

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting on Monday 13th May 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr Miles Tuely (Chairman)
Cllr Andy Warner
Cllr Dave Baldwin
Cllr Len Seymour
Cllr Peter Loftus
Cllr Dave Parsons
Co Cllr Ian Hudspeth
District Co Cllr Charles Cottrell-Dormer
Jane Carlin (Clerk)

7 members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr Tuely opened the meeting at 7.35pm. Apologies had been received from Cllr Trudie Lang.

2. Disclosure of Interests: None

3. Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 18 March 2013

Village Hall: the cheque to Greenshaw Developments for £15,587.68 (No.000001) for the Village Hall had not been officially sanctioned at a PC meeting. It was approved.

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:

7. Youth-led Provision in Wootton: Cllr Warner reported that that proposed venue of the corner of land by Marriott Close is no longer viable. An extension to the Burditch Hall plot seemed a better prospect although the original planning permission to extend would have probably lapsed after so many years. Currently this site is being used by the school (due to move out by September 2013) and it would then have the advantage of being able to make use of the drainage put in the for the school's temporary occupation. Water and electricity would still need to be provided.

Realistically it was felt better to wait until the school vacate the site in September and then to try and raise enthusiasm for volunteers to come forward.

Miles Tuely
3rd June 2013

5. **Appointment of new Clerk:** Anni Morgan, the current Clerk, is resigning. Cllr Miles Tuely on behalf of the Parish Council thanked her for her excellent work. The new Clerk will be Jane Carlin (janecarlin2@hotmail.com)

6. **District and County Council Reports**

Co Cllr Hudspeth was re-elected in the recent local election. The results were 31/63 seats resulting in a minority Conservative Council with support from the Independents. He stressed that finances will be very tough with the need to continually find new ways to do things differently, road maintenance being a particular concern: 39,000 pot holes had needed repairing last year when ideally the surfaces should have been rebuilt completely

Pot Holes: Cllr Len Seymour asked clarification for who is responsible to report on pot hole damage. Cllr Hudspeth stressed that anyone can and should make a report, preferably sending in a photo and e-mailing it to Highways Enquiries. Depending on the severity the damage would be repaired in 24 hours or for a less severe problem 28 days. Repairs are also dependent on the onset of better weather.

Council Tax: the District Council have not increased this charge. The small increase is due to an increased charge of 1.9% from the County Council, a slight increase in Policing costs and a rise in the Precept.

Non consecrated burial ground: District Co Cllr Charles Cottrell-Dormer reported on the acquisition of a new public burial ground behind Sturdy's Castle, named Angelino's burial field. This is expected to cater for approx 2 burials a week and be of sufficient size to last for 90 years. Nicholsons Nursery will plant and maintain it and it is hoped to encourage the use of bio gradable coffins.

7. **Planning:** Farthingdale Burditch Bank Wootton, erection of single storey rear extension: **granted**

8. **Parish Path Warden:**

Oxfordshire Footpaths Society and area Ramblers have requested WPC to nominate the role of a footpaths liaison or warden. Cllr Len Seymour had approached likely candidates but there was concern whether it was expected that the representative would be responsible for physically repairing any damage. It was agreed to try and find a willing volunteer on the basis of reporting any necessary upkeep back to the Ramblers and Footpaths Society.

9. **Footbridge at Hordley over River Glyme:** Cllr Miles Tuely reported that this is in a bad state of repair with the uprights on the bridge rotting away. This is particularly dangerous to horse traffic that uses the bridge and should be brought to the attention of the County Council.

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

Parish council bank balances

Current (No 1 a/c)	£6,221.92
Parish Council Project Fund (No 2 a/c)	£5670.53
Business Reserve a/c:	£0.07

Audit Commission: The Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013 were presented and approved. Grateful thanks were given to Cllr Peter Loftus for preparing and finalising the annual return for year ended 31st March 2013.. This was approved together with the Annual Accounts which were then adopted.

Cheques:

Parish Clerk Work: Mar/April 2013: £93.60, CHQ 000277
HMRC for Clerk's tax: Mar/April 2013 £23.40, CHQ 000278
AON Council Insurance 2013/14 £781.47 CHQ 000276
Wootton Village Hall
7 meetings @ £12.00 £84.00 CHQ 000275
Clerk Advert in Combe Courier £7.00
(paid 11/4/13)

11. Precept for 2013/14

Cllr Tuely was delighted to report that precept requested for the new year had been granted at £8,000. This is an increase of £2,000 from the previous 4 years and is the biggest increase given to any other local parish and will enable the parish council to continue benefitting village organisations.

12. Any Other Business

Children's Play Area on land at the back of Marriott Close: Joan Thomas requested that the small area of land beyond the Marriot Close houses (currently fenced off but not in use) be allowed to be used for children's ball games etc by the families living in the vicinity. For small children this would be an ideal play area nearby their houses. Currently there is a notice saying 'No Ball Games' It was agreed to approach Mrs Clutterbuck for approval.

Bright Street Lights: Cllr Len Seymour had been approached by several villagers disturbed by the brightness of street lights shining into their bedrooms eg the street light outside the village shop is on all night and disturbs the house opposite, likewise in Chapel Hill. He agreed to ask the County Council whether there was any provision of shaded lighting in such circumstances.

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm

Dates of Next Meetings:

Monday 15 July 2013 at 7.30 pm
Monday 16 September 2013 at 7.30 pm
Monday 18 November 2013 at 7.30 pm

Monday 13 January 2014 at 7.30 pm
Monday 10 March 2014 at 7.30 pm
Monday 12 May 2014 at 7.30 pm
Monday 14 July 2014 at 7.30 pm
Monday 8 September 2014 at 7.30 pm
Monday 10 November 2014 at 7.30 pm

Jane Carlin (Clerk, Wootton Parish Council)

