame bridge have been decommissioned and it has been decided to revamp the whole site and include plans for adult and teenage fitness. The total cost will be approx £49,000 and care has been taken to site equipment for safety and care not to overlook bordering houses. It is hoped to obtain a substantial part of the costs through grant applications and village fundraising. The schoolchildren have been involved in choosing equipment and it is planned to give a presentation to the school and encourage sponsorship forms to be distributed for the summer holidays. All donations need to be made via the Parish Council in order for VAT to be reclaimed. Our thanks to Graham for explaining the plans and providing excellent aerial photos of the proposed changes.

5. **County Council and District Council Matters :** Cty Councillor Ian Hudspeth thanks everyone who re-elected him as councillor for the Woodstock division and he has also been re-elected as Leader of the Council. In his July Parish Report he confirms that all seven **Household Waste Recycling Centres** in the county will remain open in the medium term. The charge for non-household waste eg. soil, rubble will be increased from £1 to £1.50 from October. **OCC's Trading Standards Service** working in partnership with Thames Valley Police, banks and other agencies have saved over £250,000 for the victims of rogue traders in the last 12 months This is the largest amount of money ever saved by the Doorstep Crime Team since it was established 12 years ago. Anyone with concerns of targeting by rogue traders should report it to Trading Standards via 03454 04 05 06.

#### 6. Proposed Planning

- **Parrotts, Church St, Wootton** Erection of a detached dwelling for staff accommodation (17/00756/FUL) – **withdrawn**
- **Parrotts, Church St, Wootton** – (17/02033/HHD) Omit the kitchen window on the south side and install French doors on the west elevation. Build the approved proposed conservatory against the stone wall on the south side – **under consideration**
- **Parrotts, Church St, Wootton** - 17/02034/LBC) Alterations to include omitting the kitchen window on the south side and install French doors on the west elevation
- **Land West of Marriott Close, Wootton** – J Clutterbuck Childrens Discretionary Trust (17/01333/FUL) Erection of ten dwellings with associated works – **Under consideration**
- **Parrotts, Church St, Wootton** - Mr Mark Eccles-Williams (17/01726/LBC) (17/01725/HHD) Single storey rear extension and widen vehicular access. Erection of new entrance gates – **under consideration**
- **Parrotts, Church St, Wootton** – Mr Mark Eccles-Williams (17/01652/FUL) Build single storey cottage – **under consideration**
- **Kimberley, Burditch Bank, Wootton** – Ms Bryony Taylor-Edwards (17/00912/HHD) Construction of dormer window to rear elevation – **Approve**
- **High Bank, Burditch Bank, Wootton** - Mr & Mrs Mead (17/01179/HHD) Erection of single storey front extension to create additional bedrooms with study above. Insertion of additional rooflight in existing south facing roof slope.- **Approve**
- **Meadowland, Horseshoe Lane, Wootton** – Mr Andrew Firth (17/01215/FUL) Erection of dwelling – **Withdrawn**
- **Killingworth Castle Inn, Glympton Road, Wootton** – Mr Jim Alexander (17/00851/OUT) Outline planning application for two semi detached cottages and new access in rear garden – **withdrawn**





7. **Financial Matters and Bills to pay** Parish Council bank balances:  
 Current (No 1 a/c): £6679.11  
 Parish Council Project Fund (No 2 a/c): £662.43  
 Business Reserve a/c: £0.30  
 Parish Clerk Work: £72.70 Cheque 000445  
 HMRC for Clerk's tax: £18.20 Cheque No. 000446  
 NFU Mutual insurance renewal £216.06 (paid 24.5.17) Cheque No 000443  
 AON Local Council insurance renewal £803.05 (paid 23.6.2017) Cheque No. 000444  
 WEL Medical Ltd – replacement pads and battery £200.88 Cheque No. 000447  
 Donation to memorial ceremony for re-dedication of the Christ figure from Manancourt £300 Cheque No. 000448
8. **Bartons Bus:** It is thought that this service is attracting more numbers, especially the new Tuesday service.
9. **2017 Countryfile Live:** presentation held on 30<sup>th</sup> May to discuss arrangements. Cllrs Thomas, Loftus and Gubbins attended and reported that considerable effort had been made to improve the traffic problems. **Clerk** to see if any possibility for complimentary tickets.
10. **Speed Checks:** Following the Wootton Annual Meeting, Phil Workman, PCSO has passed on the request for Speed Enforcement to P C Rob Webb who will carry out a small Operation with the Laser Gun. Phil also reports that he used the Speed Indication Device between 0735 – 0835 on the B4027 checking on vehicles heading towards the A4260. A total of 120 vehicles passed and 20 were doing 36mph and above which is the criteria for letters to be sent out and details kept on the Thames Valley Police database. Thank you Phil.
11. **Replacement Noticeboard:** Cllr Gubbins had obtained quotes for replacement of a similar type from Greenbarnes Ltd and the costs would be approx £12,500. It was suggested that a local craftsman might be interested in making a replacement or refurbishing the existing noticeboard if practicable. **Cllr Gubbins and Cllr Warner** to make enquiries.
12. **Visit of the Mayor of Etricourt-Manancourt, Northern France:** proposed visit of council and church members to Wootton on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August to attend a memorial ceremony and re-dedication of the Christ figure from Manancourt installed 5<sup>th</sup> August 1917. Plans are a welcome meeting at the Killingworth Castle on **Fri Aug 4<sup>th</sup>** when it is hoped council members would attend to give an official welcome and then a brief memorial ceremony on **Sat Aug 5<sup>th</sup>** in the church (3pm?) followed by an English Afternoon Tea in the village hall. Members of Stoke Poges council are hoping to attend as they have a link with Manancourt, also John Harwood (Vice Lord Lieutenant). Invitations have been sent to the Duke, Dashwood family and Stanley family and BBC Oxford and The Oxford Times. It is hoped as many councillors as possible will attend on Friday at the Killingworth to give an official welcome. Nicholas asked if the Parish Council were able to give any financial help towards the entertainment and food and it was agreed that £300 be given as a donation (Pro: Cllr Warner/S. Cllr Thomas)
13. **Any Other Business:**
- **HorseChestnut Trees in Castle Road:** Two of these trees have already come down and been replaced and the remaining three big trees are known to be diseased. Would be a good idea to request OCC to check on them to prevent accidents – **Clerk**
  - **Top Lane road sign missing** – this has been reported to WODC
  - **Dog Mess** – reported along Milford Lane. Reminder to be sent to Outreach to keep dogs in the village on leads and clear up mess – **Clerk**
  - **Pot Holes** - some have been filled in but not very permanently. A reminder to everyone to report any pot holes individually: [www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20086/roads](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20086/roads).
  - **Manor Court** – this has recently been resurfaced but the white lines have not been repainted which makes it difficult and dangerous at the end of the road
  - **Book Exchange Red Telephone Box:** Cllr Gabbatiss is in contact with a private benefactor who would be willing to pay for an old style red telephone box to be re-sited where the grey one was removed. It could then be fitted with shelving and used for a free book exchange for the village. Unanimous approval – **Cllr Gabbatiss**
  - **Fun Day at Wootton Memorial Playing Field on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 3pm onwards** – Please support.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

**Future Meetings:**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.30 pm**  
 Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.30 pm  
 Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30 pm  
 Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.30 pm  
 Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm  
 followed by Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 pm  
 Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 7.30 pm  
 Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 7.30 pm  
 Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7.30 pm

Jane Carlin (Clerk)

