
Wootton Parish Council



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13 February 2023

You are hereby summoned to attend the next meeting of Wootton Parish Council to be held on Monday 13 February 2023 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 Minutes
 - 2.1 To accept minutes of last PC meeting – 9 January 2023
 - 2.2 Matters for information only arising from these minutes
- 3 Open Forum
 - 3.1 County & District Councillors Report
 - 3.2 Adjournment for public participation - Members of the public wishing to speak will each be given the opportunity to address the council for 3 minutes.
- 4 Planning
 - 4.1 Botley West Solar Farm Consultation – update
 - 4.2 21/04046/HHD & 04047/LBC – Manor Farm Chapel Hill - appeal awaiting decision
 - 4.3 Horseshoes Planning Application - update
- 5 Wootton Relief in Need Charity – trustee vacancies
- 6 Finance
 - 6.1 The Council is asked to approve the following resolution:
The Council confirms the appointment of the Parish Clerk, Ms Corina Cheeks, as the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) for the Council with effect from 1 January 2023, and authorises her to fulfill all the duties of the office in accordance with the Standing Orders and financial regulations of the authority.
 - 6.2 To resolve & approve the payments for January/February
- 7 Date of next meeting – 13 March 2023

CS Cheeks

Clerk to the Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2023

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

County Cllr A Graham

18 members of the public.

84/23 Apologies for absence and Declarations of Personal, Pecuniary or Prejudicial Interest

84.1. No apologies.

84.2. No declarations of personal interest.

85/23 Chair's announcements

The Chair reported that he had added three items to the agenda after its publication. These would be considered under Item 4.

86/23 Minutes

86.1. Minutes of meeting 9 January 2023 Cllr Salter said that he was listed as being present when in fact he had been absent. Agreed that Cllr Salter's name be removed from the list of those attending and added to the list of those giving their apologies. The draft Minutes were then agreed as amended and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

86.2 There were no matters arising

87/23 Open Forum

87.1. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Graham's written report had been circulated to councillors and will be available on the website. Cllr Graham did not wish to add anything further at this stage but would speak later on the Botley West item.

88/23 Update from District Council

78.1. West Oxfordshire Cabinet has agreed to join a regional partnership with other areas in and around Oxfordshire to attract funding to help local areas.

89/23 Public participation

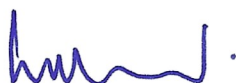
89.1. A member of the public raised concerns about the footpath outside the Killingworth Castle with the gates recently being locked, meaning that pedestrians had to walk on the main road. Cllr Bates also expressed concerns about the dangers of pedestrians being forced to walk on the road especially at night. It was agreed to pursue this concern and ascertain whether the footpath is a right of way. The Chair indicated that this issue would be brought back to the next meeting.

90/23 Planning

90.1 Botley West Solar Farm Consultation

Cllr Graham provided an update on his meeting with the developers (PVDP) which received an update on progress and their assessment of the feedback from residents. PVDP confirmed that leaflets were issued to 22,000 households within 2 kilometres of the site boundary as well as being available on the website and at the media launch. Face to face events and a community webinar were also undertaken.

Signed



Date 13 March 2023

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679 people attended face to face events; 177 of these were in the Woodstock exhibition and over 150 commented online.

Key themes from respondents, in order of priority were:

- (i) The impacts on biodiversity and habitat
- (ii) Impact on landscape and scale
- (iii) Impact on agricultural land
- (iv) Planning process

Cllr Graham highlighted the need for PVDP to provide factual evidence of the consultation process..

Botley West representatives said they would update FAQs on the project website and produce a consultation summary report as part of the next stage. This would be a high level summary issued as a leaflet to the same households initially consulted. The leaflet will be sent out before the next phase of the consultation.

Every local authority involved will be treated individually. However, there is opportunity to share resource across authorities. Cllr Graham confirmed that officers made a point about the disproportionate affect on resources and funds and the need for expert knowledge in some areas. The council also made a point about the importance of managing conflicting demands and the impact on a world heritage site which they deem to be of significance.

Botley West Solar Farm representatives stated that they wanted the best outcome in the public interest and confirmed that there are high level principles and standards set for the site.

A member of the public asked Cllr Graham about how the project would be funded. Concerns were raised that the development would probably subsequently be sold on and assurances were requested that it would not be sold on to a business that did not have the residents' best interests at heart.

Another member of the public requested clarification of the current planning situation. It was confirmed that a planning application is yet to be submitted but when it was it would be to the national planning system not the district council. There has yet been no official information about percentage of residents for or against the development.

The Chair outlined the importance of having guidance from the WODC planning department on which arguments are relevant when contesting the plans.

Tim Sumner from the Wootton Stop Botley West group provided an update on relevant developments elsewhere and outlined that a campaign opposing the plan has been established. In particular he mentioned the existence of more, probably Roman, remains under the field adjacent to the protected site of Samson's Platt

The Chair requested that the group applying for protected status for the site should write formally to the Parish Council so that the council could consider supporting the application.

90.2. Manor Farm Planning Application Appeal

Chair confirmed WPC are still awaiting information on the outcome of the appeal.

90.3. Horseshoes House

The Clerk confirmed that she had written to WODC on behalf of the parish council conveying the observations of the ad hoc committee of councillors who examined the proposals

Signed



Date

73 June 2023

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91/23 Reduction of Speed Limit

91.1.

The Chair reported that the county council had published the draft traffic regulation order reducing the speed limit in the village from 30 mph to 20 mph. He proposed from the chair that the council should formally record its support for the proposals. This was agreed unanimously.

91.2 Combe Village Design Statement The Chair referred to the consultation exercise being undertaken by WODC on whether the Village Design Statement submitted by Combe Parish Council should be approved and included in the district plan documentation. The council agreed to express its support for the adoption of the statement by WODC and also debated whether a similar approach should be adopted in Wootton. Cllr Bates agreed to investigate further and report back to the next meeting. Finally, the Chair reminded members of the public that they also have a right to make a direct response if they wish.

91.3. Wootton Toad Group

Wootton Toad Group has requested permission to erect two toad warning signs, one at each end of West End, during the toad migration season. It was Agreed that consent should be granted subject to the following conditions: First, that the group agrees to remove the signs at the end of the migration season and store them in a suitable location, which should be notified to the Clerk for reference. Second, as the signs remain the property of Wootton parish council, should the group decide to store them somewhere other than in Wootton, they should seek the agreement of the council to the location and inform the Parish Clerk of the name and contact details of the person taking responsibility for the storage.

92.1. Wootton Relief in Need

The Chair welcomed the three representatives from WRiN attending the meeting, and invited them to speak. The council then considered the representations from WRiN and the written report recommending the way forward following the failure of the council to appoint trustees in 2021. After discussion, the council approved the recommendations in the report.

The vacancies will be advertised locally as agreed. It was confirmed that retiring and former WRiN trustees would be eligible to put their names forward if they wished to do so. On behalf of the village, the Chair thanked Mrs Joan Thomas, who this year celebrates her fiftieth year as a trustee, for her long and devoted service to the charity.

93.1. Clerk

The Chair proposed the following motion as printed on the Agenda: "The Council confirms the appointment of the Parish Clerk, Ms Corina Cheeks, as the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) for the Council with effect from 1st January 2023, and authorises her to fulfil all the duties of the office in accordance with the Standing Orders and financial regulations of the Authority." The motion was passed unanimously, and the council resolved accordingly.

94/23 Finance

94.1. Payment list had been circulated with the Agenda. The Chair moved that the payment list be approved, authorising the Clerk to make the payments after the meeting. This was agreed and the list was signed by the Chair.

94.2. In accordance with Resolution 93.1 above the Chair and councillors signed the form authorising the Clerk to undertake online banking for the authority..

95/23 Next Meeting

95.1 The next meeting of the council will be on Monday 13 March. The dates for the subsequent meetings will be decided on 13 March as both the planned dates are now going to be bank holidays.

Signed



Date 13 March 2023

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