

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting on Monday 14 January 2013
At 7:30pm in the Village Hall

MINUTES

Present

Cllr Andy Warner (Acting Chairman)
Cllr David Parsons
Cllr Dave Baldwin
Cllr Len Seymour
Anni Morgan (Clerk)

Co Cllr Ian Hudspeth, shadowed by Eddie Gibb, Communications Manager (both left after item 5).

1 member of the public

- 1. Apologies**
Cllr Warner opened the meeting at 7:30pm. Apologies had been received from Cllr Tuely, Cllr Lang, Cllr Loftus and District Co Cllr Cottrell-Dormer.
- 2. Disclosure of Interests:** None.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 19 November 2012.**
No more comments, agreed by all present, and signed as correct record of meeting.
- 4. Matters arising from the minutes which are not covered elsewhere:**

Sport in the village: On-going.

Project for teenagers: Ann Day and Cllrs Loftus and Tuely met with Clutterbucks agent, to walk through the plantation and discuss future ideas. The vision is to lease the land from the Trustees, and possibly build a log cabin area for local teenagers. For clarity, the plantation is the area of wooded land between Wootton and Milford place. It was agreed that WPC would adopt the project. Cllr Lang will draw up a letter for Outreach re ideas to date, in the hope that interested, enthusiastic, committed volunteers will come forward to help make the project work.

We are awaiting the outcome of the discussions between the Clutterbucks and their agent, before we go any further. If we get the green light, an Open Meeting will be organised. Co Cllr Hudspeth reminded WPC that there is the County Council Chill-out Fund that is available to help support such projects.

M.C. Tuely
18/3/13

5. District and County Council Reports

Co Cllr Hudspeth updated the WPC on the county council's budget. He explained that they are proposing a 1.99% increase in Council Tax, which is below inflation and allows them to maintain essential services such as the subsidised bus routes that our rural communities rely on so much. He also reported on the grim budget situation of £17 million reduction on the government grant of last year. Despite that the County Council will continue to seek to provide high quality services across each of their key service areas. The Area Stewardship Fund will be put more towards road maintenance.

6. Meetings/Training/Workshops

OALC Executive & Policy Committee: Executive & Policy Meeting, Monday 10 December. Report back by Cllr Loftus moved to next meeting.

7. Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) Bid: Unfortunately, WPC were not successful with their bid to the DECC Cheaper Energy Together Competition 2012-13. Cllr Seymour contacted the DECC for feedback on the bid, but too busy to reply at present.

8. Grass Cutting Tender 2013/14/15: advertised during December in Oxford Times and Witney Gazette, deadline 7 January 2013. Quotes received from WODC and Kev Grant & Son

The tender was awarded to Kev Grant & Son, who came in at a very competitive price (DP1st, AW 2nd). Kevin has been cutting the village grass for a number of years now, and does a terrific job.

9. Castle Corner Buddleia: Highways reported that the area of tarmac will have to become far worse as it does not meet their investigation levels as of yet. They will keep an eye on this and as soon as it does put this is in for repair. Cllr Parsons offered to chop back the Buddleia every so often to keep it in check.

10. OCC Tree Work: the tree work has now been completed. Removal of dead Elms on Milford Lane and cutting back of trees that were encroaching onto the highway in Castle Rd and Glympton.

Concern for the open well: on the Clutterbucks land at the tail end of the allotments was brought up. It is currently covered in ivy, but could be a danger if any children climbed on it, or fell into it. Cllr Parsons and Warner to go and check that the well is safe and not open.

11. Precept for 2013/14

Cllr Warner read out Cllr Tuely's email on the precept, in which he suggested WPC request £8000. This is £2000 more than the £6000 that has been requested in the past 4 years. Bearing in mind inflation, and the increase of our grants to village organisations, we will need this higher amount. However, it is not confirmed that we will get the amount required. This rise in precept to £8000 was unanimously agreed.

12. Planning

- **Wootton Downs Farm House:** replacement of all windows (sash and dormer) – granted.
- **Upper Barn Dornford Farm:** conversion of existing cart shed barn to create dwelling – granted.
- **Planning applications received outside of Parish planning:** AM to notify Cllrs by email of planning applications received outside of our Parish, Cllrs can then decide if they wish to receive the paperwork.

13. Donation Requests (circulated by email): put on hold until we have confirmation on the Precept request.

- **St Johns Ambulance:** donation request (last year: £50.00)
- **Air Ambulance:** donation request
- **Volunteer Link-Up (West Oxon):** donation request

14. Woodstock Traffic Advisory Committee: an invitation for WPC to be represented on the Committee (letter circulated by email). Cllr Baldwin happy to represent WPC at the next meeting on 17th April 2013.

15. Financial Matters and Bills to pay

- **Parish council bank balances:**
Current (No 1 a/c): £7630.83
Parish Council Project Fund (No 2 a/c): £5,670.53
Business Reserve a/c: £0.07
- **Cheques:**
Parish Clerk work Nov/Dec 2012: £100.80, CHQ 000267
HMRC for Clerk's tax, Nov/Dec 2012: £25.20, CHQ 000266
Trevor Stewart Play Equipment / Zip Wire: £5,100.00, CHQ 000265
(Ann Day to claim back VAT on Zip Wire)

Oxford Times (grass cutting tender): 4/12/12 (£109.56) CHQ263
Witney Gazette (grass cutting tender): 10/12/12 (£40.50) CHQ264

16. Risk Assessment (circulated by email): reviewed and approved, signed by Cllr Warner.

17. Any other business:

Dog mess: Cllr Parson looking for WPC to organise litter bags, as fouling of footpaths is getting worse. Litter bags retail at £100 for 10,000. The plan is for a number of dog walkers to carry the bags and hand them out to other dog walkers, to try and instill good habits. It was suggested that fixing some bags by the dog litter bin, might encourage more use of the bags. AM to source some 'Litter' posters, detailing the fine/s involved, in the hope of deterring the offender/s. These are to be put up in the shop and on the notice board.



OCC have requested WPC to supply a second grit bin for Dorn View: Cllr Parsons felt it was unlikely that Dorn View (without a hill) would need a grit bin, when there is a grit bin at the bottom of Milford Place. Cllr Tuely to clarify the request.

Free bag of salt: was delivered to the village, but due to Liz Scratton being poorly in hospital (she had kindly offered to house the salt in her garage, in addition to the other tonne of salt already in her garage), Cllr Warner has the salt sat on his drive if needed.

Rural Services Network/Rural Opportunities Bulletin: will continue to be circulated to Cllrs.

Play Area: Ann Day confirmed that the Playing Field is responsible for the upkeep of the area, and that it is in need of a tidy up. Ann is planning to organise this, she will come back to WPC if help is required.

The old well, at Well Corner: Cllr Seymour questioned whether it should stay in the village, not the most attractive of features and often gets hit by motorists. It was decided that it was an old feature of the village, has always looked that way, and should stay as it is.

The meeting ended at 8:48pm.

Dates of Next Meetings:

Monday 18 March 2013 at 7:30pm

Monday 13 May 2013 at 7:30pm

Monday 15 July 2013 at 7:30pm

Monday 16 September 2013 at 7:30pm

Monday 18 November 2013 at 7:30pm

Anni Morgan (Clerk, Wootton Parish Council)