

**WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 7.30pm**  
**Village Hall**

**MINUTES**

**Present**

Cllr M Tuely (Chairman)  
Cllr A Warner  
Cllr P Loftus  
Cllr L Seymour  
Cllr J Thomas  
Cllr J Yates  
J Carlin (Clerk)  
County Cllr. Ian Hudspeth

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm

**1. Apologies:** Cllr. D Parsons, District Cllr Charles Cottrell-Dormer

**2. Disclosure of Interest:** there were no disclosure of interests

**3. Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May:** The Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

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

- **Grass Cutting;** the grant for 2015/16 has been cut 50% this year to £542.64 and the current tender (£1025.00) will be up for review in 2016. The Parish Council had been approached by Oxfordshire Wildlife and Community Gardens to give a presentation of their services. Unfortunately they were unable to attend. It was agreed to see if they could attend later in the year at a less busy time –  
**Clerk**
- Cllr Warner produced photo evidence that the partially obscured barbed wire fence at the side of Milford Bridge parallel to the river has been removed. This was a potential danger to walkers and dogs.

The following three topics were briefly discussed as they had been raised at the Annual Meeting

- **Memorial in Churchyard:** Cllr Tuely currently awaiting a second quotation before he submits the application form.
- **Well Cover:** It was thought this could be made smarter and when in need of repair should be done in good wood.
- **Precept Grants:** Cllr Tuely advised that this had been increased from £6,000 to £8,000 in 2013 in line with inflation. There had been extra organisations applying and each had been assessed individually. A full discussion of need in each individual case will be made in November.

**5. Declaration of acceptance of Office:** Cllr J Yates signed

**6. Change of bank signatories:** Completed forms to be submitted to National Westminster Bank enabling Cllrs J Thomas and J Yates to sign cheques on behalf of Wootton Parish Council - **Clerk**

**7. County Council and District Council Matters :** County Cllr Ian Hudspeth reported a very tough budget with the likelihood of a further £60m cuts expected. Since 2010 Oxfordshire County Council has saved £204m. They are currently working on next February's budget. There is ever increasing pressure (approx 50% of the budget) on adult and children's social care which represents just 2% of the population.

  
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Transport: this has been good news in that there has still been investment in Highways. Following the improvements at the Wolvercote roundabout, work will commence on the Cutteslowe roundabout and then A 40 major improvements, which are the subject of public consultation at present. All are likely to cause major disruption and have to be carried out fairly quickly before the funding runs out in 2018.

Bus Subsidies: Currently out for public consultation which closes on 14<sup>th</sup> September. The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council are the independent facilitator during the consultation. The Council needs to save more than £6m on supported transport services and running them more efficiently will not be enough. Obviously there is concern in Wootton as W12 service is at High Risk.

## 8. Planning:

- The Bake House, Chapel Hill, Wootton. Alterations and changes to internal layout including raising of existing garage roof height to create additional first floor accommodation and erection of single storey rear extension (15/01556/HHD) **Approved**
- 44 Castle Road, Wootton. Extension and refurbishment of existing outbuilding to form storage area (15/01581/HHD) - **Approved**
- 75 Castle Road, Wootton. Alteration and conversion of garage and erection of link extension. Mr Richard Mulcock (15/00946/HHD) –**Approved**
- Old Gloving House, Mill Lane, Wootton. Part re-roofing. (15/02363/LBC)

## 9. Financial Matters and Bills to pay

Parish Council bank balances:

Current (No 1 a/c): £3,205.06

Parish Council Project Fund (No 2 a/c): ~~£947.33~~ 1125.53

Business Reserve a/c: £180.12

- Parish Clerk Work: £72.70 Cheque No. 000362
- HMRC for Clerk's tax: £18.20 Cheque No. 00363
- Village Hall Hire May 2014 – March 2015 @£12 : £72.00 Cheque No. 000364
- NFU Mutual Insurance renewal £198.33 Cheque No. 000361 (paid 21/5/2105 on late invoice)

**10. Mobile Library:** The mobile library will call at Well corner on alternate Tuesdays 2.35pm – 2.55pm commencing on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July. The Parish Council have received a request for staff to have use of toilet and washroom facilities or be provided with a key. There were no objections but this was felt to be the decision of the Village Hall Committee and would depend on school usage. Application to be made to Village Hall Committee - **Clerk**

**11. Salt Bags:** Time to order a free salt bag if needed but as last Winter was mild Wootton has surplus bags unopened. **Salt Bin:** Cllr J Thomas reported the salt bin on West End Hill is very overgrown with greenery – **Cllr Warner to investigate**

**12. Village Bus Service:** See comments under 7. Cllr Loftus had contacted the MD of Go Ride who reports that the 10.00 am bus which returns at lunch time, regularly has approx 6 users. The other buses are usually empty. There is great concern as Wootton is in a High Risk category of losing the service. The public consultation ends on 14<sup>th</sup> September (**see notice on Village Hall notice board with details of public meetings or phone 01865 883488**).

**13. Website:** The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has secured a multi-million pound package of funding from the Government to help smaller parish councils meet new audit and transparency rules. This has been discussed in previous years for Wootton and whilst it was agreed to be an ideal way to detail the history of Wootton Village and current and forthcoming events of interest, the difficulty is finding a volunteer interested and willing to keep it up to date. Ideally it would link in with the already existing websites of the School and Outreach. **Cllr Seymour** to discuss initially with Nicholas Tomlinson (Outreach).

## 14. Any Other Business

- **Speeding:** There have been concerns of speeding through the village. There is a 30 mph limit and an article to be sent to Outreach as a reminder – **Clerk**. As an additional check it would be very good to have a 'Give Way' sign at West End, approaching the bridge from the village where the road narrows,