

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

MINUTES

Present

Cllr M Tuely (Chairman)

Cllr A Warner

Cllr D Parsons

Cllr P Loftus

Cllr L Seymour

J Carlin (Clerk)

1 member of the public

County Cllr. Ian Hudspeth arrived at 8.10 pm

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm

1. Apologies: Dist Cllr C Cottrell-Dormer

2. Disclosure of Interests: None

3. Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Monday 19th January 2015:

The Minutes of 19th January 2015 were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere:

- **Mobile Fish and Chip Van:** commenced on Weds 3rd February and reports have been very favourable. The van now parks along Milford Lane by the allotments. Article put in Outreach suggesting neighbours offer to collect for housebound parishioners.
- **Memorial in Churchyard:** Cllr Tuely reported he has not yet received a response from the grant organisation who have received an influx of applications. When this is received he will obtain a further quote for the work and commence fundraising.
- **Closure of Dean Pit Recycling Centre:** This is still the subject of consultation with the County Council to find an alternative viable site. In the light of the County Council budget restrictions, County Cllr Ian Hudspeth considered a new site unlikely.

5. Resignation of Cllr Trudie Lang: Cllr Tuely expressed his regrets at this decision due to pressure of her current commitments and hoped she would consider returning in the future. The vacancy has been advertised on the Parish Council noticeboard.

M. Tuely 11 May 2015.

6. **Co-option of New Member to Parish Council:** to replace vacancy following the resignation of Cllr D Baldwin. Mrs Joan Thomas was co-opted to fill the vacancy and welcomed to the Parish Council.

7. **County Council and District Council Matters:** County Cllr Ian Hudspeth attended the meeting at 8.10pm following a meeting at Tackley. He outlined the pressure on the County Council with a budget increase of 1.99% on council tax and a need to find an additional £20m savings on top of the planned £265 m. Whatever the outcome of the General Election there will be more reduction in funding for Local Government. The 15% budget for elderly and Social Services for children has to be upheld which means non-statutory services eg. libraries, bus services, grass cutting will inevitably suffer and rely increasingly on volunteers. Future housing developments will increase the pressure but he pointed out that a large development such as that proposed for Woodstock East brings the benefit of more infrastructure and provision of additional facilities.

The recent serious case review into child sexual exploitation in Oxfordshire has led to a complete change of approach which now involves the setting up of the Kingfisher team and a link up in involvement of police, teachers, GP's and care workers.

8. **Financial Matters and Bills to pay:**

Parish Council bank balances:

Current Account (No 1 a/c): £3,479.95

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

Business Reserve a/c: £180.08

Parish Clerk Work: £72.70 Cheque No 000345

HMRC for Clerk's tax: £18.20 Cheque No 000346

Membership subscription OALC: £133.07 Cheque No. 000347

Membership subscription ORCC: £50.00 Cheque No. 000348

Monies Received

Annual Rent for Castle Road Lockup from Wootton Conservation Trust £10 (No 1 a/c)

Donations received for repair of Memorial: £180.00 (Business Reserve a/c)

Monies held for Wootton Playing Field Committee: A reminder from Ann Day that the Parish Council is holding funds of £930 from reclaimed VAT.

9. **Budget Forecast 2015/16:** Figures for the budget forecast 2015/16 have been drawn up by Cllr Tuely and approved by Cllr Loftus having been circulated to the members. Were approved

10 **Flooding of lower part of Mill Lane:** A request has been made by Mr Anthony Fisher for Parish Council help for flooding caused by the silting up of the culvert running alongside the boundary wall of Old Gloving House. This has been recently exacerbated by the leaking manhole at the top of the village. Cllr Loftus, who was a previous occupant of this property, explained that the problem is mainly caused by the bin lorry driving onto the grass verge and over the culvert. Past attempts to remedy the problem have involved the District Council placing wooden posts, subsequently knocked down and possibly more effective, the placing of large stones.

A letter to be sent to West Oxon District Council, County Council Highways and Mr Fisher – Clerk

11 Any Other Business

- **White Line area turning into Milford Lane opposite school:** this is an area that needs to be kept clear as a safety space for vehicles turning into Milford Lane when the road is blocked. It should not be used for parking, especially by people picking up from school or on village talk nights. There is a 'Keep Clear' warning painted on the road which is still clearly visible. Reminder to be sent to Outreach – Clerk
- **Local Bus Service:** reports have been received that this has become an unreliable service, with some buses not turning up at all. Cllr Loftus has contacted the Managing Director who blamed the problems before Christmas on staff sickness and breakdowns. The service should now be running to timetable but any complaints please to Peter Loftus, (d.m.p.loftus@gmail.com Rectory House, Tew Lane, Wootton) who will keep a log – Cllr Loftus
- **Poor condition of the area between Horseshoe Lane/West End just south of the bridge over the river Glyme:** A tanker has recently been attending to pump out sewage. The stone verge on the south side of the road has been badly damaged by the tanker and the wall opposite has been hit and partially demolished. Pumping activity seems to have ceased now but a collection of black pipes remain on the verge. Agreed to contact Thames Water – Clerk
- **Princes Trust Grant:** Grants of up to £50,000 are available to encourage enterprise employment in local communities. An item to be put in Outreach – Cllr Seymour
- **Community Oil Buying Scheme:** No oil was available in December and the January delivery didn't materialise but the scheme is now back in order.

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm. Reminder that the next meeting on 11th May is the Annual Parish Meeting when the Chairman reports and village organisations give a short presentation. This meeting commences at 7 pm

Date of Next Meetings: **Monday 11th May 2015 Annual Meeting at 7 pm
followed by Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 pm**
Monday 13th July 2015 at 7.30 pm
Monday 14th September at 7.30 pm
Monday 9th November at 7.30 pm

Jane Carlin (Clerk)