

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting on Monday 11th July 2016
at 7.30pm
Village Hall

MINUTES

Present

Cllr P Loftus (Chairman)
Cllr A Warner
Cllr L Seymour
Cllr J Thomas
Cllr K Braden
Cllr S Gabbatiss
Cllr. B Gubbins
District Cllr. Cottrell-Dormer
1 member of the public
J Curran (Clerk)

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm

1. **Apologies:** No apologies received
2. **Disclosure of Interest:** there were no disclosure of interests
3. **Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Monday 9th May :** The Minutes of 9th May 2016 were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes which are not covered elsewhere:**
 - **Repair of the seat in Castle Road:** this has now been restored and there have been several appreciative comments from Villagers. Cllr Thomas is hoping to have a plaque made to commemorate her grandmother who placed the seat initially. Grateful thanks to **Cllrs Gabbatiss and Gubbins**.
 - **Village Well:** now fully repaired and restored. Concerns were raised lest it was damaged again but Cllr Warner explained that it is of considerable weight and has been specifically designed to move if hit. No final invoice has been received as yet. Thanks to **Cllr Warner** for overseeing such an excellent job.
 - **Flytipping at the Piece:** Cllr Loftus has reported this to WODC. To check if it has been cleared
 - **Countryfile Live:** August 4th – 7th. Cllr. Thomas and Loftus attended a meeting and reported that any potential problems with traffic congestion have been well covered.
 - **Woottonweb:** this is nearly ready for general use and already looking impressive. Past Minutes of the Parish Council are all available. **Cllr Gabbatiss** to formulate the Minutes in acceptable template.
5. **County Council and District Council Matters :** In County Cllr Hudspeth's June Report he reports a decision taken on the **long-term strategy for A40** which will focus on a new dual carriageway from Witney to the new park and ride at Eynsham. It is hoped to secure approx £50m in government funding to achieve the plans. Good news that an **Oxfordshire Care Home** has won an 'Outstanding' rating – achieved by only 1% of homes in the South East and **Oxfordshire Adult Social Care Services** have been ranked in the top 5%. **Proposals for Unitary Council** – town and parish councils have been invited to attend workshops to discuss new opportunities to take greater control over local decision making. OCC has appointed Grant Thornton to undertake a study of all the unitary council options. **Grass Verge Cutting Programme 2016** – one general cut a year is now carried out across the whole of the road network. **Oxon District Councils** have appointed PwC to undertake their own independent report and the previously preferred option that comprised four unitary councils to include parts of Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire has been dropped because of legislative issues relating to cross border authorities. PwC will report in June followed by Grant Thornton in July and all councils will then submit the proposals to central government in the autumn following a period of public consultation.



Cllr Thomas commented that some of the verges at road corners were potentially dangerous, in particular making a right turn at Milford Bridge. Information can be found at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/grass-verge-cutting-programme-2016 or to report specific concerns tel. 0845 310 1111

Proposed Planning

- **Woodlake Cottage, Glympton Road, Wootton** - Mr Didier Fellet (16/01509/HHD)
Erection of two bay car port and canopy over existing entrance to house. Alterations to existing vehicular access - **Approved**
- **The Old Pink Cottage, 2 Glympton Road, Wootton** – Mr & Mrs. J. Fogg (16/01041/HHD)
Construction of detached carports and garage/store – **Approved**
- **Wootton Down Farm** - Duke and Duchess of Marlborough. Removal of existing external door and window and replacement with new central half glazed door with side lights. Internal alterations and reconfiguration (16/00897/LBC) – **Approved**
- **Hillside, Church Street, Wootton** - Conrad Wolfram (16/00926/LBC)
Increase the size of 2 velux in west facing roof – **Approved.**
- **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 – **Approved**
- **1 Marriott Close, Wootton** – Ms Judy Bartlett (16/01189/HHD)
Erection of summer house – **Approved**
- **Estate Office Glympton** – Lt Col Peter Browne (1601788/FUL)
Erection of additional garage block
- **Burditch House, The Walk, Wootton** – Dr Jill Durrant (16/02355/HHD)
Erection of bin store with covered access

6. Financial Matters and Bills to pay

Parish Council bank balances:

Current (No 1 a/c): £ 5,604.57

Parish Council Project Fund (No 2 a/c): £252.13

Business Reserve a/c: £ 318.25

- Parish Clerk Work: £72.70 Cheque No. 000399
- HMRC for Clerk's tax: £18.20 Cheque No. 000400
- Joslins Stonemasonry Ltd – repair of 'Peace Memorial) £1676.40 Cheque No 000005
(payment of £1,397.00 received from M Tuely and VAT £279.40 to be reclaimed for Parish Council A/c no 2 89055101)
- Martin Barnett – Deposit for Well Cover Repair £450.00 Cheque No. 000397
- NFU Mutual insurance renewal £207.62 Cheque No. 000398
- Donation to Wootton Babies and Toddlers Group (1st inst.of 2) £60.00 Cheque No.000401
- Costs for repair of seat in Castle Road: £78.00 Cheque No 000402
- VAT reclaimed for Cleaning of War Memorial £113.20 transferred to Business Reserve a/c 89012208
- Transfer of VAT reclaimed from A/c No. 89011414 to A/c No 89055101 (held for Wootton Memorial Playing Fields (£116.20)
- Donations received for repair of Peace Memorial £205.00 and £100.00 paid into Business Reserve a/c 89012208

7. **Bank Signatories:** Forms given to Cllrs Gabbatiss, Gubbins and Braden. To be completed and taken into Nat West Bank Kidlington with two forms of proof of identity. New Councillors Barry Gubbins and Karen Braden signed Declaration of Acceptance forms.

8. **Bartons Bus:** Cllr. Loftus had circulated the proposed timetable which would run from Wootton to Woodstock and back (bus out of Wootton at 09.55 and 12.10 returning from Woodstock at 10.34 or 12.57) on Mondays and Thursdays only. The cost per trip would be £3 (£6 return) and bus passes could not be used. Mr Ray Grantham questioned the legality of this but Cllr Loftus explained that it is a private enterprise and there are no subsidies forthcoming. On monitoring usage of the W12 this week he reported three villagers making the return journey. **Cllr Loftus** to continue investigating the Bartons bus scheme, in particular to establish whether it is likely to be financially viable. It may be necessary to have a two month trial. Other options would be to try and establish a car share scheme.

9. **WODC Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability:** letter received from WODC identifying sites in Wootton that would potentially be suitable for future development and inviting comments from the Parish Council. Cllr. Loftus replied on behalf of the PC with objections based on a potential 50% population increase with insufficient infrastructure i.e. village school currently close to capacity, no bus service in the village and roads and sewerage system unable to cope.

- 10. Report on Footpaths:** Robert Wagstaffe, Footpath Warden, had circulated a comprehensive report sent to the County Council on any unresolved issues. Parish Council expressed thanks to Robert.
- 11. Community First Oxfordshire:** meeting at Bletchingdon for Parish Councillors to find out about techniques to influence the future of their community. Cllr Braden to attend but the meeting was cancelled due to lack of support.
- 12. Mobile Library Service Closure:** service due to end in September. Regret was expressed at this additional loss to the Village. The Home Library Service, which delivers books and resources to residents who are unable to get to a library, is being expanded to cope with additional demand
- 13. Church Street – Sycamore tree needing removal:** notification received from Savills re the necessary removal of a Sycamore tree on land belonging to Clutterbucks Trust. No objections were made and although it was hoped that the tree would be replaced, Savills have replied that it is not a good spot to plant more trees as there are probably too many in a tight spot already. Should further trees need removal in the future then they would consider replanting at that point. Cllr Braden commented on an overhanging tree at the junction with Church Street with the branches hitting higher vehicles. **Cllr Loftus** to contact Savills and request pruning.
- 14. Any Other Business;**
- **Seats around the Village:** which are the property of the Parish Council. Cllr Thomas requested that they be checked to see if they are in need of stripping, tidying etc. There are two seats by the village hall and two benches inside the Playing Field
 - **Cricket:** Village cricket match held on Sunday 10th July was proclaimed a great success and enjoyed by all. Thanks to Cllr Warner and Kip Day for all their hard work and long hours in ensuring that the grass was cut and rolled in readiness. A charge was made of £5 per player and a donation of £25 was made to the Playing Field Committee for using the pitch and to the Sports Club for use of the line paint. It was agreed that it is now necessary to organise a meeting with the Sports Club in order to properly formulate a Wootton Cricket Club which would be under the umbrella of the Sports Club. Fixture lists can then be drawn up and plans made to raise money for a net and roller.
 - **Grass Verges in Wootton:** these are becoming overgrown and shabby, particularly in areas where there are no houses bordering the road. It was proposed to hold a **'Verge Blitz Day'** with volunteers from the Village. **Cllr Gabbatiss** to first contact WODC to check if they are willing to provide sacks etc and to collect the rubbish. A date can then be fixed and the event advertised in Outreach and on posters.
 - **Memorial in Churchyard:** Mr Grantham raised the issue of confusion over the correct name. He was referred to Mike Hallam who had previously explained that strictly the memorial in the churchyard is a Peace Memorial, the Wootton War Memorial being located on the north aisle of the church. A moving service was held to commemorate the Battle of the Somme on 30th June.
 - **Flower Show** to be held this year on Saturday 10th September. Insurance cover to be checked by Cllr. Loftus as the road outside will need to be closed.
 - **Dog Waste Bin outside entrance to The Meadows:** this has not been provided. **Clerk** to chase up. Cllr Thomas mentioned an increase in dog walking businesses whereby several dogs are let out to run in the Meadows and the resulting mess is not cleared up.

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm

Future Meetings:

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)

