

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting on Monday 12th September 2016
at 7.30pm
Village Hall

MINUTES

Present

Cllr P Loftus (Chairman)
Cllr A Warner
Cllr L Seymour
Cllr J Thomas
Cllr K Braden
Cllr S Gabbatiss
Cllr. B Gubbins
County Cllr. Ian Hudspeth
6 members of the public
J Carlin (Clerk)

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm

1. **Apologies:** District Cllr. C Cottrell-Dormer
2. **Disclosure of Interest:** there were no disclosure of interests
3. **Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Monday 11th July:** The Minutes of 11th July 2016 were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes which are not covered elsewhere:**
 - **Bartons Bus:** This is now successfully running on Mondays and Thursdays – timetable on the notice board and in the Village Shop. Good news that bus passes can be used as the service has a charity status. It is hoped to eventually purchase an additional bus to enable the service to be increased. The **Comet Bus** which is run by OCC is an alternative option for those with no access to public transport. This can be used for shopping, whereby the driver picks up several people from their home addresses at a charge of 75p per mile. If used for an individual journey eg. GP apt, the cost is £1.50 per mile. The service is available weekdays 10 am – 2pm and can be booked by calling 01865 323201
 - **Tidying up grass verges:** It has been decided that this should be carried out in early Spring 2017 on a volunteer basis.
 - **Dog Waste Bin:** relocated to the entrance to Jubilee Meadows where it is hoped it will get maximum use and clean up the meadowland. Apologies to those who preferred the original siting. Provision of an additional bin now incurs a weekly emptying fee as well as £240 initial cost.
 - **Woottonweb:** This should be officially launched in the next few weeks.
 - **Bank Signatories:** reminder for new Councillors to go into Nat West Bank Kidlington with proof of identity
5. **County Council and District Council Matters :** Joint statement from Oxfordshire County Council and Oxfordshire's district/city councils. All the Oxfordshire councils have agreed to work together to find a way forward for devolution and local government reorganisation in Oxfordshire. It is agreed to postpone publication of both the Grant Thornton and PwC studies and pause plans for consultation until the plans have been jointly developed. County Cllr Hudspeth said that both reports show that a potential saving of £20m could be made so worthwhile getting the re-organisation right to enable Oxfordshire to borrow future money to fund the infrastructure under future devolution.

Proposed Planning

- **Little Hordley, Wootton, Woodstock:** Blenheim Estates (16/02261/FUL) Conversion, repair and refurbishment of the existing agricultural buildings to create five new dwellings. Provision of both vehicular and pedestrian accesses – **under consideration**
- **Barn at Grims Dyke Farm, Woodleys:** Mr A A Ponsonby (16/02243/FUL) Conversion of redundant traditional barns to form two dwellings including new single storey link extension to one barn. Formation of parking area to serve both dwellings – **under consideration**
- **Wootton Down Farm, Wootton, Woodstock** - 12th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough (16/02654/HHD and 16/12655/LBC) Extension and alterations to farmhouse and extension of existing boiler room. Remodelling of hard and soft landscaping – **under consideration**
- **Greenway House, 73 Castle Road, Wootton** - Mrs Rachel Budge (16/02917/HHD) Relocation of oil tank from side of property to front of property, hidden behind the hedge

6. Financial Matters and Bills to pay

Parish Council bank balances:

Current (No 1 a/c): £4,730.11

Parish Council Project Fund (No 2 a/c): £368.33

Business Reserve a/c: 0.23p

Parish Clerk Work: £72.70 Cheque No. 000404

HMRC for Clerk's tax: £18.20 Cheque No. 000405

Balance outstanding for new well cover £800.00 Cheque No. 000403

Payment of £578 to M Tuely – total donation money held in Business Reserve A/c Cheque No. 000406

Fire safety Rospa Inspection - £88.20 Cheque No. 000407

BDO Audit Fee £120.00 Cheque No. 000408

Grass cutting grant payment received £542.64

7. **Annual Return:** and BDO certificate has been approved with two minor points of correction for next year but no additional fee incurred. Notice of Conclusion of Audit published on PC Noticeboard.
8. **Precept grant application forms:** these to be sent automatically to past recipients and an article in Outreach inviting any new applicants. Forms should be returned to the Clerk (janecarlin2@hotmail.com – 18 Rectory Lane, Woodstock OX20 1UF) by the end of October to give the PC time to study them before the meeting in November. It is requested that applications should include accounts for previous years and details of what the money procured was used for and what plans were in place for any new grant. – **Clerk**
9. **Transport Representative for Wootton:** Believed to be Mr Michael Lowe. **Cllr Thomas** to contact and see if he is still happy to fulfil this role.
10. **Potholes** this is an ongoing problem, unfortunately recently involving the Rector in a hole opposite the Village Shop which has now been filled in. OCC now has a mobile patching unit – 'the Dragon' which can potentially fill 20 potholes a day. The PC urges residents of Wootton to report any pothole that is likely to cause problems by e-mailing www.oxfordshire.gov.uk and searching 'potholes'.
11. **School Bus:** several members of the public attended the meeting to specifically raise this issue. There is a split in the village of those living outside the 3 mile limit and thereby incurring a charge of £300 per year per child for use of the school bus and those who are within it (Castle Road area). It is deemed that children living outside the limit should theoretically be able to walk to school across the Top Field, past Hordley and along the cycle path to Green Lane in Woodstock – an area often flooded in Winter months and involving a very busy main road. All were in agreement that this was ridiculous and very unsafe and an Appeal is currently in process. County Cllr Hudspeth explained the problems of drawing up the routes which are technically measured from front door to school gate and urged parents to contact Roy Leach or Neil Dartington to appeal the decision. PC agreed to send a letter of support – **Cllr Loftus**
12. **Speeding Traffic on B4027:** a copy of a letter sent to OCC from Mrs Ann Leggett was received concerning a marked increase in speeding traffic ignoring the 30mph speed limit. It was acknowledged this is a dangerous problem, as is speeding through the Village and down West End Hill. The PC has sent numerous requests for traffic calming measures and warning signs to no avail in the current economic cutbacks. Speed traps carried out

by the Police have been non-productive, Wootton Village is quiet and peaceful during the day but the offences tend to occur at night or in the early morning. The best solution would be for anyone witnessing speeding offences to report it and thereby build up a significant consensus of public opinion for traffic calming measures. Our thanks to Mrs Leggett for writing to OCC and the PC will likewise send a report - Clerk

13. Grant Funding for community projects: In theory grants may be available to help with setting up of a website to meet with the requirements of the Transparency Code. Cllr Seymour to see if applicable. And funding is available for community projects which may be of relevance to updating the Playfield Corner. Cllr Warner pointed out that in order to get a grant it is usually necessary for public fundraising to be in place

14. Any Other Business

- Cllr Thomas commented that some of the verges at road corners were potentially dangerous, in particular making a right turn at Milford Bridge is very dangerous. Information can be found at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/grass-verge-cutting-programme-2016 or to report specific concerns tel. 0845 310 1111. This has already been reported previously.
- Mr Ray Grantham drew attention to the fact that those wishing to use a bus apart from Mondays and Thursdays had to walk to the A44 along roads with high verges, no pavement and no drainage.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

Future Meetings:

Monday 14th November 2016 at 7.30pm

Monday 9th January 2017 at 7.30pm

Monday 13th March 2017 at 7.30 pm

Monday 8th May 2017 – Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm

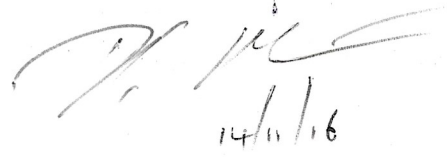
followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

Monday 10th July 2017 at 7.30pm

Monday 11th September 2017 at 7.30 pm

Monday 13th November 2017 at 7.30 pm

Jane Carlin (Clerk)



Handwritten signature and date: 14/11/16