

WYCK RISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 3rd December 2018 at the Village Hall.

Present: Tim Simon (Chairman), James Ross, Andrew Fifield, Brian Finnimore, Robert Montague, Louise Fifield (Clerk), Councillor Dr Nigel Moor, Councillor Mark Mackenzie-Charrington and 4 residents.

There was an apology from Richard Wheeler.

TS told us that Robert Montague had agreed to join the Council, but as we are limited to 5 councillors, he has been co-opted for the special purpose of looking after the pond. This was unanimously agreed.

1. There were no declarations of interest

2. Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 11th June 2018.

There had been a small amendment to the report from Councillor Moor, altered before the draft minutes were posted on the website. The amended minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising: Road Repairs:

- The re-surfacing of the road outside Laurence House began today.
- Installation of fencing either side of the old railway bridge is scheduled for 10th – 14th December
- The section of the drainpipe which catches the underside of smaller cars looks unlikely to be included in the current repairs, and therefore will be dealt with separately
- The signage repairs have been completed

4. County Council News: report by Councillor Dr Nigel Moor

Councillor Moor thanked the Council for its patience over the long awaited road repairs, which have started.

Save the North Cotswold Hospital X Ray Service: The campaign has obtained support from across Gloucestershire. Cllrs Lynden Stowe and Dr Nigel Moor presented a copy of the petition to GCC on 28th November. It will go before a scrutiny committee in January 2019.

Proposal by the Police & Crime Commissioner to present a business case for his governance of the Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service: Gloucestershire County Councillors debated a motion at Council on this further proposal by the PCC and all 53 councillors resolved that governance should remain with the County Council. This has been supported by all 5 Conservative MP's for Gloucestershire constituencies.

Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan Review 2015-2031

Work has begun on the review. Consultation in Spring 2019. Need to consider a time horizon for the review. Been suggested we work to 2050 using a series of milestone dates. Going to 2050 would enable us to look at long term options eg. Third Severn Crossing. The use of the Fosse as a strategic freight route will also be examined.

Consultation on Gloucestershire County Council's Budget 2019/20. GCC are preparing its budget for Cabinet approval on 19th December and will be consulting with stakeholders including parish councils over the period December 20th 2018 to 21st January 2019. With over half of the Council's income now coming from council tax it is important that Cotswold residents have their say on the budget.

Highways Maintenance Contract

Ringway Infrastructure Services have been appointed to deliver the new £245m county highways maintenance contract. The contract is initially for seven years and they will be responsible from 1st April next year for:

- Pothole repairs
- Winter gritting and snow clearing
- Gully cleaning
- Verge and grass cutting
- Surface dressing

Ringway have been working for Worcestershire for over 13 years as well as Wiltshire and Highways England in the south west. They have a lot of capacity and experience and mobilisation has begun.

5. Maintenance of the Green and Pond

Green update:

The green has had its second cut. Two further manholes have been found to be too high. The problem can be resolved either by re-grading and re-seeding the ground, or simply by putting a cone on the manhole cover before Brian Brazington arrives. There followed a discussion on the best resolution and it was agreed to aim for the former, being a more long term solution, and RM suggested we get some prices.

Andrew Ransom has kindly offered to replace the chestnut which had to be felled this year and suggested that he could provide it and install it at a much cheaper rate than Bartletts had quoted (£325+VAT). The new oak should be planted in February/March 2019. Andrew Ransom also confirmed that he could match the one year guarantee that Bartletts would provide. It was agreed to go ahead with the Ransom's offer, and to plant a 2.75 to 3 metre high English Oak which should grow well in the conditions.

RM asked about the tree policy. TS explained that there is a survey conducted by a specialist every 3 years to establish the state of the trees. The next review is due in 18 months. It was agreed some time ago that any chestnuts that need felling should be replaced with oak.

Thames Water has scheduled the work to replace the mains water between 7 January and 22 March 2019. There is a road closure order for those dates, but we expect the work to be completed in stages. As with the current work on the Fosse Way, there will be periodic holes dug for the new pipes to be fed through, and hopefully this will not be too disruptive. It is mentioned that there is no emergency access during the works – we believe that this will be just for the section that is being worked on and not the whole road. This will be confirmed. AF asked if the holes will be on the road or the green. TS replied that the course zig-zags through the village, from one side of the road to the other.

Pond update

Water Primrose: Jack Smith has done an amazing job. It took 10 trailer loads over to remove it over a weekend, digging a hole at his fishery and burying it as had been required by the EA. The fish (carp) remained. The lily pads had almost all been removed, and it was found that the bullrushes were being strangled by the water primrose. After the work, it was still very dry, but with the recent rain the pond is filling up again. The question is - do we replant? The bullrushes can very easily take over. There are still plenty of fish which also attract the heron! Elizabeth Ransom suggested that the pond is left natural; that the non-select plants will always take over. RM asked about the tree overhang. TS agreed that it can be an issue and leaves do fall in the pond which then cause silting up. It is all down to finance. Cutting back the trees is probably a good idea but it is good to leave it with a natural appearance. Jack Smith will return in the spring to check and spray if there's any re-emergence of the water primrose.

Blocked gullies: Cotswold Drains (after an hour's investigation at a cost of £100) reported that the grating on the top gulley has cracked and sunk and cannot be lifted, therefore a new one is needed in order to clear out the gulley. They were designed to feed water into the pond and are blocked with tree root growth. An estimate of £583 has been given to replace with a new lowered grating and clear the roots. This is work which is not urgent, but should eventually be achieved. BF commented that we will need to spend more to solve the problem. JR agreed.- realistically it will probably cost more than the estimate. It will depend on what they find. RW had previously also voiced the same concern. BF wondered if an underground pipe is the best solution? Andrew Ransom said that originally the water in the pond had been much higher and since the extensive work at College Farm in recent years, some of the supply has been diverted.

New bench to commemorate the end of WW1

The grant of £200 from CDC has been received, the bench has arrived and will be installed in the next few days. RW has kindly offered to buy the old one for £75, which is very generous. The net cost of the bench is now £100 to be met by Parish Council funds. Thanks to AF and LF for organising and installing it.

6. District Council News: Councillor Mark Mackenzie-Charrington

Planning permission has been granted for the development of the vacant plot between Sandy Lane Court and opposite the entrance to Victory Fields in Upper Rissington for 24 new houses.

Cirencester achieved the world's largest human poppy on 11th November and will now be entered in the Guinness Book of Records

Tony Berry will be the new leader of CDC following the resignation of Mark Annett due to ill health.

Refuse: The Ubico trucks are reaching the end of their life. Every day 2 or 3 break down, and a new fleet has been ordered for next year. The first change is that small electrical items and batteries can be recycled. More information to come as it is available. From next winter, the garden waste collection, currently weekly, will be fortnightly. The annual charge will stay at £30 for each bin. The winter reduction of green bins put out for collection means that for economic reasons there will be a 3 month period when there will be no garden waste collections. The non-collection months will be flexible, depending on conditions such as leaf fall. Food waste will be separate as combining it with garden waste (as happens currently) reduces the quality of recyclable material. There will therefore be a separate food waste bin. The increase in home delivery due to online shopping means that the current blue cardboard sack is going to be replaced with a bigger sack, more in line with the white plastics sack. Finally, there will also be a smaller truck on standby for occasions when the large truck becomes full, resulting in some households not having their collection made.

7. Planning

- Ansells Barn: an application to re-define the domestic curtilage and create a log store. It was agreed that this was straightforward and logical, and that the PC would support it on the planning portal.
- Single Storey extension to double the size of the Farm shop at Court Hayes Farm. The business has grown since Countrywide closed in Bourton last year. All were in agreement.
- The Gilders application for the electric car recharging station is still awaiting decision. TS commented that there are 30 objections and 3 in support. MM-C had no news on this. It seems there is little enthusiasm for it.

There followed a discussion about retrospective planning. BF felt we should have a transparent and consistent policy towards these applications on the lines of the recent decision not to offer support in the case of the retrospective application for No 12. TS reminded us that we have a policy now to support applications only if the applicant asks the PC and having considered the proposals the PC is willing to offer support. BF suggested that draft applications should be presented to the PC before applying for CDC permission where the Council's support is wanted. It was agreed to add this to the welcome letter that is sent to new residents at the time they move in and LF will circulate a draft. It was also agreed to add the contact details of both the District and Ward Councillor.

8. Finance Report

JR distributed the Finance Report for the period 1 July – 30 September 2018. It was important to note that 75% of the financial year's budgeted expenditure will have been paid out in October/November 2018 – the period since this report. Provided no further significant expenditure is incurred before the financial year end and we recover approx £350 in VAT, we should end the year approximately on budget with a deficit of £624, having absorbed the exceptional expenditure of the water primrose clearance. Our bank balances would total around £7,000. It's a perfectly sound position and the reserves can be spent on a sensible project, such as proceeding with the pond gulley clearance. The money is there.

5 new payments were authorised:

- Jack Smith - for clearing pond of water primrose and dispersal £1,750.00
- Brian Brazington – July and October green cuttings £ 990.00
- Cotswold Drainage – investigating the pond supply blockage £ 120.00
- Wealdon benches – WW1 memorial bench £ 374.95
- Clerk's honorarium £ 60.00

9. Letters and Emails received by the Clerk

- 2 Emails regarding refuse collection: a) to ask residents to dispose of broken glass in newspaper and in the black wheelie bin – not black recycle box. b) please don't overload your bin – particularly the green bin, as it is causing them to break during the mechanical emptying process and causing the crews to be more prone to muscular problems.
- Email from Veronica Woodford asking if the PC would contact Mr Brooks to cut the roadside hedges. Since the email was sent and before the meeting, this was done!

10. A. O. B.

- It was agreed to increase Annette Aked's Christmas voucher to £35. This is to thank her for her annual care of the fountain outside her house.
- TS asked LF to look back and see what we have done in previous years to thank the Phipps for cutting the verges.
- TS agreed to be the second person (along with AF) to share the responsibility for checking the defibrillator.

Next Parish Council Meeting will be on Monday 4th March 2019 at 6.00 pm in the Village Hall