

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting on Monday 16th September 2013 at 7.30pm
Village Hall

MINUTES

Present

Cllr Miles Tuely (Chairman)
Cllr Andy Warner
Cllr Dave Baldwin
Cllr Len Seymour
Cllr Peter Loftus
Cllr Trudie Lang
Jane Carlin (Clerk)
4 members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr Tuely welcomed all and opened the meeting at 7.30 pm. Apologies had been received from Cllr Parsons who was away. *Trudie*

2. Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 15th July 2013

There were no objections or amendments to the minutes of 15th July which were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting

3. Matters arising from the Minutes which are not covered elsewhere:

- **Trees of concern:** Cllr Dave Baldwin reported that the tree officer is aware and monitoring the Horse Chestnut which is on private land; likewise the Ash tree on the B4027 which now has a notice on it and will be a matter for the Highways dept.

An enquiry had been received from the solicitor on behalf of the owner of 'Parrotts' in Church Street Wootton regarding a piece of land adjacent to his home enclosed by a stone wall on which there are several large trees of concern. Oxfordshire County Council had advised him that this land is owned by the Parish Council. In fact the land is owned by Mrs Clutterbuck and it was suggested that this query be passed to her Agent. Clerk to e-mail with details.

- **Parish Path Warden:** no volunteers had come forward

M.C. Tuely
18/11/13

- **Footbridge at Hordley:** No reply had been received from the District Council Clerk to chase
- **Children's play area on the land at the back of Marriotts Close:** No reply had been received from Mrs Clutterbucks agent. Mention of this to be made in the e-mail to her Land Agent.

4. Parish Reports August 2013 and September 2013: No comment

5. Planning

- Garages at Castle Road Wootton – to create dwelling with attached double garage. – no decision. The main objections had been dealt with – overlooking windows to be obscurely glazed and not openable., but one of the main problems of parking and possible provision of double yellow lines was still not resolved.
- New Inn Cottage, Woodleys – erection of garage and change of use of land to domestic. The final application had been withdrawn as a strip of the land was understood to be owned by the County Council – it is thought that they are in negotiation to sell this piece of land. There was unanimous feeling that this layby area had long been used by the public for public benefit - as a safe drop off and pick up point for children waiting for buses and also used by lorries and coaches needing to pull off the road safely. It has been maintained by the villagers for the last 20 years and if up for sale should be open to anyone. These objections to be submitted forthwith. (David Metcalfe - ref. 13/1118/P/FP)
- Blue Barn, Tew Lane, Wootton – conversion of office units to dwelling – No objections

6. Notice of Conclusion of Audit: Approved and Accepted

7. Financial Matters and Bills to pay:

- **Parish Council bank balances**
Current (No 1 a/c): £2,228.92
Parish Council Project Fund (No 2 a/c): £2,106.53
Business Reserve a/c: £0.07
- **Parish Clerk work:** July/Aug 2013 (£87.28) – Cheque No 000294
- **HMRC for Clerk's tax:** July/Aug 2013 (£21.80) – Cheque No 000295
- **Fee for Conclusion of Audit:** £276.00 Cheque No 000297
- **Oxfordshire Playing Fields Assoc:** renewal of membership (£40.00) Cheque No. 000298
- **Playsafety Equipment:** Annual inspection £78.00 Cheque no. 000296

8. Review of Subsidised Bus Services: the bus relevant to Wootton is the Woodstock Wanderer which runs 4 times a day Mon – Fri. A Wootton resident who uses the bus daily attended the meeting to urge the Parish Council to push the matter very hard to avoid losing it. It is a vital asset in a rural community – not necessarily used to capacity but essential for people who have no other means of transport to get to Woodstock to the nearest doctor, post office and shops or as a connection to Oxford buses.. Wootton has lost its post office and a strong response is needed to ensure we don't lose this. Cllr Lang suggested it would be useful to talk to the regular bus driver, Tracy to find out who used it and how it was of benefit. The deadline for comments from Parishes is 15th November 2013. It was suggested that the individual Councillors should submit comments in support plus an item be sent to Outreach for inclusion in the next available issue (Clerk) (tim.darch@oxfordshire.gov.uk ref. TD/9356?WOx)

9. Rural Fair Share Petition: protesting that the current funding system is unfair. – Cllr Tuely to write to MP

10. Any Other Business:

- **West Oxon Citizens Advice Bureau request for donations:** Although it was felt this was a worthwhile charity there was a general feeling that any donations should be to benefit local causes not to a large national organisation – JC will contact the Citizens Advice to ask what is their local budget and where the money comes from.. The Parish Council has an amount of £300 set by to distribute to any worthwhile requests but several Councillors felt it was not the role of the Parish Council to give donations to charity as this was a personal choice. Cllr Warner pointed out that it had long been the policy of the Parish Council to give small donations to local causes and that the £300 put aside could be split into several small amounts. Cllr Tuely suggested that in fact we receive very few requests but that it would be sensible to wait until the end of the year and consider them all at the same time.
- **Parked Cars on the corner of B4027 and Tew Lane:** A complaint had been received from a regular user of this road. It was suggested she be asked to contact the Highways Agency as no-one else had reported a problem.(clerk)
- **Community Emergency Planning:** Cllr Tuely has sent relevant contact details.
- **Dangerous Dog:** Cllr Tuely concerned re an aggressive dog off the lead in the Meadows and elsewhere – he had heard of other similar occurrences and he will visit the owners.
- **Standing down of Chairman at Annual Parish Meeting:** the Minutes of the meeting of 3rd June should be amended to note that it is only the Chairman who should stand down and either be re-elected or replaced.
- **Salt Bags;** In addition to 1 free bag, it was agreed to order 1 extra (cost £100). Problem of storage. Cllr Tuely to speak to the Rev.

Stephen Jones re possibility of storage inside the church yard as this would be well placed at the top of any hills for access.

- **Refurbishment of the Village Hall:** The Chairman circulated a list of payments and receipts for the refurbishment of the village hall which had been produced by Marlene Fisher, who was congratulated on the successful outcome of the scheme.
- **Upkeep of the roadside:**
Cllr Tuely expressed a vote of grateful thanks to Dave Baldwin for weed spraying the edges of the roads in Wootton.

A problem was noted re overhanging growth on the sides of the road going up the hill towards Woodstock (West End). This has become very bad and awkward to pass on both sides, although worse on the left. Cllr Baldwin to chase up with the Highways Agency.

Cllr Lang had received a query from June Collier of Tackley Parish Council regarding the Oxfordshire Cycle Way which has become very overgrown for cycle and horse usage. Tackley had been advised that this was in Woottons area and needs to be raised with Oxfordshire County Council. (Clerk)

- **Wall past the village shop:** Cllr Baldwin reported that this is in need of attention
- **Broadband:** the Council was questioned by a member of the public on the current position of obtaining fibre optic cable into the village. Deddington already have it and it may be necessary to put some pressure on receiving it. Cllr. Seymour volunteered to investigate the situation.
- **White paint on the curb outside the village hall:** Ann Day requested approval to paint the curb at the exit of the village hall for easy visibility at night and also the provision of lights outside the gates. This was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

Dates of Next Meetings:

Monday 18 November 2013 at 7.30 pm

Monday 13 January 2014 at 7.30 pm

Monday 10 March 2014 at 7.30 pm

Monday 12 May 2014 at 7.30 pm

Monday 14 July 2014 at 7.30 pm

Monday 8 September 2014 at 7.30 pm

Monday 10 November 2014 at 7.30 pm

Jane Carlin (Clerk, Wootton Parish Council)