

WOOTTON COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held
At the Village Hall, 17th January 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr J Wilmoth (Chairman), Mrs J Barbieri, Mrs H Smith, Mr D Brown (to 8.05 p.m.), Mr P Griffin, Mr P Clapham, Mr M O'Keefe
Cllr F Nicholson SCC (to 7.50 p.m.) 1 member of the public

APOLOGIES: Mrs K Mills WSDC, Mr R Clifford WSDC

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: No comments

1711. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING: The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th December 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Mrs Smith, seconded Mr Griffin.

1712: REPORTS: Cllr Nicholson reported that the formal Ofsted report in to Children's Services has yet to be published but early feedback is that there has been an improvement. SCC will be removing the designation for Children's Centres, but these will continue to be used with Children's Centre being located in other centres as well as individual's homes. All Family Support workers will be located in one central location. There is an increase of £9M for school funding in 18-19 year, but there is still a shortfall of £28M. Cllr Nicholson reported that there is likely to be a 2.99% increase in the County council tax, due to the strong recommendations by Central Government. Somerset county rates are currently the lowest in the country. Cllr Nicholson will speak with ENP regarding debris being carried off bridleways and footpaths, causing flooding and blocked drains.

Mr Griffin asked for clarification regarding Housing Surveys. Cllr Nicholson explained that Sue Southwell, Devon Communities is assisting with parishes carrying out housing surveys with funding from Awards For All

1713: MATTERS ARISING:

- a. The Health and Safety Policy was formally agreed. Proposed Mrs Smith, seconded Mr Griffin.
RESOLVED
- b. Land erosion at Ford: This has not been resolved. Mr Wilmoth has been informed by Peter Owen, Highways that it is on the agenda to be done. Mr Wilmoth will monitor. The grid is blocked with debris at Ford and this is contributing to the flooding. Clerk will request that the lengthsman clears the grid on his next visit.
- c. Blocked Drains outside Morton House. Highways were due to jet these and there is an improvement.
Matter closed

1714: VILLAGE INFORMATION LEAFLET:

Mrs Smith has obtained quotations and the cheapest is from First Communications, Porlock. £29.00 plus VAT for the Life Saver information. £75.60 plus VAT for 145 copies of the village information leaflet to be printed. These will be hand delivered to all households. Mr Griffin proposed accepting the quotation, seconded Mr O'Keefe. Mrs Smith will organise.

1715: FORD LANE ROAD CLEARANCE: The Ford road has a significant amount of debris and stones and needs clearing. Vehicles are struggling to leave Ford and householders are being forced to clear debris themselves. Clerk will write to Highways requesting a "scrape" to clear the road.

1716: LOWER TOWN FLOODING: Mr M Ball has requested letter of support from WCPC, to write to Somerset Flood Remittance Management Team, following the flooding over the Christmas period. Mr Wilmoth will write a letter requesting an early response and investigation.

1717: FINANCE:

Chq 374 SAVES £ 100.00 donation. For carrying out Defibrillator training.

Proposed Mr Griffin, seconded Mr Clapham.

The accounts to 31st December 2017 were circulated to all.

1718: PLANNING:

6/43/17/111 Jasmine Cottage, Wootton Courtenay.

Lawful development Certificate for the existing installation of 8 No. solar panels to the principal (south) roof slope and 5 No. roof lights to the rear (north) roof slope.

There were no objections and WCPC support this application.

Proposed Mrs Smith, seconded Mr Griffin

1719: CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter has been received from Ms L McQuillan requesting that Wootton Courtenay to declare itself a “Frack Free” Zone. A discussion took place and it was agreed that WCPC could not speak on behalf of the whole village. If a Planning Application is submitted in the future, WCPC will consult with the village and potentially a referendum would be called. Clerk to reply to L McQuillan.

Mr W Hodgson generously submitted suggestions and ways to enhance the WCPC website. This will be added to the February agenda for a full discussion. All Councillors will consider the suggestions ahead of the meeting.

1720: ITEMS ON REPORT:

Mr Griffin requested a letter of thanks is written to Bill Hogg for clearing the public footpath which runs along the edge of his property from Wootton Common. This has made a big improvement for walkers. Clerk to do. The drains need clearing between Southview towards Higher Park and Fairgarden Lane. Clerk will ask the lengthsman to do in February.

Mrs Smith will keep the Parish Council email log in details, safely with the Clerk’s contract of employment.

Mrs Smith asked for the date of the Annual parish Meeting to be set at the next meeting and to be advised of the legal requirements with dates. Clerk to do.

Mr Wilmoth has not received an update on the repairs to the bridge parapet at Crockford. SALC circulated details of a random draw for long standing Councillors (or very recently retired) to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 31st May 2018. It was agreed that there were no Councillors who met the requirements.

The Clerk asked Mr O’Keefe if he had dealt with the Western Power request (sent incorrectly to WCPC) for permission to access the Playing Field to maintain the hedge around the pole. Mr O’Keefe will deal with this. Agenda Item for the next meeting. Working from Home Policy.

The date of the next meeting to be held on 14th February 2018. 7.30 p.m. at Wootton Courtenay Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Signed

Date

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