

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 6 November 2023**

Councillors Present: Cllrs J Harwood, F Bates, M Eccles-Williams, F Mackinlay, J Salter
Members of Public: District Cllr Tim Sumner, 7 members of the public

52/24 Apologies and Declarations

- 52.1 Apologies: Apologies had been received from Cllr Molyneaux and Cllr Brown
- 52.2 There were no declarations of interest.

53/24 Minutes

- 53.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2023 were approved, accepted into record and signed by the Chair.

53.2 Matters arising:

Matters for information only arising from these minutes.

52.2.1 B4027 road safety issues

- Community SpeedWatch group has now been registered with TVP. Mel Leggett has been appointed Coordinator and those interested in supporting the group should contact him
- The group has suggested the purchase of a SID and this will be investigated.
- Following arboricultural inspection by OCC, it has been confirmed that they will cut down the overhanging potentially dangerous branches on the four diseased ash trees in Burditch Bank.

52.2.2 Coronation Trees – Cllr Bates confirmed that a number of residents have volunteered to sponsor trees. All the trees will be properly planted and she asked that anyone interested in sponsoring a tree should email the Clerk.

54/24 Open forum

- 54.1 County Councillor: Not present. Written report will be circulated to Cllrs

54.2 District Councillor: Feedback from PCs on draft WODC biodiversity plans would be welcomed. This Citizens Lab platform consultation will last until December, with sign off by WODC next year.

NSIT guidance regarding Botley West has been shared.

Cllr Sumner reported he is the WODC executive Cllr responsible for car parks, leisure etc. Car parks will continue to be free but the ways they are used are being looked at, including the addition of EV charging points.

Charges for toilets in car parks are being looked at, as are the facilities at Leisure centres

- 54.3 Public - There were no comments or questions from the public

55/24 S137 Grants

3 applications had been received, Outreach £550, Wootton Conservation Trust £840, PCC £6000.

The Chair explained that given that the decision for any year's S.137 spending ceiling is not decided by Ministers until the February preceding the year in question, that our current system is not really very helpful for applicants and that we clearly need to meet the applicants individually to talk to them about their applications; he proposed

- (i) That we change our S.137 grant system to one making a provisional sum available in our budget which is then allocated during the year, thus shortening very significantly the interval between application and award:
- (ii) That we accept in principle the three applications received, but that discussions are held with the individual applicants, following which a recommendation will be made to the council on the amount to be awarded;
- (iii) That the Finance Committee and the Clerk are authorised to redraft the Section 137 grants policy and recommend a revised version to the Council. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept these proposals.

56/24 Payroll administration

The Finance Committee having considered and approved the recommendation of the Clerk to change from Topsource to TP Jones & Co. It was **RESOLVED** that TP Jones & Co be engaged to deal with the administration of the Council's payroll.

57/24 Planning

- 57.1 23/02266/HHD Meadowland, Horseshoe Lane Approved by WODC
- 57.2 23/01729/FUL Beech Cottage, Tew Lane Approved by WODC
- 57.3 23/02484/S73 Wootton Place, Church Street – under consideration
- 57.4 23/02480/LBC Wootton Place – under consideration
- 57.5 MW.0093/23 Slape Hill Quarry – queries had been raised about Japanese Knotweed, toxins and damage to trees. Site meeting held and actions raised including seeking the involvement of the Environment Agency regarding possible water pollution. It was noted that the Contractor had been fined in 2019.

58/24 District & Neighbourhood Plans

WODC District Plan – Cllrs MacKinlay and Brown attended the recent meeting convened by WODC.

Online consultation on the plan was completed by Cllr MacKinlay on behalf of the Planning Committee

Wootton Neighbourhood Plan - A Steering Group is being established to develop the Plan with - representation from across village. A questionnaire, both paper and online, will be sent out to all residents .

CDC District Plan – Cllr Mackinlay reported that this envisaged 450 houses on the fields north of the A44 between Bladon roundabout and the edge of the town. She was concerned that the infrastructure would be inadequate and would have a detrimental impact on Woodstock. Cllr Mackinlay had responded to the plan accordingly.

59/24 Botley West Consultation

No further development. Next phase may begin in December

60/24 Finance

60.01. The payment list was circulated before the meeting and was approved, and then signed by the Chair and Cllr Salter.

60.02 The 24/25 budget and precept requirement
The Chair moved that the Council's Budget for 2024/25 be confirmed as £12,842 and that the Precept be increased by 2%, as an acceptable amount below the rate of inflation, to £16,320.
It was unanimously RESOLVED to accept this motion.

60.03 The Bank mandate to open a savings account with Unity Bank was signed and will be submitted to Unity by RFO

Date of next meeting : 4 December 2023 .

Signed

Date