

**WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL****MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 4th September 2023**

Councillors Present: Cllrs J Harwood, F Bates, M Brown, M Eccles-Williams, F Mackinlay, A Molyneux.

Members of Public: County Cllr Andy Graham, District Cllr Tim Sumner, 3 members of the public

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**33/24 Apologies and Declarations**

- 24.1 Apologies: Apologies had been received from Cllr Salter
- 24.2 No declarations of interest had been made.

**34/24 Minutes**

- 25.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 were approved and accepted into record and signed by the Chair.
- 25.2 **Matters arising:**

Matters for information only arising from these minutes –

- 2.1.1 B4027 road safety issues – Chair reported he had met residents and a local meeting had taken place between one resident and the owners of Killingworth Castle who were sympathetic. They were unwilling to remove the hedge to allow a footpath to be added to the road but would allow local people to cross the garden between Castle Road gate and the car park entrance. Chair waiting for confirmation of detail so the arrangement could be published in Outreach.
- 2.1.2 Coronation Trees - Cllr Brown will meet with Steve Taylor to work out how many trees can be planted on Castle Road. Grant funding is awaited. Report back at next meeting.
- 2.1.3 Neighbourhood Plan - Cllr Bates had circulated notes ahead of the meeting. She is waiting to hear from WODC Planning regarding how to work with the local plan. A village wide consultation will take place. Chair expressed thanks to Cllrs Bates & Mackinley for their work.

**35/24 Open forum**

- 26.1 County Councillor:
  - Bus turning in Woodstock was now unacceptable because of recent crash. A Traffic Regulation Order may be required to ensure S7 buses turn at Wootton. Steps have been taken to improve access to WODC services via internet, but the telephone opening hours will be reduced, however very little contact is made by phone so this should not be a great problem. The council chamber has been refurbished and will be available for hire by the public.
- 26.2 District Councillor
  - Cllr Tim Sumner reported on the Local Plan saying it is a great opportunity.
- 26.3 Public – One member of the public raised the issue of the hedge and ash trees along Burditch Bank. (minute ref 42/24). The Chair explained that the county council had made it clear that they had no responsibility for the maintenance of

this piece of land. A question was then asked, in the light of the apparent dangerous state of the trees, whether the county council had a duty of care to those using the public highway. The Chair explained that the PC was not able to answer that question but the county cllr present agreed to look into it.

#### 36/24 Planning

- 4.1 21/04046/HHD & 04047/LBC – Manor Farm Chapel Hill appeal – appeal rejected.
- 4.2 22/03280/HHD - Horseshoe House – approved.
- 4.3 23/00868/OUT – Killingworth Castle- outline planning approved
- 4.4 23/01234/LBC & 23/01233/FUL – Ludwell Farm Glympton – application withdrawn
- 4.5 23/02093/S73 Beech Cottage, Tew Lane – revision out for consultation. PC had no objection to the revisions.
- 4.6 Slape Hill Quarry – approved (OCC)

#### 37/24 Botley West Consultation

The PINS decision on the coverage of the scoping report covered most of the views expressed by WPC and other councils. The timetable for the next phase of consultation seemed to have slipped considerably.

#### 38/24 WRIN

Cllr Molyneux as the chair of the selection panel reported that 4 applications had been considered at a meeting and after considerable discussion the applicants Mrs Carry Yanny (unanimously) and Simon Heighes (by majority) were selected for recommendation to the Council. Cllr Salter requested it be recorded that he did not agree with the appointment of Simon Heighes. It was proposed by Cllr Molyneux and seconded by Cllr Bates that the report and recommendation be agreed. **Those present resolved unanimously to approve the recommendation accordingly.**

#### 39/24 Community Charging points for EVs - WCAST not taking up offer – no interest or suitable location within Wootton.

#### 40/24 Grasscutting Contract

Cllr Bates reported that the grass and verges have now been cut; the process had been long drawn out and expensive. Current contractor charges per hour – Cllr Bates proposed to restrict number of hours for a second cut in October which would cost £340+VAT. This was agreed. **It was also agreed that Cllr Bates be authorised to invite quotations for 2024 on the basis of the current specification, and to submit an estimate for inclusion in the 2024-25 budget.**

#### 41/24 Highways.

Cllrs have checked salt bins and all which were checked are full, so further supplies are not required for 2024.

#### 42/24 Land between Burditch Bank houses and the B4027.

The Chair reported that this situation had come to light because the county council had written to WPC asking if the owner of the land on the Glympton Road side of Burditch

Bank was known. Their approach was because the ash trees on this piece of land have die-back and are potentially dangerous. PC thought the land was maintained by Highways, but the county council is clear that they are not responsible for the verge only the tarmac surface of Burditch Bank road. The Chair said that he had replied to OCC offering to ask the PC if it would be willing to assume responsibility for the maintenance of this piece of land but would require more detail about its extent. It was not clear however what powers the parish had to take over the land as highway powers were irrelevant because it was not classified as highway. Chair had asked OALC for advice on this. In the meantime, he had urged the county council to use its powers to mitigate the danger to the public using the Burditch Bank and Glympton roads. Cllr Andy Graham agreed to look into the question of whether the county council had a duty of care to those using the roads near the dangerous trees. **Following the discussion, the Chair was authorised to write again to the county council expressing the concerns raised at this meeting.**

**43/24 Finance**

**43.01.** The payment list was circulated before the meeting and was approved and signed by 2 members of the Finance Committee.

**43.02** The form for Unity Bank was signed to reflect the clerk's change of address.

**Date of next meetings :** 02/10, 06/11, 04/12.

Signed ..... Date .....