
Wootton Parish Council

WPC

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3rd January 2023

You are hereby summoned to attend the next meeting of Wootton Parish Council to be held on Monday 9th January 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Members of the public are invited to attend.

- 1 Apologies for absence and to receive Declarations of Pecuniary, Personal or Prejudicial Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.
- 2 New Clerk
 - 2.1 Welcome
 - 2.2 Arrangements going forward
- 3 Minutes
 - 3.1 To accept minutes of last PC meeting – 14th November 2022
 - 3.2 Matters for information only arising from these minutes
- 4 Open Forum
 - 4.1 County & District Councillors Report
 - 4.2 Adjournment for public participation - Members of the public wishing to speak will each be given the opportunity to address the council for 3 minutes.
- 5 Planning
 - 5.1 Botley West Solar Farm Consultation – update – Chair to report
 - 5.2 21/04046/HHD & 04047/LBC – Manor Farm Chapel Hill - appeal awaiting decision
- 6 Wootton School- Future arrangements: representatives from the school have been invited to attend and speak to the Council
- 7 Finance
 - 7.1 To resolve & approve the payments for November/December
- 8 Date of next meeting – 13th February 2023

Corina Cheeks

Clerk to the Council

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2023**

Present: Councillors J Harwood, A Molyneux, F Bates, M Eccles-Williams, ~~J Salter~~, Cllr F Mackinlay County Cllr A Graham 18 members of the public. h

74/23 Apologies for absence and Declarations of Personal, Pecuniary or Prejudicial Interest

74.1. Cllr M Brown *Cllr J. Salter* h

74.2. The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item on Wootton school as he is a trustee of the Parrott & Lee Educational Foundation.

75/23 Clerk to the Parish Council

75.1. The Chair reported the decision of the selection panel and welcomed the new Clerk, Ms Corina Checks to her first meeting. He briefly summarised her CV and hoped that she would find her new role a satisfying and rewarding career move. He then paid tribute to the contribution made by her predecessor, Mrs Cris Hoad and moved that the council's appreciation of her exemplary work and support to the council be recorded formally in the minutes. This was agreed. The council wished her well for the future.

76/23 Minutes

76.1. Minutes of meeting 14 November 2022 were approved and signed as a correct record.

76.2. Matters arising – None

76.3. Minutes from finance meeting on 16 September accepted and recorded

77/23 Open Forum

77.1. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Graham had already submitted a written report which had been circulated to councillors. He felt it was important, however, to report on the changes to car parking in Woodstock. Following the public consultation in 2022, the county council had decided to have a new car parking scheme for Woodstock. This would enable residents to opt in to resident parking permits, which will take approximately 30% of the parking in the town. There will be some paid-for parking (in order to be able to fund enforcement) but parking for the first hour would be free.

Hotels in the centre of Woodstock are still being consulted on prospective voucher scheme for parking arrangements which will account for approximately 15% of the parking in the area

Parking for longer periods will be charged to encourage 'churn' to benefit local shops. Free longer stay car parking would remain available in the large off-street car park near the old library site.

The new parking regulations would be introduced in May.

78/23 Update from District Council

78.1. West Oxfordshire Cabinet agreed to join a regional partnership with other areas in and around Oxfordshire to attract funding to help local areas

79/23 Public participation

79.1. There was none at this stage, but the Chair agreed to take questions again in the item on Botley West.

Signed



Date 13 February 2023

80/23 Planning

80.1 Botley West Solar Farm Consultation

The Chair announced that he had prepared a longer report which included information on recent developments.

The report was circulated with the agenda and could be found in the relevant section of the WPC website. The Chair reported that he had attended a meeting with WODC which brought together the parishes most affected by the Botley West development. The meeting involved the planners explaining the process for undertaking development consent and confirmed the decision would not be made by WODC. West Oxfordshire DC are to publish an updated account of the process.

They will also issue information about what relevant factors will be taken into account when determining the application. This will save objectors/those commenting from putting forward arguments which will be dismissed because they are not relevant planning issues

There will be a further meeting in February or March to review progress.

A question was asked whether the developers will report the outcome of their consultation back to consultees. The Chair said that this is still uncertain. A further question was whether deficiencies in the consultation process might influence the inspector, to which the answer seemed to be yes, depending on the scale of the deficiency. The developers had an obligation to consult in a fair and reasonable way and to consider the responses they received.

Questions raised by members of the public as follows: (i) Was the issue of community ownership of solar generation raised at the meeting? – answer no. (ii) . Were government policies in the process of being developed taken into account by the planning inspector?

It will be the policies in place at the time the decision is made that will be given primary regard by the inspector.

(iii) was there anything that villagers could do, or was the outcome a foregone conclusion? – no the outcome is not a foregone conclusion and the views of, and evidence from, local people is very important.

80.2. Horseshoe House Planning Application

Cllrs confirmed that they had looked at the property but that they needed to take the matter away to investigate further including visiting the site. It was agreed that a response should be sent by the Clerk in advance of the next meeting following consultation with councillors.

80.3. Manor Farm


Chair noted that the listed building appeal for Manor Farm is still awaiting a decision.

81/23 Wootton School

81.1.

The Chair welcomed Trish Sangwine (chair of LGB), Lauren Murrey (outgoing Head), Karen Ward (incoming Head) and Gordon Joiner (ODBE/ODST) to the meeting. He explained that the change in the teaching arrangements and speculation about the future of the school had led to several requests to the parish council for more detailed information. The council was therefore grateful to the representatives from the school and diocese for coming to explain the situation in more detail.

Signed



Date 23 February 2023

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81.2.

The current and likely future position. is that Wootton school is the smallest school in the county. Because of the low numbers of children in Key Stage 3; years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have been educated at Tackley. This resulted in 13 children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 remaining at Wootton School.

From January 2023 it was decided that remaining children would also move to Tackley School. The Head reported that the children are thriving, and the process is going well. Feedback from parents so far has been very positive.

In reply to a question, the Head confirmed 120 children attend Tackley School. Wrap-around care for Wootton has been maintained and the children are taken to and from Tackley via a bus which is paid for by the school.

81.3.

The future of the school - the sad fact was that there are not enough children in the village to sustain the school. Furthermore, the number of primary aged children in the county is declining

An application has been made by ODST to the Secretary of State formally to close Wootton School. The final decision will be made by the Secretary of State. If the decision is made to close the school, this may be as early as September 2023

It was confirmed that when the school ceases to occupy the site, it would revert to the Parrott & Lee Educational Foundation.

81.4

Finally, the Chair thanked those attending from the school for their openness and providing for details.

82/23 Finance

82.1. Payment list was circulated to Councillors. The payment list was approved and signed, enabling payments to be authorised for payment after the meeting.

83/23 Next Meeting

83.1 Meetings for 2023 - 13/03, 10/04, 08/05 APM and APCM

Signed



Date 23 February 2023

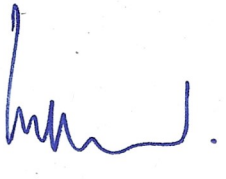

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Payment List for meeting 2022/23

Date	Name	Receipt	Payment
15.12.22	HMRC PAYE & NI Mth 9		46.8
15.12.22	Clerks Wages Mth 9		186.75
20.12.22	E Slips Mth 8		20.36
09.01.23	Wootton Village Hall		18
09.01.23	OALC Clerks Training		132
31.12.22	Bank Charges		18

0.00 421.91

Bank Balance 31.12.22		4,135.78
Receipts to date		0.00
Payments to be made after 31.12.22		150
		3,985.78

 9/Jan 2023.
 9/1/23