

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting on Monday 18 March 2013, at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

MINUTES

Present

Cllr Miles Tuely (Chairman)
Cllr Andy Warner
Cllr Dave Baldwin
Cllr Len Seymour
Cllr Peter Loftus
Cllr Trudie Lang
Anni Morgan (Clerk)

3 members of the public

1. **Apologies**

Cllr Tuely opened the meeting at 7:30pm. Apologies had been received from Cllr Dave Parsons, Co Cllr Ian Hudspeth and District Co Cllr Cottrell-Dormer.

2. **Disclosure of Interests: None**

3. **Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 14 Jan 2013:**

AOB, The old well: Cllr Seymour had actually questioned whether the well should be updated to look more like a well, rather than whether it should stay in the village.

There were no more comments, agreed by all present, and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

4. **Matters arising from the Minutes which are not covered elsewhere:**

10. Concern for the open well: Cllr Warner confirmed that the well is covered by a concrete slab, and is not a danger.

5. **Meetings/Training/Workshops**

- **Oxfordshire Area Local Council (OALC) Executive & Policy Committee Meeting:** Monday 10 December. Cllr Loftus reported back on how a large proportion of the meeting was taken up with acronyms and further reports on other meetings. Cllr Loftus will however, circulate minutes when available and continue to attend once every three months.

Miles Tuely

- **West Oxfordshire Town and Parish Council and Parish Meeting Forum:** 28 February. Cllr Baldwin attended; again lots of acronyms. Discussion on local planning, though not relevant for Wootton, more for larger areas, like Witney.

6. Planning

- **Pigeons Piece, Horseshoe Lane, Wootton:** erection of single storey and first floor rear extensions: **granted.**
- **Blue Barn, Tew Lane, Wootton:** conversion of office units to dwelling. Erection of single storey extensions, closure of existing and creation of new vehicular access: **granted.**

7. Youth-led Provision in Wootton:

The idea of using the corner of land by Marriott Close is a non-starter, as the Clutterbuck Trustees are not in favour. However, the proposal is still very much alive and widely supported. Cllr Lang had had a good deal of interest and support after her article in Outreach.

Cllr Warner already runs Super Soccer Sunday, where often up to 16 children take part. He is planning a couple of events in the village which will take place in the Village Hall. The idea is to get people interested, to recruit helpers and to see if there are enough young people to make a more permanent arrangement.

Mr Adkins expressed his concern over CRB clearances, and unsuitable individuals who may get involved with youth led projects. Cllr Warner assured us from his experience of visiting other youth clubs, that all those involved with anything to do with these clubs have to go through rigorous CRB checks. Cllr Lang also added that unless CRB checks go ahead, the funding for such events wouldn't even get off the ground. Cllr Tuely thanked Mr Adkins for contributing to the discussion.

Anne Day mentioned that 10-13 years ago, the Burditch Hall had received planning permission to extend at the end of the Hall. This may be worth rethinking for future fundraising.

8. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), re designation of open spaces:

Cllr Tuely reported that this doesn't apply to us, as we don't have a local neighbourhood plan. No action.

9. Financial Matters and Bills to pay

- **Parish council bank balances**
Current (No 1 a/c): **£2,514.99** (of which £1k is due to No2 a/c)
Parish Council Project Fund (No 2 a/c): **£5,670.53**
Business Reserve a/c: **£0.07**
- **Cheques:**
Parish Clerk work Jan/Feb 2013: £86.40, CHQ 000270
HMRC for Clerk's tax, Jan/Feb 2013: £21.60, CHQ 000271
Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils subscription: £133.07,
CHQ 000272 (since emerged that this had already been paid on 24
February 2013, CHQ 000269.
Oxfordshire Rural Community Council Membership: £45,
CHQ 000273
Greenshaw Developments (VH roof final payment): £739.84 inc
VAT, VAT to be recovered, 24 February 2013, CHQ 000268
- **Approval in Arrears on Special Project Money (approved by all):**
Greenshaw Developments (VHR) – 15 August 2012, £15,587.68
Turney Groundforce (Mower) – 26 August 2012, £8420
- **VAT refund of £850.00 for play area Zip Wire purchase received.**
- **Special Projects:** Cllr Tuely circulated a schedule showing the
costings for the Village Hall Roof, Burditch Hall Mower and the Zip
Wire. The total surplus is £6,670.53, which will be available to
spend on special projects, in particular the Village Hall.

Cllr Lang mentioned the importance of a discussion to prioritise
future Special Projects, where funding may be needed (apart from
the youth project).

- **Special Projects/Village Hall Pathway and Lighting:** Cllr Tuely
read out a request and quotation by Greenshaw Developments,
from Marlene Fisher. The plan is to take up the existing path to
the Village Hall, and replace with a more suitable material. Also,
to add sensor lighting to the outside of the VH, that would not
intrude into neighbouring gardens, but would light up the very
dark exit from the Hall. The quotation of £2970 + VAT was
agreed. Cllr Tuely to write to Greenshaw Developments to
commission the work.

It was also noted that the hedge belonging to C Whelan was
overhanging the road by the VH, and cutting out a certain amount
of light. Cllr Warner to see if the hedge could be cut back.

10. Any other business:

HMRC Real Time Information (RTI): Cllr Loftus explained how the WPC as an employer of a Clerk will have to send HMRC Real Time Information every time a payment is made to the Clerk. Free Software is available which AM will download.

WPC Clerk Vacancy: Anni will be retiring from WPC. Position to be advertised in Outreach, and other local villages. Cllr Tuely expressed WPC's regret and asked members to spread the word.

Poor Internet Connection: Cllr Lang expressed her frustration over the appalling internet connection line between Wootton and Woodstock. For the village to upgrade we could be looking at a cost of £11k. To be kept on the agenda.

WPC Finances: Cllr Warner brought up the possibility of having a Cllr responsible for Finances, a Treasurer? Cllr Tuely expressed concern that matters could fall between him, the Clerk and the Treasurer. As long as Special Projects are organised by the promoter, the finances are not too complicated, especially as Cllr Loftus has offered to help with the annual accounts.

Bletchington Nature Conservation Plan: Cllr Tuely mentioned the presentation of their Parish Conservation Plan. Cllr Warner added that they had been given a large piece of land by Prince Charles.

The meeting ended at 8:30pm

11. Dates of Next Meetings:

Monday 13 May 2013 at 7:30pm

Monday 15 July 2013 at 7:30pm

Monday 16 September 2013 at 7:30pm

Monday 18 November 2013 at 7:30pm

Anni Morgan (Clerk, Wootton Parish Council)