

WYCK RISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 2nd December 2019 at the Village Hall.

Present: Tim Simon (Chairman), James Ross, Andrew Fifield, Brian Finnimore, Robert Montague, Louise Fifield (Clerk), Councillor Dr Nigel Moor and 6 residents.

There was an apology from Andrew Maclean.

- **Declarations of interest:** As BF is providing architectural drawings for the Heath Lawn application, he has declared an interest. JR is a neighbour to Heath Lawn therefore has also declared an interest.
- **Election of new RFO and co-option of new Councillor:** TS thanked James for his effort and contribution over the last 7 years, which is much appreciated. He is to be congratulated for leaving with more in the account than when he started, despite some unexpected items. JR has offered to remain until mid- January to enable the most effective handover. BF has kindly agreed to take on the role. This was proposed by AF and seconded by RM and all agreed. This now means that we need a new Councillor and Hilary Ponti has kindly agreed to join the PC, as a team member rather than having a special responsibility. This was proposed by AF and seconded by JR. All agreed. Her appointment will take effect from mid-January, when JR leaves. James and Sara have generously offered to plant a Perry Pear tree in memory of their 27 years in the village. These trees can live for over 350 years and there is a history of Perry Pears in Wyck. A suitable location will be found, possibly on the opposite side of the road to the Olive Hill road.
- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 9th September 2019** were approved and signed.
- **Clearance of blocked drains by GCC Highways:** TS reminded us that there are 2 problem areas – firstly near the church where there are roots in the drain. This needs a cutter and the work is due to be done on 6th December. The second main problem is near the Cooks where there is a blocked/collapsed culvert under the road leaving a large area of the adjoining paddock under water. Jetting has been unsuccessful so this will also be done on 6th December. NM has spoken to Bob Skillern and feels the work must be pursued to its conclusion. If the culvert has collapsed and the road must be dug up, it may not be completed until later.
RM asked if the drain on the corner at the bottom of the drainpipe was also going to be jetted? It is full of sand, and there is a build up of gravel on the road, which will need a vehicle with a blade. TS will be around on 6th December and so will ensure that he meets with the people concerned. RM will also be around. NM will ask Rhodri Grey to brief Harry Roberts who is overseeing this work.
NM referred to the new entrance at the top of the drainpipe used by Phipps vehicles. There has been an existing entrance for 20-30 years and the amended entrance is wider with substantial gates. NM suggested that a Highways officer meets the Phipps with a view to improving visibility – maybe a mirror?
- **Maintenance of the Green and Pond**

Green: (TS) The second cut was taken in October and was the first time there was no manhole damage! Over time, this will become less of an issue. Meadows have cleared the road to the Village Hall including the path to the bus shelter. The mud in the gutters has yet to be completed.

Pond: (RM). Jack Smith has completed the agreed 7 months. RM has spoken to the Environment Agency and it is felt that the invasive Water Primrose will return. Jack wanted to use some more additives into the pond which Robert declined as it would affect the water adversely for dogs. Jack is happy to continue the arrangement next year but as he is regularly using a lot of chemicals, he has raised his monthly cost by £5 to £75. This was agreed. TS felt that there were invasive species around the pond (e.g. seedlings from trees) which will need watching as there will come a time when they should be removed (rather than cut down). It was agreed to revisit this issue in the summer.

- **County Council News: report by Councillor Dr Nigel Moor**

A Highways crew is booked for Dec 6th for root cutting to clear the drains. TS will attend.

Burford Town Council have sufficient funds to manage the weight restriction in Burford High St, work beginning in March/April next year. A weight restriction will also be in place on the A436 at Adlestrop to deter HGVs coming to Stow.

As part of the Climate Change strategy 300 parishes in Gloucestershire embarking on a tree planting programme.

The Local Transport Plan is to be reviewed, to include a rail and freight strategy. GWR are introducing a new rail timetable from December 15th with additional trains to London Paddington. There will be liaising with Pulhams to ensure the 802 timetable serving Kingham Station integrates well.

In rural parts of the county, GRC's subsidised bus service are expensive to run with a fixed route and timetable, leaving no flexibility, meaning that buses are travelling large distances to pick up few people. A more flexible demand-responsive approach will be better. The main features of the pilot are:

- Suitable hours of operation (7am-7pm Monday to Friday) – currently rural transport can be as infrequent as 1 return journey a week.
- Accessible – smaller minibus-type vehicles that allow greater access to remote areas and accessible for those with mobility issues with a low-floor and a wide aisle.
- Appeal to all – this service should be attractive to students, commuters and other non-bus users as well as the current bus using population.
- Integration with the larger bus network – rather than compete with the regular 'big bus' network the aim would be to link with it instead, dropping passengers at their nearest stop for a larger bus to their destination. This brings revenue to these bus services helping their viability.
- Internet and telephone booking options.

TS asked about plans for the Unicorn Hotel junction in Stow. NM told us that he now has a commitment for a feasibility study, one aspect being creating more capacity for turning. AR 'merge in turn' sign on Stow hill not working – couldn't we have a crawler lane? TS reminded the meeting about the signs being in the wrong place. NM will ask that the crawler lane idea is considered. AF – it will get worse when HGVs use the Fosse at Stow because of the Burford bridge weight restrictions.

RM – highlighting the danger when turning right on the Fosse to the Wyck lane as the traffic behind is often moving fast. HP felt this was yet another reason why it was good that the Gilder application was turned down.

- **Planning:**

- Electric Car Charging Station (now refused): TS told the meeting that the County Council objection on Highway grounds was very strong.
- Heath Lawn: TS – the idea is to create a conservatory extension at the back, providing a combined kitchen/dining room with steps up from it. It won't be seen from the Green. BF and Lisa and Gerard have been in touch with their neighbours with a view to avoid any problems at an early stage. JR is advising his new buyers to fully support this application which can only enhance the property. BF explained that Lisa and Gerard have consulted widely with the village on 3 schemes, this being the first. The benefit is that it replaces a gradually deteriorating existing conservatory with something that will be an improvement as well as providing the additional space that is being sought. HP told the meeting that as they share a boundary wall, Andrea has met with them with a view to establishing when it is likely to take place, and how it will be done as well as discussing noise etc. LF will post a comment of support on the CDC planning portal.
- Fred's Cottage: There are 2 applications; one comprising the replacement of a building at the rear of the property with another. The comments from the Conservation people have now been resolved. The second application is concerned with the interior, and there are detailed

reports and plans on the CDC planning portal. In short, the wish is to improve the kitchen at one end of the cottage and make another bedroom at the far end. There were no objections.

- **Heythrop Cottage:** An amendment to the original application has been requested by the Conservation officer who wanted the extension attached to the house, to have a change of windows to look more like no 12 and the old pigsty should not be incorporated. Following the agreement to these requests, permission has been granted. There is no time scale for this work yet; the work not to be undertaken during the winter.
- **Pear Tree Cottage:** Applications for the approval of material samples for the kitchen. BF told the meeting that there will be a further application to remove the external soil and vent pipe in conjunction with remodelling the bathrooms and thus moving the pipe inside. Windows are to be more of a conservation metal frame like those at the front. Finally, the cloakroom is to be moved internally, which requires listed building consent. TS felt that there was nothing contentious in this.

- **Finance Report:**

JR distributed the finance report for the period 1st July – 30th September 2019. The second tranche of the precept (£800) has been received, Payments – total £190 - were for the Parish Council Website and the Clerk's honorarium. However, we remain on track to live within the agreed budget of £620.00.

5 Items of expenditure were approved:

• Jack Smith (5 months pond maintenance)	£ 350.00
• Brian Brazington (The Green)	£1158.00
• Use of the Village Hall	£ 200.00
• Meadows (clearing gutters and road to VH)	£ 60.00
• Clerks Honorarium (including tax of £12.00)	£ 60.00

Andrew Ransom asked if we should be discussing the precept for next year. JR saw no reason to change it. TS felt we should keep our reserves at between £6-7,000. It was agreed that in future the agenda for the December meeting should include discussion of the precept and budget for the next year.

- **The Old Dairy** (Daphne Ransom's house): An application has been received from the Ransoms for a deed of access over the Green. The form of the deed has been agreed and TS thanked Richard Wheeler for his help in working with Kendall and Davies and the Ransom's lawyers. There is now an agreed deed, ready for signature in the new year. One corner of the green had become incorporated into the garden and a wall built across. After discussion with lawyers and the Ransoms it is felt that the best way to resolve the issue is for the Ransoms to build a stock proof fence on the correct boundary, thus returning the corner of land to the village green. The stone wall will be removed, and it has been agreed exactly where the new fence should be situated. It is thought that the removal of the stone wall (built in the early 1990s) won't need permission, but this will be verified. This will mean that the PC will have to maintain the corner, but this will be further discussed after the new fence has been built. All were agreed.

- **Letters and Emails received by the Clerk**

- Email from the Election department at the CDC regarding a review of current polling stations. Wyck Rissington, unlike some, is not scheduled for any change – it is proposed that our polling station remains at Little Rissington Village Hall.
- Email from Age UK re Home Share, a scheme bringing together older people who have spare rooms, with people who need affordable accommodation. If anyone would like to know more, please call 01452 422660 or email: homeshare@ageukgloucestershire.org.uk
- Email regarding PC website accessibility: The law is changing and we must ensure that our website can be used by as many people as possible. Our task is to consider people with impaired vision and users with cognitive impairments. Our website designer will make sure that our site works for users with motor difficulties and we need not worry about those with hearing difficulty as our website does not have sound or video. We have until 23rd September 2020 to be compliant. LF will

try and deal with this in the new year, but it may become necessary sign up for a basic audit service in the new year to aid with website content.

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A. O. B.

- Hilary Ponti told the meeting that their daughter is getting married on 27th June 2020. There will be drinks in the garden of the house, the reception in a marquee in the far field opposite their house and parking in the field near the road. There will be no fireworks or late loud music, but they are looking into the idea of erecting a stairway over the wall in front of their house for guests to move from the garden to the marquee. TS wondered about the safety aspect of this and Hilary thought there would be handrails on the stairway. She would investigate further the issue of liability to be discussed at the next meeting.
BF has (since the meeting) suggested that whoever builds the stairway should provide a risk and method statement beforehand which he and AF would review.
- Token for Annette: It was agreed that LF would buy a token for Annette (and her daughter Belinda) as we do each year.
- Lost Dogs: Following the discovery of a lost Labrador recently, Berni Finnimore took the dog to the Vets in Stow to discover if it had been chipped. This turned out to be a good way of dealing with the problem – and in this instance as the dog did have a chip the Vet was able to contact its owner.

Date for the Next Parish Council Meeting in March has been changed. It is now Monday 16th March