

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting on Monday 12th March 2018
at 7.30pm
Village Hall

MINUTES

Present

Cllr. P. Loftus (Chairman)
Cllr. A Warner
Cllr. J. Thomas
Cllr S Gabbatiss
Cllr. L. Seymour
Cllr. B. Gubbins
1 member of the public
J Carlin (Clerk)

The meeting opened at 7.30 pm

1. **Apologies:** District Cllr. Cottrell-Dormer, County Cllr Hudspeth, Cllr Braden
2. **Disclosure of Interest** - Nil
3. **Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Monday 8th January 2018:** The Minutes of 8th January 2018 were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes which are not covered elsewhere:**
 - **Noticeboard and upkeep of seats:** The replacement noticeboard is currently being varnished and Perspex needs to be fitted. It is hoped it will be in place before the next Parish Council meeting in May. Thanks to Cllrs Gabbatiss and Warner for this work – the total costs should be in the order of £500.
Seats: Cllr. Gabbatiss is currently overhauling the seat at the end of the village by the bridge which was submerged in the water. After cleaning and wood treatment he is hopeful that it will be back in use. It was suggested that the Parish Council could consider replacing some seating in the longterm, possibly with recycled plastic benches which are less costly and durable.
 - **Fund Raising for Play Area:** This is proceeding very well with 60% of the money needed having been raised. The recent Village Bop was a great success and raised over £1,500. Blenheim have agreed to donate £10,000 towards the project and are also prepared to pay an up front total payment as a guaranteed loan which covers the problem of some grants only being paid on completion.
 - **Wootton Website** – this is still struggling with lack of regular contributions. Members of the Sports Club have been approached for fixtures reporting and **Cllr Gabbatiss** to approach the School.
 - **Cows in Jubilee Meadows:** there are no cows at the current time. The Parish Council praised Jim Fletchers article in Outreach and fully understands that it is necessary to have animals to keep the grassland controlled. Previous use of sheep was abandoned because of the problem of dogs harassing them.
 - **Bicycle Racks at the Wootton Turn:** Cllr Gabbatiss reported that single hoops to which bicycles can be padlocked are relatively inexpensive – approx £50 - £70. **Cllr Loftus** to make enquiries from the Highways Dept to see if there would be any objections.
 - **Red Telephone Box for Village:** this has been put on hold for the present as it is understood that the Village Shop already has a book and video exchange.
5. **County Council and District Council :** : OCC agreed its budget on 13 February with Council Tax to rise by 5.99% , the maximum amount allowed with a referendum. Key points include:
 - Finances are sound with difficult decisions having already been taken
 - The Council Tax rise will deliver extra money to adults and children's social care
 - Proposal to extend £500,000 contribution for homelessness for an extra year in 2019/20
 - 10 year programme to improve transport network and release money for road maintenance
 - £15,000 for each of the 63 county councillors to spend on local priorities.


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Potholes: more staff have been drafted in to carry out inspections and an additional Dragon-Patcher is now in action. There is good news in the form of almost £1m in extra funding from the Dept of Transport in recognition of the damage done to roads by the bad weather – this will be spent on road patching later in the year when weather conditions are stable. If a defect has paint markings around it then it has already been scheduled for repair and does not need reporting.

WODC has approved the budget for 2018-19 promising to protect services and maintain grants to the voluntary sector. Council tax will rise by just £2.75 a year which is the second lowest charge for district councils in England.

6. Proposed Planning ,

- **Parrotts, Church St, Wootton** – Mr Eccles-Williams (17/03778/LBC)
Alterations to form two pedestrian openings in garden wall – **Approve**
- **Meadowland, Horseshoe Lane, Wootton** – Mr Andrew Frith (18/00523/HHD)
Alterations to door and window openings on rear elevation and patio level

7. Financial Matters and Bills to pay:

Parish Council bank balances:

Current (No 1 a/c: £5,660.05

Parish Council Project Fund (No 2 a/c): £7,614.26

Business Reserve a/c: £0.30

Parish Clerk Work: £72.70 Cheque No. 000474

HMRC for Clerk's tax: £18.20 Cheque No. 000475

Advert for new Clerk – Woodstock and Bladon News £42 Cheque No 000476

OPFA Membership renewal £42.00 Cheque No. 000477

OALC Membership renewal £135.06 Cheque No. 000478

Cq No. 415 Cx – In honarium grass cutting to L Davis £22.50 – refused

Donation to Bartons Bus £250.00 Cheque No. 000479

8. Village Clean Up: It was decided that this would be best postponed until May or June when the weather has improved. Date to be fixed and suggested that the Killingworth Castle be invited to participate with refreshments afterwards.

9.. Replacement Clerk: There has been only one applicant for this vacancy. Mr Bobby Damarell (Bobs) , who is currently Clerk for Ludgershall. It is disappointing that no-one from the Village is interested but has the advantage that he will have considerable experience and can combine the roles to mutual advantage. **Cllr Loftus** to arrange a meeting. Thanks were expressed to the current Clerk.

10. Donation to Bartons Bus: It was decided that as this service is now being used on a regular basis by several Wootton residents and is greatly valued by the Village, a further donation in support should be made. Unanimous support for donation of £250

11. Date of Extraordinary Meeting: Monday 16th April at 6.30pm to sign off the Years End Accounts.

12. Any Other Business:

- **Plantation Woodland area;** concern that the small area of woodland next to the new housing development in Marriott Close has several red No Access signs. This land is part of the Clutterbucks estate but is widely used as a walking cut through. Cllr Warner reports that it is a Health and Safety issue to ensure that children don't stray onto the building site and is hopefully a temporary measure.
- **Salt Bins:** the salt bin at the bottom of the hill is empty and several others depleted. New supplies will need to be ordered in July.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Future Meeting Dates

Monday 16th April 6.30 pm to sign off the End of Year Accounts
Monday 14th May 2018 Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm
followed by Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 pm
Monday 9th July 2018 at 7.30 pm
Monday 10th September 2018 at 7.30 pm


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