

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Meeting held on Monday 12th May 2014 at 7 pm in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr Andy Warner (Acting Chair)
Cllr Dave Baldwin
Cllr Peter Loftus
Cllr. Trudie Lang
Co Cllr Ian Hudspeth
District Co Cllr Charles Cottrell-Dormer
Jane Carlin (Clerk)

13 members of the public

The meeting opened at 7.05 pm

1. Apologies

Cllr Miles Tuely, Cllr Parsons, Cllr. Seymour

2. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of 13th May 2013

There were no more comments, agreed by all present and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

3. Report by Chairman of Wootton Parish Council:

There were six meetings of the Council plus the Annual Meeting during the year. **Financial matters:** The annual accounts were approved by the Council on 28th April and have been signed off by the Responsible Financial Officer. The balance brought forward was £7,900 with fixed assets of £69,884. Income for the year was £12,374. The only significant expenditure was £949 on the Village Privy Roof and £1195 for sanding the floor of the Village Hall. After expenditure and VAT recovery there is a credit balance of £180 for the Village Hall and a credit balance held for the Playing Field of £1,735.

4. Presentations by Village Organisations;

- **PCC** - Rev Stephen Jones thanked WPC for its continued support, especially as maintenance of the Churchyard and Church Clock are of benefit to the whole community. He also thanked the hard work and commitment of Church members and the generous support of the wider community. A balanced pattern of services, traditional and more modern are held over the three churches and are well attended. Monthly sessions of 'Messy Church' are enjoyed by young children and parents and monthly services attended by the School and members of the congregation. Church members made a significant contribution to the work of the TRIO lunches. Enthusiastic preparations are being made for the Open Gardens and Flower Festival in June. Following weather damage a large section of the Churchyard wall has been repaired and volunteers work hard to keep the ivy and weeds down.
- **Wootton Conservation Trust** : Jim Fletcher, Chairman reported that the necessary changes are in hand to convert to limited liability status which will enable the Trust to revert to 5 trustees by 2015. Agricultural subsidy – the management plan for the next 2 years has been accepted that will attract over £3000 in additional capital grants. Land Management – continuing maintenance of broken fences takes up most of the Trust's income. Sections of broken post and wire fence have been replaced with more

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substantial post and rail. Hazel wands and stakes have been cut from the roadside hedge and will be used for traditional hedge laying in Dorn Meadow. Meanwhile, the wire fence has been renewed to enable the grazier to bring in cows and sheep and lambs are to be put in the meadows (Dogs to be kept on leads please). Drainage and trees: Main drain relief channel has been cleared and a piped vehicular access onto Dorn Meadow at the Milford Bridge end will make it possible for the willow trees to be pollarded by Spring 2015. The Environment Agency have declined to re-instate dredging of the River Glyme or agree to what extent this should happen. This makes it difficult to obtain grants but currently consultations are in process with several environment and conservation agencies to try and formulate a project acceptable to all for a repeat application.

- **Outreach:** Neil Scott, the Treasurer reported that Outreach continues to be freely distributed each month to all dwellings in Wootton, Glympton and Kidlington. The entire production is non profit making and run by volunteers – costs for printing currently approx 55p per copy. Income is made up from 54% advertising and 46% donations including the donation from the Parish Council. A smaller donation was requested this year from the Parish Council compared to last year as income from other sources has slightly increased and it is hoped that this position will have further improved by the time of the next precept meeting.
- **Wootton CE Primary School.** Jonathan Reynolds, Chair of Governors, thanked Wootton Parish Council for contribution to costs of a shed constructed at the rear of the village hall – this has now been completed with especial thanks to Cllr Warner. After its temporary relocation due to building failure, the School is now back in School premises from the start of the new academic year. Grateful thanks to the playing field committee for their generous hospitality and the financial support of the Diocese – repair and relocation costs were in the order of £25,000. The statutory OFSTED inspection carried out during the relocation period was at a stressful and not ideal time and resulted in the School being judged as ‘Requiring Improvement’. The School challenged several aspects of this Inspection process and OFSTED have since made some changes in relation to small schools. The Head, teachers and Governors have worked hard to put in place strategies to remedy any weaknesses, in particular, mathematics and are confident that the School will perform well in the re-inspection. The School received a judgment of ‘Outstanding’ in its SIAS Diocesan Inspection. The School budget has been presented to the Local Authority and remains at approx £330,000. Currently there are 67 children on roll with maximum capacity rated at 70. From September 2014 there will be vacancies in the School’s Governing Body and the School will be seeking nominees from the villages over the next few months.
- **Wootton Baby, Toddler and Pre-School Group** Rachel Budge, Chair, explained that this is a not-for-profit club run by mothers who live in Wootton for the benefit of the young children in the Parish. The club meets every Friday in the Village Hall and is attended by parents from a wide area. Toys and equipment have to be stored in a shed which is over 20 years old and no longer weatherproof. The Parish Council is asked to consider a donation of £500 from next years Precept, approx half the cost of replacement, with the Group raising the other 50%.
- **Playing Field:** Ann Day, Chair, thanked the Parish Council for their contribution towards the purchase of a couple of ‘spring animals’ in the playground for young children and help with re-fencing costs between the house and play corner. The area previously used for the temporary rehousing of the School is hoped to be made into a multiplay area supported by a grant of £30,000. The playing field is continually in use by the community, especially the School and is beautifully maintained. Volunteers, especially in the Summer months would be welcomed.
- **Village Hall:** Joy Pomfret, Administrator, thanked the Parish Council for their donation which will be put towards the installation of a new heating system using special ‘cool

touch' radiators which are childproof. The Village Hall is used and enjoyed by all age groups, including the School.

- **Wootton Stores** The donation from the Parish Council is used to fund the Parcel Box and daily collection by the Royal Mail – the shop provides this valuable service to the village so that people are able to send recorded and special delivery letters, Letters over D5 size, freepost returns and parcels. The Stores is doing well and is always keen to introduce new products as well as staples, and all at competitive prices. It also supports local producers and as from Monday 19th May a dry cleaning service is available. New volunteers are welcomed to be recruited and trained to involve the whole Village.
- **Wootton Relief in Need:** presented a balance sheet

5. Presentation by Community Police Officer:

PCSO Tina Townshend attended as Phil Workman was on leave. She reported a total of 17 crime incidents from 1/4/13 – 31/3/14 – this is an increase of 7 from last year but still a very low figure. It includes crime related reports eg domestic, Adult and Child protection, which are recorded in case of future problems. She stressed the importance of public vigilance and security – the public are urged to use the 101 non emergency telephone No to report any concerns however small. In addition by signing up to Police Alert (www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) the public will receive alerts to crimes and crime reduction, including rural crime. Grateful thanks to PCSO Townshend for finding time to attend.

6. Any Other Business

- **Flower boxes at entrance to Milford Place and Dorn View:** Joan Thomas, who upkeepes these displays, reports that some of the boxes are in need of repair. She put in a request for WPC to consider a precept donation next year – an estimate of cost has been given at approximately £340.
- **Trees:** There is still concern in the village at the loss of the horse chestnut tree and the general future of trees in the village. We do have communication from Oliver Kaye, Highways and Transport, that this tree was dead and needed removing (6.1.2014) and also a photo of the disease. The overgrown **hedge** alongside the Piece starting opposite Milford Place and going towards the allotments needs attention. Also the footpath linking Marriott Close and Horseshoe Lane and the footpath up Williams Hill. **Cllr Baldwin** has contacted Dan Weeks, E & E Planning and Regulation Service
- **Road Signs:** one of the signs for Manor Court leading to Clifford Terrace has disappeared. There used to be a sign each side of the road. Also the Church Street sign on the School wall has gone. **Clerk to contact District Council**
- **Bus Service;** New service to start 1st June 2014 and timetables have been requested to put in the Village Stores. Ann Day thanked the support of the County Council and Parish Council in keeping this vital service running. The new service is an improvement with 5 daily buses.

The Annual Meeting ended at 7.50pm and was immediately followed by the meeting of Wootton Parish Council. The date of the next Annual Parish Meeting is Monday 11th May 2015 at 7pm

Jane Carlin (Clerk, Wootton Parish Council)