

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting on Monday 13th January 2014 at 7.30pm
Village Hall

MINUTES

Present

Cllr Peter Loftus (Acting Chair)
Cllr Dave Baldwin
Cllr Len Seymour
Cllr Trudie Lang
Cllr Dave Parsons
Co Cllr Ian Hudspeth
District Co Cllr Charles Cottrell-Dormer
Jane Carlin (Clerk) 1 member of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr Loftus welcomed all and opened the meeting at 7.30 pm. Apologies had been received from Cllr Tuely and Cllr Warner

2. Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Monday 18th November 2013

There were no objections.

Cllr Seymour queried whether approval had been obtained for provision of a larger salt bin at Milford Lane – request to be made to County Council Highways Dept – **Clerk**

The Minutes of 18th November were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting

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

- **Litter bin at bus stop on A44 opposite Judds Garage :** Mr Charles Ainsworth had raised the problem of litter. The District Council would consider the case for provision and installation but all on-going costs would have to be met by the parish i.e. emptying, disposal and future maintenance – approx £5 per week for emptying. In view of the very high cost it was decided to monitor the situation.
- **Flooding in the Meadows:** Cllr Seymour proposed that representatives from the Wootton Conservation Trust be invited to attend the next parish council meeting and explain what help was needed and how any money would be used with the possibility of a loan from the parish council if approved. - **Clerk**
- **Broadband:** Cllr (Len) Seymour reported that he had received a communication from Hugo Pickering who is running a pressure group requesting a letter of support in the name of Wootton Parish Council. In addition Cllr Baldwin had also sent a letter.
- **Trees:** Oliver Kaye from Highways and Transport dept has been in communication with Cllr Baldwin and is chasing the owner of the

M.C. Fisher
01/3/14

sycamore trees (Mrs Clutterbuck) through her solicitor, Harry St John and also the owner of the horse chestnut tree – this tree is dead and needs removing and the owner was contacted in August. Oliver Kaye will take further action if nothing is done as the trees are a danger to the footpath.

4. **County Council Report January 2014:** Co Cllr Ian Hudspeth reiterated the problem of having to find a further £62 million cuts to the budget. The meetings to discuss suggestions had been well attended by the public. Children's Services had been felt to be a priority but great effort had been made to try to be fair and equitable across the county.

The current concern is flooding and trying to keep the roads across the county open. On a positive note this has not been as bad as in past periods of heavy rainfall because of ongoing prevention work. The Environment Agency monitors the river levels and updates their website to give the latest information on risk of flooding. If further information is required contact Paul Wilson, the Adverse Weather Manager.

5. **District Council Report:** District Co Cllr Charles Cottrell-Dormer gave an optimistic report that most towns were thriving and not having to introduce parking charges. He congratulated Co Cllr Hudspeth on doing a fantastic job in coping with the budget restrictions.

6. **West Oxon Local Plan: Cllr Tuely** to attend a meeting at Exeter Hall on 25th January. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge levied on new developments to help fund necessary improvements to local infrastructure such as roads, schools, health care, open space. Essential that this is discussed and agreed amongst all areas of the City Council. The developers are eager to get going and without full co-operation there is a danger that initial plans are rejected and withdrawn and then given the go ahead when unsuitable. The first stage in the CIL process is to prepare and consult on a 'Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule' (PDCS). This sets out the level of charges that could be applied to different sizes and types of development.

7. **Planning**

- New Inn Cottage Woodleys – Erection of garage and change of use of land to domestic – Granted
- 27 Castle Road, Wootton – erections of new detached garage with storage area above – No objections
- Killingworth Castle Inn – alterations to existing stable bedrooms and formation of 4 new bedrooms and disabled WC – no objections

8. **Financial Matters and Bills to pay:**

- **Parish Council bank balances**
Current (No 1 a/c): £3,911.56
Parish Council Project Fund (No 2 a/c): £2,106.53
Business Reserve a/c: £0.07
- **Parish Clerk work:** Nov/Dec 2013 (£87.28) – Cheque No 000305
- **HMRC for Clerk's tax:** Nov/Dec 2013 (£21.80) – Cheque No 000306



- **OALC Training Course for Clerks:** £65 – Cheque No. 000307
- **Honorarium payment to Mr Kevin Grant :** £150.00 – Cheque No 000308
- No 1 a/c owes £1,000 to the No 2 account which was borrowed last year as well as £1,620 to the Playing Fields representing recovered VAT on the zip wire and the mower. **Cllr. Tuely**

9. Budget Forecast 2014/2015; Figures for the budget forecast had been drawn up by Cllr Tuely. **Cllr Loftus** to discuss with Cllr Tuely

10. Leaf Sweeping: Attention drawn to the fact that West Oxon have cut back on this service as all leaves collected by a mechanical sweeping machine have to go to landfill, incurring a cost. Leaves collected by hand may be recycled – Community groups or individuals – **Cllr Baldwin**

11. Inadequate surfacing on Horseshoe Lane resulting in a bike

Accident: Local resident wishes it to be brought to parish councils attention. He has been in contact with Highways and an Inspector has visited the site of the accident. General agreement that the road surfaces and potholes throughout Wootton are in need of attention. Cllr Loftus to contact Outreach to encourage residents to report any particularly bad stretches of road which can be passed on to the Highways Dept. – **Cllr Loftus**

12. Local footpath representative: Robert Wagstaffe has volunteered to be local footpath representative for Wootton. It would be useful if he attended the parish walkabout with Matthew Timms, local Highways representative for West Oxon.

13. Tour of Food Waste recycling plant at Cassington: Jan 23rd Cllr Tuely and wife Mary to attend.

12. Any Other Business

- **Yellow Book of Wootton:** by Sir Charles Ponsonby gives information and history of the parish which may be of use to new residents and Parish Councillors. This book is available from Sir Charles Ponsonby at Woodleys.
- **Standing Orders:** ex Parish Councillor, Joan Thomas, reminded the current Council that the public are not allowed to participate during the meeting unless invited by the Chairman or as a point of information..
- **Parish Walkabout:** Additional problem areas to be discussed at the meeting with Matthew Timms, local Highways Representative,
 - ❖ Bottom of White Hill – ditches at the side of the road need clearing as road floods.
 - ❖ Williams Hill needs cutting back
- **Woodstock Town Council:** recently sent out a questionnaire re parking to all Woodstock residents but did not include outlying villages. Cllr Loftus pointed out that these are the people who have to drive into Woodstock who should be consulted - **Cllr Loftus**
- **New House** opposite village hall. Has been completed to excellent standard but Cllr Parsons concerned that a concrete gulley goes

across the path and is a danger to small children to trip up. **Cllr Loftus** to call and mention to the owners.

- A letter was circulated for the attention of the Parish Council

The public meeting ended at 8.55 pm followed by discussion of precept applications

Dates of Next Meetings:

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)