

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2024**

Councillors Present: Cllrs J Harwood, F Bates, M Brown, M Eccles-Williams, F Mackinlay, A Molyneux, J Salter

Members of Public: 10 members of the public

District Cllr Tim Sumner

75/24 Apologies and Declarations

75.1 Apologies: None

75.2 There were no declarations of interest.

76/24 Minutes

76.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2024 were approved and accepted into record and signed by the Chair.

76.2 Matters arising:

Coronation Trees - MB is waiting for the council arboriculturalist to give the go-ahead before purchase of the trees.

77/24 Open forum

77.1 County Councillor: Cllr Graham's written report to be circulated when received.

77.2 District Councillor: Cllr Tim Sumner

Community First has funds available until March 2025. They are funded by DEFRA for a rural housing enabling team to offer support to PCs if they wish to provide affordable housing. TS to provide details.

TS is portfolio holder for WOCD leisure. He has 7 major projects, including looking at green heating for swimming pools and engaging with major heating providers to tackle the problem. Work is progressing on the roof of Chipping Norton leisure centre,

Improvement of games pitches is continuing. Parking in Burford; extra land is being considered to solve the problem. Renovation of WODC council chamber is completed and will be used as community asset and available for hire. Information about workshops to develop a local nature strategy will be forwarded.

77.3 Public

No members of the public wished to speak at this point.

78/24 Botley West

The draft response had been circulated ahead of the meeting. Cllr Bates introduced the item

She explained that the planning committee had been studying the PEIR and consultation documents, collecting information and listening to local people. FB had also attended the WODC that morning; one point which was made is that the effect on landscape and visual impact are most likely to be the key deciding factor for the inspector. WPC's submission reflects this point.

The developer has proposed a Community benefit offering £50k which was absurd. A realistic neutral assessment of an appropriate fund was £4.3m per annum. The draft response also urges the developer to look at a scheme to provide energy at materially reduced rates.

A significant element of the draft is the importance of biodiversity & ecology and it proposes asking for an 80% increase, not the 70% suggested by the developer.

After further discussion, Cllr Bates proposed, Cllr Mackinlay seconded, and **it was resolved unanimously:**

that the draft statement be approved and formally adopted for submission to the Developer as the response of the Council to their Phase 2 Consultation (November 2023)

(For the record the statement is attached to these minutes)

79/24 Planning

- 79.01 23/03394/CND Meadowland, Horseshoe Lane, Discharge of condition 6 of 23/02266/HND – **Under consideration**
- 79.02 23/03359/LBC Wootton Place – amendments to 22/0779/LBC – **Under consideration**
- 79.03 23/03360/S73 – Wootton Place – Variation of Condition 2 of 22/00767/HHD – **under consideration**
- 79.04 23/03052/LBC – Horseshoe House, Horseshoe Lane - **Under consideration**
- 79.05 24/00218/CND Manor Farm, Chapel Hill – Discharge of conditions of 21/04047/LBC – **Under consideration**
- 79.06 24/00148/LBC - Lower Dornford Farm – **Under consideration**
- 79.07 24/00147/FUL - Lower Dornford Farm - **Under consideration**
- 79.08 24/00149/FUL - Lower Dornford Farm – **solar panels – Under consideration** - FM will establish where the panels will be situated.
- 79.09 MW.0093/23 Slape Hill Quarry – no update

80/24 Wootton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

A report had been circulated with the draft ToR and the minutes of the initial meeting.

Following discussion, the Chair put the report's recommendations to the council and **it was resolved:**

To appoint Cllr Mackinley as the first Chair of the Group and to agree the Terms of Reference for the Group as proposed.

It was noted that the exhibition on the evolution of Wootton will be on 9 March.

81/24 Finance

80.01. The payment list had been circulated before the meeting and was approved and signed by 2 members of the Finance Committee. The Bank reconciliation statement was accepted.

80.02 S137 grants

The Chair reported that he and Cllr Bates had met with Outreach, the PCC and Wootton Conservation Trust. WCT needed more time to work up their proposal and would come back to the council later in the year. The discussions with the treasurers of Outreach and the PCC had reached agreement. The Chair put the recommendations of the report to the council and **it was resolved unanimously:**

that the Council approves the payment of the following S.137 grants:

- Outreach £550
- WGK Parochial Church Council £960

and authorises the Clerk/RFO to make these payments at a suitable point in the first quarter of the 2024-25 financial year.

Date of next meetings :

4 March, 4 April, May date tbc, 3 June, 1 July, 5 August, 2 September, 7 October, 4 November, 2 December

Signed

Chair Wootton PC