

MINUTES OF NORTH WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 4TH JANUARY 2024 - held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, North Wootton

Present: Cllrs Marshall-Grint (Chair), Border, Edwards, Simpson, Merrey, Lemmon, Harper, Blood, Blackmore

Also in attendance - Clerk Rachel Curtis, Borough Cllr Richard Coates

- 1. To accept any apologies** – Cllrs Cox and Edwards, ill health, Simpson, family matters - apologies were accepted.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – None
- 3. Minutes of last meeting** - It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th December 2023 be accepted with the following amendment. Item 4 – It was incorrectly stated that the ditches along Station Road have been cleared. They have not, it is the area further along from Station Road that has been sided out.
- 4. Matters Arising**
 - The purchase of the land at Priory Lane is now complete, Clerk is awaiting copies of the final paperwork.
- 5. Law and Order** –
 - The next SNAP meeting will be in January.
- 6. Open Forum** –
 - Cllr Coates confirmed that the application for 27 Little Carr Road will go to planning committee for consideration. His recent Councillor surgery was successful and he thanked the Clerk for helping to promote the event and he tries to promote the Woottons in his column in Town and Around magazine.
 - Cllr Crofts had sent a written report which explained the process which will happen regarding the Directly Elected Leader at County Council.
- 7. Correspondence**
 - A resident has written to ask if the PC would consider having the Millennium Cone cleaned on Priory Lane. It was noted that it had been cleaned by jet wash contractors in March 2020 and also in Nov 2022. However, the PC agreed that it looks in need of another clean and will arrange for this to be done in the Spring.
- 8. Finance – to agree the payments list presented at the meeting**

Balance Brought Forward	20,829.53
Less: Payments	
<u>Chq No:</u>	
Online P Witt - Bins Dec 23	70.99
Online Total Energies – Nov 23	2,884.84
Online Veolia - Dec 23	105.24
Online W Border – Plaque for village sign	54.00
Online R Curtis - Expenses	63.73
Online R Curtis	701.22
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	3,879.03
Add: Income	

16,950.50

Made up as follows

Lloyds Gold Deposit A/C (Easy Saver)	174.00	
Lloyds Current A/C	482.21	
Lloyds Treasurers Account	16,294.29	
		16,950.50

The payments above were approved.

To agree the precept for 2024/25

Due to increased expenditure Councillors agreed that the precept needs to be increased. Cllr Border explained that the tax base has increased for North Wootton for 24/25, therefore the number of houses the precept is divided by has increased which in effect makes the precept amount for each property lower.

He proposed a 4% increase for each property to give an annual amount of £46,474. This was seconded by Cllr Marshall-Grint and unanimously agreed.

9. Highways –

- Cllr Simpson reported that the 30mph speed limit sign has broken off at the base, Clerk to report to Highways.
- The sugar beet haulage lorries are damaging the verge on the corner of Station Road/Manor Road. The Clerk has made contact with Crusso Wilkin to find out when the harvest will finish and then Highways will install posts on this corner to prevent further wear.
- Make Rangers aware of looking at manhole covers when they do their inspections around the village.
- The recent work carried out by British Gas has left the grass verges along Priory Lane in a bad state with very little grass being left in places. Clerk to report to British Gas.

10. Wootton Park

Cllr Border gave an update on the following-

- The Park is very wet at the moment with the large amount of rainfall, there is concern that some of the newly planted trees may rot.
- A grant has been received for £2,000 for the Picnic on the Park event.
- There is a Teams Meeting on 17th January with Tracey Brooker from the Borough Council to finalise the agreement with Cornerstone for the Telemast on the Park.

11. Street Lighting –

The light is still not working outside 32 Hayfield Road, Clerk to follow up with Westcotec.

12. Planning

- 23/02147/F – Proposed alterations and extension to detached dwelling at 18 Hugh Close, PE30 3ST – no issues with this application.
- 23/02202/CU – Change of use from domestic converted garage to tattoo studio, 24 Ford Ave, PE30 3QS – after seeking assurances on some queries with the agent, the Parish Council agreed to support this application
- 23/01485/F – Re-modelling of existing dwelling together with new porch and erection of 1 no. dwelling at 27 Little Carr Road, PE30 3RQ – Revised Application – comments maintained and object. Concerns over drainage under access road and ongoing drainage/flooding issues now that the trees have been removed. Access to parking is also concern and the size of the access road.

Knights Hill Update – Work is being done to secure bus provision onto the new site, with the spine roads and turning circles conditioned to be constructed to accommodate larger vehicles. More meetings planned with SWPC regarding this.

13. Neighbourhood Plan – to hear an update on work relating to this

The PC has received the names of potential examiners and awaiting contact with the Borough Council to confirm.

14.Village Hall

The finances are in good order - £9k in the community account and £45k in the business account. The roof tiles will be replaced in the better weather in the Spring. Internal redecoration will take place week commencing 8th Jan. The next farmers market is 20th Jan and the next bingo is 25th Jan.

15. The Village

North Wootton Academy Car Park Project – Cllr Marshall-Grint has received feedback from the Headteacher at the school and following various focus group discussions, the idea was met with insufficient support from the school community with no significant benefit being seen from creating a car park/parking drop off point to leave Priory Lane clearer of parked cars. Therefore this project idea will proceed no further, but the Clerk will chase up with Highways the re-instating of the double yellow lines outside the layby at the front of the School. *Thanks* - Cllr Marshall-Grint thanked Councillors who took part in delivering the winter edition of the newsletter.

Upkeep of land at Priory Lane – the PC has been made aware of some potential funding from developers from Biodiversity Net Gain which could be available from the Borough Council in the future. Ideas for maintaining this land include – clearing trees from behind the bus shelter, creation of flower beds and/or wild flower areas. Suggestions have also been made to create a pond, but this is accepted to be a big project, but a possibility.

SAM 2 Sign –Cllr Blood sent the following information for the meeting –
December 2023

Ling Common Road, Castle Rising – North West direction flow.
Volume – daily average 674, peak hour 16:00 – 17:00. Speed 85th percentile 32.4 – (same as November) and average speed 26.9 – (<1% on Nov).

16. Open Forum

Nothing was raised.

17. To confirm any items for the future agenda

Nothing to note at present.

Dates of Meetings

1st February 2024

The meeting finished at 8.25pm

..... Chairman Date 1st February 2024