

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL
Annual Parish Council Meeting on Monday 9th May 2016 at 7.30pm
Village Hall

MINUTES

Present

Cllr M Tuely (Chairman)
Cllr A Warner
Cllr P Loftus
Cllr L Seymour
Cllr J Thomas
Cllr. S Gabbatiss
Cllr. J Yates
J Carlin (Clerk)
County Cllr. Ian Hudspeth
4 Members of the public

The meeting commenced at 7.50 pm (following Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm)

1. **Apologies:** District Cllr. Cottrell-Dormer
2. **Disclosure of Interest: Disclosure of Interests and Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.** The Chairman welcomed the newly elected Parish Council. Cllr. Jane Yates did not stand for re-election and left the meeting. Our thanks for her support during the past year. The election of the new Chairman went ahead with the current Chairman, Cllr Miles Tuely, standing down after four years, Cllr. Loftus was proposed for position of Chairman (Prop. Cllr Thomas/Sec. Cllr. Seymour) and it was supported unanimously. Cllr Warner was willing to continue as Vice-Chairman (Prop Cllr Loftus/Sec. Cllr Gabbatiss). The new Chairman continued to chair the meeting and Cllr Tuely left as he was going on holiday the next day.
3. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office by New Councillors:**
 - **WPC Declaration of Acceptance of Office** forms were completed by all Cllrs present and handed to the Clerk to file
 - **Interests Registration** forms completed and returned to Clerk to forward to the Election Office
4. **Approval of Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting on 11th April 2016:** The Minutes of 11th April 2016 were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.
5. **Co-option of two new Councillors:** With the standing down of Cllr. Tuely and Cllr. Yates there were two vacancies on the Parish Council. Barry Gubbins and Karen Braden were both present at the meeting and willing to stand (Prop. Cllr Warner/Sec. Cllr. Seymour). They were duly co-opted.
6. **Matters Arising from the Minutes which are not covered elsewhere:**
 - **Seat in need of repair:** This had been discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting. The seat is not the property of the Parish Council. **Cllr Gabbatiss** to investigate whether complete removal is the best option. However, it appears that the seat is cemented in place and would be difficult to remove so attempts will be made to repair it. **Cllr Gabbatiss and Cllr Gubbins.**
 - **Dog at Wootton Place:** This has now been sorted by the caretaker and the dog is under better control.
 - **War (Peace) Memorial:** Repair work has now been completed by Joslins in time for the Sunset Service to be held in conjunction with the British Legion to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the Battle of the Somme on 30th June.


11/7/16

7. County Council and District Council Matters: County Council : County Cllr Hudspeth in his April Parish Report is unhappy that the District Council have commenced a tender process looking at Unitary Councils without involving the County. He would strongly favour an independently led report so that all parties can agree to look at all the options in an open and transparent manner. A new weapon has been deployed in the battle against **potholes** on Oxfordshire's roads. The 'Dragon' – a mobile patching machine that is used across Oxfordshire, Cambridge and Peterborough. The machine repairs an average of 20 defects a day and can fill pot-holes, seal cracks and provide a thin overlay to minor surface damage – preventative maintenance saving money in the long term. **Recycling Centres** to open til 8pm on Thursdays from 7th April – 29th September. **Cuttleslowe and Wolvercote Roundabouts** – excellent progress and should now be a mid-October completion.

West Oxfordshire District Council: Sir Barry Norton, as leader of the District Council, states that all councils in Oxfordshire now agree on the need for unitary governance and PricewaterhouseCoopers have been appointed to lead an independent study. This study has been jointly commissioned by Oxfordshire's five District Councils and Cotswold and South Northamptonshire District Councils. Costs for this study will be approx. £15,000 per council. The Districts had wanted to involve the County Council in this study but because of the County Council's preconditions for its involvement this would have incurred further costs and delays. The study should be completed by the end of June and the detailed proposals will be considered by each of the Councils and consultations will then be carried out.

Wootton Bus Service: Mr Ray Grantham attended the PC Meeting specifically to raise the problem of Wootton losing its bus service. He pointed out that this will mean walking 2 miles to the main road which is an impossibility for most bus users. The Parish Council have no powers to stop this happening. Ian Hudspeth responded that the £4m subsidy has been withdrawn right across the County and that this was a unanimous decision. Until it is known which routes bus operators are willing to cover (which is unlikely to be Wootton) it is impossible to plan. This should happen shortly and information will then be sent out regarding Community Buses -- the Flower Bus is a possible future community option. No further contact has been received from Mr Chris Puttick, who was trying to set up a Community Interest Company to run a bus service for the Bartons and surrounding areas. He was relying on a mixture of grants and private investment to purchase two electric buses. He can be contacted wewant@ourbus.co

8. Planning:

- The Old Pink Cottage, 2 Glympton Road, Wootton – Mr & Mrs. J. Fogg (16/01041/HHD)
Construction of detached carports and garage/store – **under consideration**
- Hillside, Church Street, Wootton - Conrad Wolfram (16/00926/LBC)
Increase the size of 2 velux in west facing roof – **under consideration**. It was noted that this application is having to use Stonesfield Slate on the roof even though it is not outside facing.
- Dovecote Barn, Chapel Hill, Wootton – Mr & Mrs George Overend (16/01222/HHD)
Conversion of garage into living accommodation. Infill existing garage doors and insertion of 3 conservation rooflights into rear roof slope – **under consideration**
- 1 Marriott Close, Wootton – Ms Judy Bartlett (16/01189/HHD)
Erection of summer house – **under consideration**. The PC understands that currently Ms Bartlett and the Housing Association are in discussion as to whether a tenant is legally allowed to apply for planning permission.
- Windy Ridge, Burditch Bank, Wootton – Miss Wendy Short (16/01367/HHD)
Proposed loft conversion and side extension and replacement detached garage –**under consideration**. This is a revision of a previous application

9. Financial Matters and Bills to pay

Parish Council bank balances:

Current (No 1 a/c): £ 10,408.41

Parish Council Project Fund (No 2 a/c): £ 531.53

Business Reserve a/c: £ 0.04

Parish Clerk Work: Mar/April £87.28 Cheque No. 000392

- HMRC for Clerk's tax: £21.80 Cheque No. 000393
- **Precept Payment – 1st Instalment** Payment of £4,000.50 has been received from West Oxon District Council.
Village Precept Grants have been paid (See Annual Parish Meeting) Cheque Nos. 000386 – 000391 (total: £3,987.00)
- AON Insurance annual renewal £814.94 Cheque No.000394
- Annual rent for Wootton Village Hall April 2015 – March 2016 £72.00 Cheque No. 000395

10. **Annual Audit 2015/16.** Thanks to be given to Rick Adams (RFO) and Phil Parker (internal auditor) for examining and signing the Audit Forms. To be completed and signed by the Chairman. The Accounts will be available for public scrutiny from 15th June 2016 to 26th July 2016.

11. **Countryfile Live** – to take place at Blenheim Aug 4th – 7th. Parish Council are invited to a short presentation to explain what measures will be taken to ensure minimal impact. The meeting will take place on **Weds 25th May 6.00pm for 6.15 pm**. **Cllr Thomas and Cllr Loftus** to attend

12. **Community Emergency Plans:** names and mobile telephone numbers of three councillors willing to be put on the list of contacts. Thanks to Cllrs Seymour, Gabbatiss and Warner.

13. **Any Other Business:**

- **WoottonWeb:** at present anyone logging on might be confused by some text in Latin! – this is a temporary means of using dummy text to fill the space
- **Fly Tipping:** concern was expressed at two piles of breeze blocks and rubbish on Meadowlands land in an area known as 'The Peace'. This has been very quickly cleared away.
- **Dog Waste Bin:** which has been promised at the entrance gate to the Meadows. It was queried whether the County Council would also provide a bag dispenser – **Cllr. Seymour**
- **Well Cover** Cllr Warner advised that this will be taken away shortly – the need for covering the resulting hole to be assessed – **Cllr. Warner**
- **Good Neighbour Scheme:** Cllr. Loftus reported that an article put in Outreach requesting potential volunteers had produced a disappointing nil response, apart from Cllrs. Warner, Loftus and Seymour. Sue Lace the Support Co-ordinator suggested a public meeting if it was wished to take it further. It was suggested that the new website could be used to advertise request/lifts. **Cllr Warner** to follow up the possibility of a weekly lift service being provided by a local minibus (owned by Mick). This would incur a small charge.

The Parish Council gave a big Vote of Thanks to **Miles Tuely** who as Chair for the past four years, has worked hard for the benefit of Wootton. He has carried out his duties with good humour and managed to maintain the goodwill of all the Councillors. He will be much missed – we hope he will attend some future meetings!..

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

Future Meeting Dates

Monday 11th July 2016 at 7.30 pm

Monday 12th September 2016 at 7.30 pm

Monday 14th November 2016 at 7.30pm

Monday 9th January 2017 at 7.30pm

Monday 13th March 2017 at 7.30 pm

Monday 8th May 2017 – Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm

followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

Monday 10th July 2017 at 7.30pm

Monday 11th September 2017 at 7.30 pm

Monday 13th November 2017 at 7.30 pm

Jane Carlin (Clerk, Wootton Parish Council)