

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting on Monday 13th March 2017
at 7.30pm
Village Hall

MINUTES

Present

Cllr P Loftus (Chairman)
Cllr A Warner
Cllr J Thomas
Cllr K Braden
Cllr S Gabbatiss
Cllr. B Gubbins
Cllr. Seymour
District Cllr. C Cottrell-Dormer
County Cllr I Hudspeth
2 members of the public
J Carlin (Clerk)

The meeting opened at 7.30 pm

1. **Apologies:** Nil
2. **Disclosure of Interest:** there were no disclosure of interests
3. **Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Monday 9th January 2017:** The Minutes of 9th January 2017 were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.
4. **Presentation by Village Foundations:** a specialist building company aimed particularly at housing for the younger generation and retirement. Dan Skinner and his two colleagues explained their aim to build smaller, flexible homes with very high quality design and respect for the surrounding context and environment. Cllr Loftus lined the five sites that have been identified under the West Oxon Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability 2016 (Minutes 11.7.2019 (9)) but explained these are all owned by large landowners (Clutterbuck Trust Blenheim Estate and Glympton) who would probably use their own developers. Village Foundations are seeking areas of land of approx 1 acre to build a mix of affordable and market homes. The Parish Council who are aware of the need for future development, were grateful and interested in the presentation. Cllr Cottrell-Dormer mentioned that the Princes Trust also have an excellent development company for small sites.
5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes which are not covered elsewhere:**
 - **Upkeep of village seats, noticeboard and missing signpost letters:** Cllr Gubbins to undertake
 - **Wall opposite the School:** this has now been repaired
 - **Overgrown hedge at Burditch Bank:** Mr A Dixon (Tel. 813873) met with Mike Hallam to assess the hedge cutting needed. He has provided an estimate of £150 to cover cutting the hedge and clearing and removing all the cuttings. Approval has been given to go ahead
 - **Bank Signatories:** final form signed and to be taken to Nat West - Clerk
6. **County Council and District Council Matters :** Cllr Hudspeth explained that the Budget has now gone through, although the additional funding for adult social care announced by the Government unfortunately was too late to be included. There is continued disagreement of WODC and OCC over the draft proposals for a single unitary authority and Cllr Hudspeth pointed out that this would be a completely new Council ,not a County takeover.. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are now working with OCC and proposals are due to be submitted to the Secretary of State at the end of the month. WODC have concerns that local


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services and benefits, such as free parking, low council tax and proposed A40 improvements are all at risk under OCC's plans to create a unitary authority. WODC believes a unitary council would fail to recognise the specific needs of local residents. Instead they are in favour of the creation of a combined authority model with a local Mayor. Information and surveys of public opinion can be accessed from both authorities www.westoxon.gov.uk/at-risk or Ian.Hudspeth@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

7. Proposed Planning

- **Parrotts, Church St, Wootton** – Mark Eccles-Williams (16/04053/HHD) (16/04054/LBC) Erection of two single storey extensions to the rear facing east. Reinstate two first windows on the first floor facing West. Including internal alterations. – **Approve**
- **Wootton Down Farm, Wootton, Woodstock** - 12th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough (16/04163/HHD) (16/04164/LBC) Erection of first floor extension and new external access stair case. Construction of porch and orangery. Alterations to farmhouse and extension of existing boiler room. Remodelling of hard and soft landscape – **Approve**
- **2 Malthouse, Mill Lane, Wootton** - Mr & Mrs R Lawrence (16/04187/FUL) Erection of dwelling with associated parking - **Application withdrawn**
- **9 Marriott Close, Wootton** - Mr & Mrs Perisi (17/00032/HHD) Conversion of loft to include front and rear dormers : **Approve**
- **Bridge House, West End, Wootton** - Mr & Mrs C Ireland (17/00093/HHD) Erection of two storey extension and atrium on the south side of the property to provide additional utility facilities and light to the house, demolish and replace the existing first floor extension on the south elevation: **Under consideration** (our thanks to Mr. Ireland who attended the meeting to answer any queries from the PC)
- **High Bank, Burditch Bank, Wootton** - Mr & Mrs Mead (17/00367/HHD) Proposed side extension, replace existing flat roof with pitched roof with internal alterations and new carport : **under consideration**

8. Financial Matters and Bills to pay Parish Council bank balances:

Current (No 1 a/c): £6,797.21

Parish Council Project Fund (No 2 a/c): £662.43

Business Reserve a/c: £0.30

Parish Clerk Work: £72.70 Cheque 000421

HMRC for Clerk's tax: £18.20 Cheque No. 000422

Annual OALC subscription £133.07 Cheque No 000423

Reimbursement to Dom Knight for expenses in setting up of website £50 Cheque No.000424

Annual OPFA membership fee £40.00 Cheque No.000425

Trimming of Burditch Bank hedge – A Dixon £150.00 Cheque No. 000426

Donations received for repair of church memorial to be paid to M. Tuely. This should be the last instalment as money for the repairs has been fully recovered - £419 Cheque No 000427

The Parish Council wish to express their grateful thanks to Miles for undertaking the funding of the cleaning and repairs.

Letters of thanks received from Citizens Advice West Oxon and Volunteer Link-Up for donations of £50 each from Parish Council

9. **Bartons Bus:** Cllr. Loftus had made enquiries as to the number of Wootton residents using the service and was informed it was approximately 7 people per week. It is hoped that usage will increase as the service becomes established. There was concern that now the Nos 7 and 500 bus routes have been extended to Woodstock, the Bartons Bus has lost the pick up of potential customers in Woodstock who had used the route to get to Parkway Station. The Parish Council are grateful to the Bartons Bus although currently it is only used by a small number and decided to give an immediate donation of £200 (Cheque No. 000428) and review the situation in a few months time.

Cllr Hudspeth mentioned the problem in Woodstock of the new bus routes turning, both in the town and in Vanbrugh Close. The Parish Council suggested they might continue their route to the Wootton turn, which would provide an additional regular daily bus service potential for Wootton, although only at the top of the village. County Cllr. Hudspeth agreed to explore this possibility. **Cllr Loftus to send an e mail**


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10. Precept Grant Applications: this was now able to be properly discussed on confirmation that Wootton Parish Council will receive a precept grant of £8,292 for 2017/18. Those councillors who were personally involved in an organisation were excluded from voting on those they held an interest in. The amounts agreed are set out below and the money is to be paid in two instalments, which reflects the two instalment payments of precept money received by the Parish Council. The first instalment will be paid at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 8th May at 7pm when all local organisations are invited to give a brief presentation.

St Mary's Church Wootton	£650	(2 x £325)
Wootton Community Stores	£787	(2 x £393.50)
Outreach	Nil request	– sufficient funds
Wootton Primary School	£750	(2 x £375)
Wootton Village Hall	£150	(2 x 75)
Wootton Memorial Playing Field	£500	(2 x £250)
Wootton Conservation Trust	£350	(2 x £175)
Wootton Baby & Toddler Group	£400	(2 x £200)
Wootton Sports Club	£350	(2 x £175)
Wootton Cricket Club	£300	(Money held by the Parish Council until formal establishment has been determined)

Total Cost **£4237**

11. Wootton Sundial Memorial: Historic England is considering the memorial for addition to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. Any information or comments about the architectural or historical interest of the memorial to be sent to joanne.gould@HistoricEngland.org.uk Ref. 1442744

12. Meeting on 17th February with Robert Courts, MP: Cllrs Warner, Gabbatiss, Gubbins and Braden and the Clerk met Robert Courts and his Witney Caseworker, Sarah Jordan for an informal introduction in the Killingworth Castle. He was very keen to find out matters of local concern and stressed his willingness to give his support and help in any way possible. Topics discussed were the School Bus and loss of the local daily bus service. Mr Courts is currently District Councillor for the Bartons and a keen supporter of Bartons Bus. Traffic speeds along the B4027 and through the village were also discussed. Mr Courts suggested that although the County Council do not have sufficient funds to finance further signs they may be prepared to put forward some of the cost for installation of flashing speed signs. The problem of speeding in the Village, in particular down Castle Road and also on the B4027 is an ongoing concern. **Clerk to contact OCC.** Mr. Courts has sent a follow up letter thanking the Parish Council and asking to be kept informed of any progress made and requesting a formal visit to the Village Stores which has been passed to Julia. Robert Courts can be contacted through his local caseworker sarah.jordan@parliament.uk tel. 01993 702302

13. Date of Extraordinary Meeting: Monday 10th April at 7pm for the purpose of signing off the Year's End Accounts and agreeing the budget for 2017/18.

14. Any Other Business:

- Tree Debris on verge outside 72 Castle Road** – the owner of the property raised a problem with a dead tree in Castle Road having been cut down but the debris remains uncollected. The verge is the property of OCC and although there have been several requests, nothing has been cleared to date. **Clerk**

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Future Meetings:

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)



18/4/2017