

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 2 October 2023**

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

Members of Public: District Cllr Tim Sumner, 6 members of the public

44/24 Apologies and Declarations

- 44.1 Apologies: No apologies had been received.
- 44.2 Cllr Brown declared an interest in Item 8, as a trustee of Wootton Conservation Trust
- 44.3 The Chair formally reported the news of the recent sad deaths of the parish's recently appointed Rector, Rev John Reader, and of Mrs Ann Day who had a long record of greatly valued community service to the village. He expressed the council's condolences to their families. .

45/24 Minutes

- 45.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2023 were approved and accepted into record and signed by the Chair.
- 45.2 **Matters arising:**

Matters for information only arising from these minutes –
 - 45.1 B4027 road safety issues - A local group coordinated by Mel Leggett is in the process of securing accreditation from TVP for a community speed watch group to monitor traffic speeds in the village.
 - 45.2 Coronation Trees - Cllr Brown reported that he is still waiting for confirmation about the grant.. Decision on placement has been made and Cllr Brown will liaise with the tree adviser. It was agreed to ask via Outreach for sponsorship by businesses and/or individuals.
- 2.1.3 Neighbourhood Plan - To be discussed under item 7

46/24 Open forum

- 46.1 County Councillor:
Cllr Graham was not present but had submitted his written report, to be circulated to cllrs.
- 46.2 District Councillor:
Cllr Sumner is now on the council's executive with responsibility for leisure and major projects, but his first priority will be representing his parishes. At the recent council meeting, mobile phone reception problems were discussed and cllrs will be engaging with digital mobile providers, aware that rural areas have bad signal.. A public meeting will be held.
WODC is involved with WestHivee (a crowd-funding website for community projects) - all details are on website. WODC has backed the fund financially.

Botley West – waiting for developers to respond to what community has said. Cllr Sumner is writing to Blenheim Estate requesting access to fields around Sampsons Platt for ground radar surveys to be carried out.

46.3 Public

Amanda Salter asked if she could erect a small book shed by the benches opposite the well-cover. In order to offer advice on whether permissions might be needed members of the Planning committee will meet on site with her to understand more about what was proposed and where it was proposed to be sited.

47/24 Planning

- 47.1 23/02266/HHD Meadowland, Horseshoe Lane – awaiting decision. PC reported no objection to solar panels.
- 47.2 23/01729/FUL Beech Cottage, Tew Lane – under consideration
- 47.3 23/02484/S73 Wootton Place, Church Street – comments due 13/10/23. This is in the conservation area and the planning committee will meet to discuss

The planning committee had visited Slape Hill Quarry and noted a bad smell, diesel spillage, a lot of debris and some damaged trees. The entrance gate is not secure and the site attracts fly-tipping. There is evidence of Japanese Knotweed. All these concerns have been reported to the county council.

48/24 Botley West Consultation

There is no indication yet on when the next phase will happen.

49/24 Burditch Bank

The ash trees are a cause for concern. Chair reported that he has been able to see the original planning application and adoption decisions and as a result knows that the company who appeared to own the freehold of the site were still in existence a couple of years ago. This information has been given to OCC to pursue. Chair will write to County Councillor to seek a response to question put to him at the last PC meeting.

50/24 Cherwell & West Oxfordshire District Plan

Report on village transport network - This is about providing safer and more accessible local routes to encourage people to walk and cycle rather than drive. It is a small part of an overall national strategy but does come with the possibility of government funding available. For Wootton a range of improvement proposals has been worked up including new cycle paths, bus shelters and measures to reduce speeding. Small posters will be produced explaining the range of improvements and placed in the village and online, so that everyone has the opportunity to comment. .

WODC Village Plan - this dovetails into Local plan for 2041 which is out for consultation. There was an exhibition and workshop in Woodstock which councillors would attend. The initial impression is that villages are being sidelined in favour of the interests of larger towns regarding transport, train links, and employment. Deadline for comments is 29 October and comments are welcome online. Councillors were urged to email Cllr

Mackinlay by mid October. Agreed; Cllr Mackinlay was authorised to draft the formal response for the planning committee to agree and submit on behalf of the PC.

Neighbourhood Village Plan - Agreed: Cllr Bates was authorised to set up a steering committee made up of volunteers from the village to advise on the development of the plan. It was agreed a poster should be produced and displayed in the village inviting people to join the committee.

Cherwell District Plan consultation – this will be reported at the next meeting.

51/24 Finance

51.01. The payment list was circulated before the meeting and was approved and signed by 2 members of the Finance Committee.

52.02 S137 grant applications

Applications were invited from local or voluntary groups in the village for Section 137 funding from the council for the next financial year (2024-25) These should be submitted to the clerk by late October. Clerk is checking with those awarded grants this year whether they still wish to apply for grants for 2024-25.

Application forms for S137 funding have been sent out and are due back by late October for decision in November,

Date of next meetings : 06/11, 04/12.

Signed

Date