

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting on Monday 9th November 2015 at 7.30pm
Village Hall

MINUTES

Present

Cllr M Tuely (Chairman)
Cllr A Warner
Cllr P Loftus
Cllr L Seymour
Cllr J Thomas
Cllr J Yates
J Carlin (Clerk)
3 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm

1. **Apologies:** District Cllr. C. Cottrell-Dormer
2. **Disclosure of Interest:** there were no disclosure of interests
3. **Co-option of New Councillor:** Mr Simon Gabbatiss was the only candidate to reply to the advertised vacancy. Accordingly the Parish Council were pleased to welcome him and co-opt him to fill the vacancy (P: Cllr Tuely/S: Cllr Seymour). A Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.
4. **Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Monday 14th September:** The Minutes of 14th September 2015 were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.
5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes which are not covered elsewhere:**
 - **Wootton Website :** Millie Knight and Eve gave an enthusiastic presentation of their plans in progress for the setting up of a website for Wootton: www.woottonweb.org . These included a homepage, photographic gallery, biographies and interviews, parish council items, sports and local events. It was pointed out that the homepage should make clear that this is Wootton (Woodstock) as there are two Woottons in Oxfordshire. There is an immediate need for additional volunteers, particularly in the young age group to have involvement in their community. Millie and Eve to put an item in Outreach, posters in the village and school leaflets and an informal meeting to be held for anyone interested at the beginning of December. It was agreed that this enterprise should be financially supported by the Parish Council , initially for one year and then reviewed – payment of £150 to be given (P: Cllr Seymour, S: Cllr Gabbatiss).
 - **Frequency of Power Cuts:** There has been an improvement although not total. There have been instances of trees in the village being cut down as this is cheaper than trimming where they endanger the power lines. Glympton are to trim trees on their land in the Spring.
 - **Church Memorial:** Cllr Tuely reported that cleaning of the stone has been arranged – this is necessary before repairs take place in case there is further damage. The total repair has been guaranteed at no cost to the Parish Council, the money to be secured by donations although finance will necessarily go through the Parish Council accounts in order for VAT to be reclaimed. Thanks given to Cllr Warner for allowing the use of his outside tap.
6. **Precept Grants:** The Council met at 7pm to discuss the precept grant applications. This year there was a total of six requests – Outreach and Wootton Village Hall not requesting any money for 2016 as they currently hold sufficient funds. The table below compares the precepts given from 2012 to 2016. The Parish Council felt that all these organisations work hard at fundraising and are deserving of support.

June 2012
(Paid)

June 2013
(paid)

June 2014
(paid)

June 2015
(paid)

June 2016

PCC	750	750	750	750	750
Village Stores	750	750	775	787	787
Outreach	750	750	550	300	0
Primary School	750	750	750	750	750
Village Hall	750	750	500	0	0
Playing Field	750	750	500	300	800
Conservation	750		500	500	600
Sports Club				300	300
Baby & Toddler				400	0
Defibrillator Training				200	0
	<u>5,250</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>4,325</u>	<u>4,287</u>	<u>3,987</u>

7. **County Council and District Council Matters:** : budget for 2016/17 is being prepared. OCC have launched a series of consultations to enable residents to express their views (dates on notice board). It is believed a further £50m savings are needed over the next four years, on top of the nearly £300m already saved since 2010. As well as receiving less money from government, the council faces rising demand for services – particularly for vulnerable adults and children at risk of abuse and neglect. Already about half its budget is spent on 2% of the population of Oxfordshire – a proportion that is set to rise to three quarters of the total budget as a result of a growing aging population. The consultation on **Household Waste Recycling Centres** has now closed and awaiting decision. Road works at **Wolvercote and Cutteslowe** roundabouts are a necessary part of the overall 10 long term strategy.

Household Waste Recycling Centres consultation response: **The District Council** is opposing OCC's proposal to cut the number of waste recycling centres from seven to three, with the possibility of a fourth. This would mean a round trip of over 40 miles for many West Oxfordshire residents resulting in an increase in fly tipping and clear up charges – a retrograde and short term cost gain, West Oxon District Council did support a reduction in opening hours. The three areas identified by the County Council to have a Waste and Recycling Centre are: Central North Oxfordshire (closing Ardley and Alkerton and replacing with a new site), Central Oxfordshire (expanding or replacing Redbridge) and Central South Oxfordshire (expanding or replacing Drayton)

8. **Windy Ridge, Burditch Bank, Wootton.** Proposed loft conversion and side extension and replacement detached garage. (15/03615/HHD)
Wootton Down Farm, Wootton: Extensions and alterations to farmhouse. Change of use and conversion of barns and outbuildings to form additional accommodation to house. Demolitions of agricultural buildings. Remodelling of hard and soft landscape. (15/02969/FUL) – **Approved**

9. **Financial Matters and Bills to pay**

Parish Council bank balances:

Current (No 1 a/c): £ 7,173.82

Parish Council Project Fund (No 2 a/c): ~~£947.33~~ 1125.53

Business Reserve a/c: £180.16

- Parish Clerk Work: £72.70 Cheque No. 000370
- HMRC for Clerk's tax: £18.20 Cheque No. 000371
- K Grant – Grass Cutting £1,025.00 Cheque No. 000372

Receipt of the second instalment of the precept from WODC has been received - £4,499.76

10. **2016 Elections:** A reminder that Thursday 5th May 2016 is the date for new Parish Council elections. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 9th May.

11. **Risk Assessment:** this had been circulated by e mail and was agreed by the Parish Council (P: Cllr Warner /S: Cllr Loftus) and signed by Cllr Tuely

12. **Adoption of Standing Orders:** (P: Cllr Loftus /S: Cllr Thomas) **Clerk** to retype and bring up to date

13. **Repair of the Well Cover:** This is in a bad state having been badly damaged by an unknown car. It was agreed that it needs repairing and improving to prevent a recurrence, most probably by a raised stone surround to protect it. This may involve prior approval from Highways? There is no specific limit on an insurance claim although an

improvement may involve an additional cash payment. The excess is £125. **Cllr Warner** to provide photographic evidence and obtain quotes.

14. Subsidised buses and Dial a Ride: : publication of the consultation findings. Large public response to the consultation questionnaire demonstrating how highly the public values the supported services. The Council is trying to make maximum savings by running the services more efficiently, thereby saving £3.7 million but this will not be enough. The Council needs to find a minimum of £2.6 million in further savings and this will inevitably mean looking at supported transport which the council is not legally required to provide – At the meeting of Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet on November 10th **it has been decided to withdraw all bus subsidies and the funds to Dial a Ride.** If the community feels strongly about this, it is suggested they contact the County Councillor as there may be scope to influence the decision before the final February budget is agreed

15. Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire: request for financial support. The Parish Council felt that the service is available for many people in the Village to benefit from. No contribution was made last year but It was agreed to give £150 for 2016/17. (P: Cllr Tuely/ S: Cllr Loftus)

16. Grass Cutting : The three year contract for grass cutting will be up for renewal for the years 2016/17/18. The grass cutting grant has been cut by 50% and this year was £542.64 based on two cuts per year. For the years 2013/14/15 the work has been carried out by Kevin Grant based on 7 monthly cuts from April to October at a cost £1,025.00. An advert to go in Outreach and three newspapers: Oxford Times/Witney Gazette/Oxford Mail with a closing date of 31/12/15. **Clerk**

17. Meeting between Town and Parish Councils and West Oxon District Council: Tuesday 1st December 6.45 for 7pma. Committee Rooms, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney . – **Cllrs Tuely and Warner** to attend.

18. Any Other Business:

- **Defibrillator:** Cllr Thomas advised that there are now two defibrillators in the Village. A second one , sited on the side of Burditch Hall, has been donated by the parent of a footballer who tragically died suddenly whilst on the playing field. We need to know the site location and identity number of the defibrillator in the church porch. **Clerk**
- **Salt Bins :** Cllr Thomas reported that the salt bin at Marriott Close has been filled but the one on West End Hill, which is vital in bad weather, has become hidden in undergrowth. **Cllrs Seymour and Gabbatiss** to clear and check that it has been filled.
- **Seat in Castle Road:** Situated just past the Rectory, has been damaged and needs mending.
- **Signpost at the top of West End Hill:** is in poor repair with letters missing. Photo evidence to be sent to West Oxon District Council **Clerk**
- **Wootton Memorial Playing Field:** Cllr Tuely reiterated that this land was given to the Parish by Mr Powell in perpetuity for use as a playing field. Mr K Day explained that the Parish Council are Trustees and the land is managed by Wootton Memorial Playing Field Committee. The Sports Club have priority over the pitches but the Playing Field is available to the School and all villagers.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.

Future Meeting Dates

Monday 11th January 2016 at 7.30 pm

Monday 14th March 2016 at 7.30 pm

Monday 9th May 2016 at 7.30 pm

Monday 11th July 2016 at 7.30 pm

Monday 12th September 2016 at 7.30 pm

Monday 14th November 2016 at 7.30pm

Jane Carlin (Clerk)

