

**WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016**  
**at 7.30pm**  
**Village Hall**

**MINUTES**

**Present**

Cllr M Tuely (Chairman)  
Cllr A Warner  
Cllr L Seymour  
Cllr J Thomas  
Cllr J Yates  
Dist. Cllr. Cottrell-Dormer  
J Carlin (Clerk)

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. Loftus; Cllr.Gabbatiss
2. **Disclosure of Interest:** there were no disclosure of interests
3. **Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November:** The Minutes of 9th November 2015 were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes which are not covered elsewhere:**
  - **Salt Bin West End Hill:** This has now been cleared (thank you to whoever was responsible!) and is full of salt.
  - **Defibrillator\;** The site location (Church Porch) and location number C1270Z to be written on the defibrillator – **Clerk**
  - **Signpost in poor repair at top of West End Hill:** OCC have advised that in current financial climate they are not able to consider replacement. They suggest that PC use their own resources to replace the missing lettering – **Cllr Warner** to check out.
  - **Repair of the Well Cover:** Cllr Warner reported that four quotes have been sought with no reply to date. It was agreed that the repairs must include making the structure more visible. Cllr Warner has meanwhile tidied and straightened the damage for which Cllr Tuely expressed his thanks. Priority to chase the outstanding quotes.
  - **War Memorial Fund:** Sufficient donations have now been received to go ahead with the necessary cleaning operation before the repairs needed can be assessed. **Cllr Tuely** awaiting confirmation from Joslin's as to when this can be carried out.
  - **Wootton Website :** Cllr Seymour explained that an excellent framework has now been drawn up by Mr. D Knight and that an article will be placed in Outreach requesting interested volunteers to control the separate aspects. He and Cllr. Gabbatiss to have an overall editing control. The payment of £150 agreed by the Parish Council will be paid against receipts.
5. **Precept:** A precept request of £8,000 for 2016/17 has been made to West Oxon District Council – this is £1,000 less than last year.
6. **County Council and District Council Matters :**

**County Council:** Grant funding levels from central Govnt. are much worse than had been feared, necessitating additional savings of approx £70m over the next four years. This will involve some very difficult and controversial decisions. **Local Plan:** the second hearing of WODC's local plan has been postponed to allow more work to be done on the housing target which suggests that more sites are required. **Broadband** – additional funding has been announced. The percentage of county homes and businesses able to get



superfast fibre broadband will be increased to more than 95% ([www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk)) **Salt Bins** OCC is fully prepared – the take up of free salt bags this year has been minimal as stocks have been retained from previous years. A daily update on whether roads have been gritted is available <http://winter.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms>

**District Council** 2020 Vision Programme – Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold, Forest of Dean and West Oxon District Council have agreed to form a four council partnership to make substantial savings whilst continuing to deliver services locally. Each council will still have its own elected members and will continue to make decisions according to the needs of the its local community. ([feedback@2020partnership.uk](mailto:feedback@2020partnership.uk))  
Cllr Cottrell-Dormer drew attention to a change in application for housing association properties. There will no longer be a list on which people work their way up on points but all applications now have to be completed on line to be considered. He felt that some people will find this confusing and may need assistance in applying.  
Article to be put in Outreach (**Clerk**)

### Proposed Planning

**Windy Ridge, Burditch Bank, Wootton.** Proposed loft conversion and side extension and replacement detached garage. (15/03615/HHD) - **Approved**

**Greenway House, 73 Castle Road, Wootton.** Alterations and erection of ground and first floor extensions (15/04233/HHD)

**Holly Cottage, The Walk, Wootton.** Proposed extension and alteration. Mr Peter Marshall (15/04282/HHD)

### Financial Matters and Bills to pay

Parish Council bank balances:

Current (No 1 a/c): £ 5,823.31

Parish Council Project Fund (No 2 a/c): £1,125.53

Business Reserve a/c: £630.19

An additional £450 donations for church memorial fund has been received

- Parish Clerk Work: £72.70 Cheque No. 000374
- HMRC for Clerk's tax: £18.20 Cheque No. 000375
- Citizens Advice Donation: £150.00 Cheque No 000376
- Advert in Witney Gazette for grass cutting £234.61 (reimbursement to Clerk) Cheque No. 000373
- Advert in Outreach for grass cutting £20.00 Cheque No. 000377

**Audit arrangements for smaller councils:** From the beginning of the financial year 2017/18 smaller authorities are responsible for appointing their own external auditor. We can opt to have an auditor appointed by the new sector led body set up by the National Association of Local Councils or we can appoint our own auditor. NALC anticipates that opting in will be the cheapest option

**Subsidised buses and Dial-a-Ride:** The Cabinet has decided to withdraw all bus subsidies and the funds for Dial a Ride. Final decision is to be made in February when the Council budget is agreed. We have been advised by Go Ride that W12 service (Woodstock-Wootton-Glympton) is not considering keeping the route open. Need to wait to assess the budget decision in February.

**Extraordinary Meeting:** date fixed Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 pm to agree year end bank balances.

**Volunteer Link-Up:** sent a request for donations and information about its services. Offers 'Good Neighbour Scheme' services eg. community transport, befriending and practical tasks. VLU will administer the scheme if Wootton provides the volunteers. Age UK will provide a grant for funding for leaflets/flyers to recruit volunteers.  
**Cllr Seymour** to look into

**Grass Cutting Tender:** Adverts for grass cutting for 2016/17/18 were placed in the Witney Gazette, Outreach and Woodstock and Bladon News. Three quotations were received: Kevin Grant £1025

Witney Joinery £1,400

Gavin Power £2,464 plus VAT

The Parish Council were pleased to give the contract to Kevin Grant and were especially grateful to him for maintaining the same price as for the last three years. Thanks were expressed to all who submitted quotations. (**Clerk**)

- 14. Playing Field Management Committee :** Since the Parish Council owns the Playing Field on behalf of the inhabitants of Wootton, it was agreed that it should have a representative on the Management Committee. This proposal had been discussed with that Committee. Cllr Seymour was unanimously proposed as the representative.
- 15. Sports Club:** Cllr Warner expressed his hopes that cricket coaching could be restarted in Wootton. Currently he helps with under 13's coaching in Combe at which several Wootton children attend. Since Wootton has such an excellent sports field it would be an ideal opportunity to re-establish a village cricket team. .
- 16. Deposits Made Under the Highways Act 1980:** Several residents have reported notices on Blenheim land acknowledging public ways across their land and preventing any additional routes being claimed. If anyone knows of any common informal routes which are not Rights of Way but are used as such it would be useful to let the Parish Council know in order that we can try and establish them..
- 17. Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations:** A village meeting is to be held on **Weds February 10<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm in Burditch Hall** to discuss any ideas and support. There are two dates for the celebrations. Thurs April 21<sup>st</sup> which is the Queen's actual birthday when Wootton has been invited to light a Beacon and Revd. Stephen Jones will hold a short church service before it is lit and the weekend of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June which is the Queen's official birthday which might be suitable to hold an event for the children of Wootton. The Parish Council pledged its support in whatever way appropriate.
- 18. Rector Stephen Jones Institution and Induction :** Held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January at St Mary's Church with refreshments in the Village Hall afterwards. Attended by Cllr Tuely, Cllr Thomas and Cllr Yates who reported a very moving and enjoyable occasion. The Parish Council sends its congratulations to Stephen.
- 19. Any Other Business:**
- **Traffic Speeding on West End:** An incident reported by Diana Harwood whereby a cat was killed and general complaints made of speeding up and down the hill. She raised the possibility of requesting the Highways Dept to impose a 20 mph limit . Unfortunately, this has been raised with Highways on several occasions but as there have been no serious injury accidents reported they feel there is no justification for County expenditure even if it were available.
  - **Additional Dog Waste Bin:** there has been a reported increase of dog fouling on the path through the Meadows and also with plastic bags left hanging on trees. Wootton has a large dog population and it was suggested we request an additional dog bin to be sited immediately outside the gate to the Meadows  
**(Clerk)**
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The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

**Future Meetings:**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.30 pm**  
 Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.30 pm Extraordinary Meeting  
 Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.30 pm  
 Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.30 pm  
 Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7.30 pm  
 Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 7.30pm Jane Carlin (Clerk)

*M. Tuely*  
 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016