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## Wootton Parish Council

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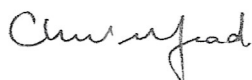
*Please address all correspondence to the Parish Clerk:*  
Mrs. Christine Hoad, Wynwood Filkins, Lechlade, Glos. GL7 3JG  
Tel: 01367 860388 E mail: clerkwpc0@gmail.com

WPC

7<sup>th</sup> November 2022

You are hereby summoned to attend the next meeting of Wootton Parish Council to be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Members of the public are invited to attend.

- 1 Apologies for absence and to receive Declarations of Pecuniary, Personal or Prejudicial Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.
- 2 Signing of Declaration of Acceptance
- 3 Minutes
  - 3.1 To accept minutes of last PC meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022
  - 3.2 Matters for information only arising from these minutes
- 4 Open Forum
  - 4.1 County & District Councillors Report
  - 4.2 Adjournment for public participation - Members of the public wishing to speak will each be given the opportunity to address the council for 3 minutes.
- 5 Planning
  - 5.1 Botley West Solar Farm Consultation – for discussion
- 6 Finance
  - 6.1 National Salary Award 2022-23
  - 6.2 To resolve & approve the payments for October/November
  - 6.3 S137 requests 2023/24 for agreement
  - 6.4 Final draft of budget for 2023/24 to set precept
  - 6.5 Internal Audit completion – Cllr Bates
- 7 New Clerk – update and procedure
- 8 Date of next meeting – proposal to cancel December meeting and elect urgency committee to make urgent decisions if required.



*Cris Hoad*  
Clerk to the Council

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

Councillors Present: Cllr J Harwood, Cllr A Molyneux, Cllr Bates, Cllr Eccles-Williams, Cllr Marcus Brown, Cllr J Salter, Cllr Mackinlay

Members of the public: 23 members of public, County Cllr Andy Graham

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66/23 Apologies for absence and Declarations of Personal, Pecuniary or Prejudicial Interest

66.1 None

66.2 Cllr Brown – Conservation Trust S137 Grant; non-pecuniary by virtue of his membership of WCT

67/23 Election of Councillor and Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office

67.1 The Clerk reported the election of Fiona Mackinlay to fill the vacancy on the Council caused by the resignation of Cllr Joan Thomas.

67.2 Cllr Mackinlay duly signed her declaration of acceptance of office.

68/23 Minutes

68.1 Minutes of meeting 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were accepted and signed as a correct record.

68.2 Matters arising - None

68.3 Minutes of Finance meeting 28<sup>th</sup> September were accepted into record and signed

69/23 Open Forum

69.1 County Councillors Report

- Cllr Graham's written report for November had been circulated and is on the website
- Home2School Transport Policy being formulated – 2 meetings in December and then goes to Cabinet
- 20mph – detailed discussion (on implementation) in next 3-4 months with Wootton PC. 8/9 villages have applied in West Oxon – consultation will look at pedestrian safety and speed. Discussions will be online with a balance of judgement on each village.
- Botley West Solar Farm – not a real surprise, except for the huge size. Blenheim seem to be taking advantage of the fuel situation and price balance between fossil fuels, wind and wave. Land owners also seem to favour this to growing crops but if too much land is taken they will lose their livelihood. Judgement will be taken on overall impact as will not benefit West Oxon directly – power will feed national grid. Lack of detail in the proposal – WODC will carry out local impact assessment on whole area and highlight the effect on local areas mostly affected. The overall process will probably take more than 12 months. Blenheim are holding talks and discussions – need facts and evidence – securing changes will require the most robust arguments. First stage is an informal consultation. In the second stage councils will be more involved in formal consultation and response. WODC will be liaising with Cherwell and Vale of White Horse but they will do their own impact survey.

69.2 Public participation

(a) Anna Firth and Tim Sumner both made statements on the proposed Solar Farm- these can be found on the website along with a paper from David Fairweather, who was unable to be present at the meeting

(b) Malcolm Barnicoat asked for the dog waste bin to be moved from its present position (at the top of the footpath to Home Farm) to the entrance to Jubilee meadows, as he had originally proposed. Chair explained that it would not be possible to discuss the request at this meeting, but that it would be on the agenda for the January meeting. He specifically asked that a short paper explaining why this would be better than the existing location

Signed

Date 9 January 2023

should be made available to the council in advance, so that councillors could come to the meeting fully briefed on the pros and cons of changing the present arrangements.

#### 70/23 Planning

##### 70.1 Botley West Solar Farm

Chair reported that it was unlikely that a final decision on the council's response would be taken at this meeting. Various points were raised in discussion; key issues included whether productive agricultural land should be taken over for energy production, the loss/gain in bio-diversity, flooding, health risks, the effects on AONB, green belt & conservation status, etc. A draft statement of the Council's initial position had been circulated to councillors and was read to the meeting. The text of the Statement was approved and that it be published on the website.

#### 71/23 Finance

71.1 National Salary Award has been published for 2022/23 – It was agreed Clerk will receive back pay to April 2022.

71.2 Payment list was circulated to Councillors. The payment list was signed and approved, enabling payments to be authorised for payment after the meeting.

71.3 S137 application forms for 2023/24 have been received from:

- Wootton Conservation Trust - £600 (Cllr Brown not voting)
- Outreach - £300
- Wootton Baby/Toddler Group - £250
- Wootton PCC - £750

All payments were agreed. Clerk will contact them and state the payment will be made in September 2023 after the second precept payment is received.

71.4 Final draft of budget 2023/24 to set the precept was circulated to the council.

- Liability for electric and water for Burditch Hall has now been transferred to WCAST.
- S137 grants applications have been agreed (as above)
- Proposed precept increase to £16k- which will be in line with other villages the size of Wootton and will allow the partial reinstatement of the Council's depleted reserves.
- Bin Emptying – Andy Warner confirmed on behalf of WCAST that the bin outside Burditch Hall can be removed and they will place their own bin and be responsible for emptying.
- Cost of new website and .org.uk email addresses will be discussed in January.

It was resolved by the Council that the Precept will be set to £16,000

71.5 Internal Audit Policy – Cllr Bates reported that the Internal Audit had been completed. All paperwork and audit trails are in place. Cllr Bates was thanked for undertaking this role.

#### 72/23 New Clerk

72.1 Cllr Bates reported that 6 responses to the advertisement had been received, and a number are suitable for interview. It was agreed that Cllrs Mackinlay, Bates and Molyneux were authorised to form an Appointment Committee to interview and offer the appointment to a suitable candidate on condition that the Chair should concur with the decision and that there would be an opportunity for cllrs not directly involved to meet the new clerk before they commenced work.

#### 73/23 Next Meeting

73.1 It was proposed (i) that the December meeting be cancelled; (ii) that decisions that needed to be taken before the January meeting be delegated to an Urgency Committee: and (iii) that the members of the Finance Committee (ie Cllrs Harwood, Molyneux and Salter) should form the membership of the Urgency Committee.

Meetings for 2023 – 09/01, 13/02, 13/03, 10/04, 08/05 APM and APCM

Signed



Date 9 January 2023

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Payment List for meeting 2022/23

Date	Name	Receipt	Payment
31.10.22	Clerk wages & expenses		382.33
31.10.22	HMRC PAYE		90.6
20.10.22	E Slip payroll - direct debit		20.36
14.11.22	Wootton Village Hall		18
22.11.22	E Slip payroll - direct debit		20.36

0.00    531.65

Bank Balance 31.10.22		6,872.29
Receipts to date		0.00
Payments to be made after 31.10.22		511.29
		<u>6,361.00</u>

*At. Pedgrew*  
V.C. 14.11.22.

*Ind. J.*

14 November 2022.

*[Signature]* 2022

**Andy Graham Oxfordshire County Councillor update.**

I am pleased to report that after my open heart operation in August and since leaving hospital on 21<sup>st</sup> September, after a short period of convalescing, I have been back to a gradual return to duties and here is my updates from the county council:

**OCC news: cost of living special**

**Cost of living support for low-income pensioners and families:** OCC are sending a one-off payment of £85 to 11,000 lower income pensionable households to support with energy bills. Eligible residents will receive an Oxfordshire-branded letter from the Post Office, redeemable for cash at Post Office branches. Schools and colleges will provide children entitled to free school meals with a £15 voucher.

**100K pot to help community organisations with energy bills:** Applications for grants between £250 and £3000 can be made through the Oxfordshire Community Foundation. Expected to be popular - deadline is 21 November 2022.

**Council votes to request more energy support for off-grid residents:** Many residents in rural areas live without access to mains energy and instead use heating oil, bottled gas, or other forms of fuel. The leader of the council will write to government to request off-grid residents receive the same level of support (£400) as on-grid residents. Conservative councillors abstained on the motion.

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**OCC supports care business start-ups:** OCC is supporting new 'micro enterprises' to become established care providers, helping local businesses to grow, and develop greater local choice for people looking for additional support. The Community Catalysts' programme takes people through the standards, so that new micro-enterprises have a thorough understanding of what it takes to deliver quality care. Over one hundred people have signed up and have the combined capacity to support one thousand people in the county.

**Renewed call on government to fund Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND):** OCC is appealing to the government to urgently address the national funding issues facing all local authorities providing SEND services for children and young people. The county council has also submitted to the Department of Education bids for two further special free schools.

**Tree services team successfully bids for funding:** OCC tree services team has been successful in a bid to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Funding will be used to provide two new community tree and woodland planting officers who will work to increase tree cover across the county.

**More sustainable streetlights policy:** OCC has approved a new policy for streetlights to reduce impact on climate change and the environment. The policy considers the impact of light pollution on nature and dark skies in assessing where lighting should be added. When new lighting is necessary, dimming and reduction in operating hours will be used to preserve the night sky.

**Parking standards for new developments:** Developers will need to follow a revised set of guidelines when they consider parking provisions for new developments. New standards place much more emphasis on cycles, shared car clubs, and public transport than on multiple cars per household. A graduated approach is taken to allow for increased need for parking in rural settings.

**Cheaper Park and Ride tickets up and running:** Passengers can now buy a combined ticket covering both parking and return bus travel for £4 for a car with only 1 adult and £5 for a car and 2 adults. With both options, up to three children under 16 can travel for free. Drivers are encouraged to purchase a combined ticket through the RingGo parking app, or at one of the onsite ticket machines.

**Oxford traffic filters:** Public consultation closed on 13 October 2022. The next step is for the cabinet to take a decision on 29th November 2022, where the cabinet will consider the outcomes of the public consultation and the closure of Botley Road for a year by Network Rail to accommodate improvements to the railway.