

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting on Monday 19th January 2015 at 7.30pm
Village Hall

MINUTES

Present

Cllr. M Tuely (Chairman)
Cllr A Warner
Cllr D Parsons
Cllr P Loftus
J Carlin (Clerk)
District Cllr. C. Cottrell-Dormer
1 member of the public

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

1. **Apologies:** County Cllr. I Hudspeth, Cllr. T Lang, Cllr L Seymour
2. **Disclosure of Interests:** None
3. **Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Monday 10th November 2014**
The Minutes of 10th November 2014 were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting
4. **Resignation of Cllr. D. Baldwin:** notice of resignation was received on 6th January 2015 with immediate effect. Cllr Tuely expressed his regret on behalf of the Council and expressed his thanks for Cllr. Baldwin's input, particularly in helping with weeding the verges and advice on trees. A notice of vacancy was put on the Parish Council Notice Board on 12th January and only one application had been received from Mrs Joan Thomas, who has considerable previous experience of serving on the Council. Accordingly the Parish Council co-opted Joan Thomas to fill the vacancy (proposed Cllr Tuely and seconded by Cllr Warner). Unfortunately, it has subsequently been discovered that the Notice of Vacancy should be displayed for 2 weeks and the co-option was therefore legally invalid. Accordingly, a new notice has been displayed from 21st January – 10th February and any interested party should contact Electoral Services as detailed on the poster. In the event of any additional volunteers an election would be held. If no further interest is received, Joan Thomas will be co-opted at the next meeting of the Parish Council on 9th March. With apologies, in particular to Joan.
5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes which are not covered elsewhere:**
 - **Mobile Fish and Chip Shop:** The Parish Council was pleased to welcome Sara Braiotti representing Rainbow Fish and Chips from Kidlington, who explained that this will be a new venture for her father who has 30 years experience. This will be a once weekly visit on a Wednesday and he hopes to start on Wednesday 28th January – approx 3.30pm/4pm – 8pm. Discussion was held as to the best site. It was felt that the top of Castle Road, where there is a layby and if possible, also Milford Place. **Cllr. D Parsons /Cllr A Warner** offered to discuss this with him in e-mail or in person on the Wednesday. Sara brought some flyers detailing prices and range of food and these have been distributed by the Councillors.
 - **Meeting of Town and Parish Councils:** on 3rd December 2014 was attended by Cllr. Tuely. There were presentations on items of planning, housing, council tax.
 - **Footpath in Church St. Opposite End Cottage:** Oxford County Council had visited Church Street and announced no plans to remove the narrow footway, especially in view

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of the wider footway on the opposite side of the road. A letter was sent from Wootton Parish Council to Mrs Higginson expressing our sympathies.

- **Customer and Community Advisor re winter power cuts:** Only one resident responded to the article in Outreach requesting details of particular need in the event of winter power cuts. Details have been passed on.

6. County Council and District Council Matters:

- Council Tax has been frozen for the fifth year – a considerable achievement.. District Cllr Cottrell Dormer explained that this has been achieved by cutting down staff costs and wherever possible sharing expenses such as grass cutting. West Oxfordshire has the second lowest council tax in the country
- County Cllr I Hudspeth is currently involved in investigating potential savings that could be achieved by unitary government in Oxfordshire. Details are in the link below which takes you to the Cabinet report and independent analysis by Ernst and Young.
<http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId+4040>
- Oxfordshire's four rural District Councils have united in opposition to a unitary bid being considered by Oxfordshire County Council. They are of the opinion that the savings indicated of £33m are vastly overstated and the costs of implementation significantly understated.

7. Planning

- Judds Cottage, Woodleys. Mr Adrian Dixon. Two storey rear extension (14/01829/HHD)
- 74 Castle Road, Wootton. Single storey link extension and new store roof (14/02183/HHD)
- Idlecombe Burditch Bank, Wootton: Erection of two storey extension. Mrs. Neghat lakadwalla 14/01434/HHD – **refused**. District Cllr Cottrell-Dormer advised that at a well attended site meeting it had been suggested that an extension at the back, in line with the other properties, would be more appropriate.

8. Financial Matters and Bills to pay:

Parish Council bank balances

Current (No 1 a/c): £3,900.85

Parish Council Project Fund (No 2 a/c): £947.33

Business Reserve a/c: £0.07

- **Parish Clerk work:** Nov/Dec 2014 – £72.70 Cheque No 000342
- **HMRC for Clerk's tax:** Sept/Oct 2014 –£ 18.20 Cheque No 000343
- **Kevin Grant grass cutting:** £1,025.00 – Cheque No 000340 (paid 21/11/14)
- **Eric Buswell honarium payment for mowing of playing field:** £150.00 Cheque No. 000341 (paid 1/12/14)
Approval in retrospect was granted for both the two above payments prior to the Parish Council Meeting.
- **Repayment to Chairman for Flower Boxes at Milford Place:**£340.00 Cheque No 000344

9. **Precepts:** The council met at 7pm in private to discuss the Precept Application Forms. There were three new applications for 2015 . The **Village Hall Committee** thanked the Parish Council for last years grant but are not making a request for 2015 as they have sufficient funds. Grants were decided as follows

Outreach	£300
PCC	£750
Playing Field	£300
Wootton Sports Club	£300
Village Stores (postal service)	£787

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Wootton Primary School	£750
Wootton Conservation Trust	£500
Wootton Baby and Toddler Group	£400
Defibrillator Training Costs	£200

Total **£4287**

(This is £38 less than last year)

10. Memorial in Churchyard: In need of repairs to the base and cleaning. An apology was received from Mr. M Hallam, who had raised the issue of the memorial in the churchyard being correctly termed 'Peace Memorial', as the 'War Memorial' is located inside the church. Cllr Tuely explained that the War Memorial Trust does not differentiate between the two terminologies, and for the purposes of raising funds and awareness 'War Memorial' is more easily recognised. An article has appeared in Outreach requesting contributions and already over £200 has been received. An estimate of cost from Joslins the stonemasons is approx £2,200 including VAT and a pre-application for a grant has been made. Only one costing estimate is required at this stage and if granted, a further estimate will be obtained.

11. Energy Grants: Cllr Loftus attended a meeting of OALC where the topic of obtaining a grant towards the cost of an energy efficiency audit of Village halls and then possible future work was discussed. Cllr Garner explained that Wootton Village Hall has already had this done. Because the hall is wooden true efficiency would involve removing all the outside wood, insulating the walls and then replacing the wood at enormous cost. The windows are to be improved and the new heating system installed is a great success.

12. Any Other Business

- **Road works at West End bridge:** mention was made that there has been a problem with blocked drains necessitating pumping wagons on a 24 hour basis. This is a separate problem from water coming out of a manhole at the top of the village which is not foul water but would cause danger if the weather freezes. The Water Authorities have been informed.

Date of Next Meetings

Monday 9th March 2015 at 7.30 pm

Monday 11th May 2015 Annual Meeting at 7.00 pm

Followed by Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 pm

Monday 13th July 2015 at 7.30 pm

Monday 14th September at 7.30 pm

Monday 9th November 2015 at 7.30 pm

Jane Carlin (Clerk)

J.C.
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