

WYCK RISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 1st October 2018 at the Village Hall.

Present: Tim Simon (Chairman), James Ross, Richard Wheeler, Andrew Fifield, Brian Finnimore, Louise Fifield (Clerk), Councillor Dr Nigel Moor, Councillor Mark Mackenzie-Charrington and 5 residents.

1. There were no declarations of interest

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

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising: Road Repairs:

TS has chased 3 outstanding issues, and received an email update shortly before the meeting

- The repairs to the road, mainly near Laurence House and up the drainpipe, are scheduled for 3 – 5 December. This was confirmed by Councillor Moor. No closure will be needed.
- The fencing either side of the bridge has been visited by a Highways gang who have dug some trial holes. The BT line runs on the southern side. This will require road closure and it will be 3 months before this can be started. Councillor Moor will challenge this and hopefully it will happen sooner. This is work that has been financed and will happen. The current contractor is committed to achieving all the outstanding issues within the first 3 months of 2019.
- Signage at each end of the village: At the top, on the Burford road, the missing 7.5 tonne vehicle restriction signs have been made and are awaiting erection. On the Fosse Way, the repairs to the damaged signs should be completed within the next 3 weeks.

4. Management of the Green and Pond

• Green update:

The summer hay crop has been taken. Unfortunately a manhole cover was damaged, being one of 2 replaced last year, one by reducing the chamber in height and the other by clearing growth under the cover that was lifting it above its seating (something to be watched in future). The recent lowering has been completed at a cost of £290.00. The Gigaclear pot at College Farm was damaged, as it also had not been sunk low enough by Complete Utilities. TS has persuaded Gigaclear to repair this at their expense which is a useful precedent should there be further problems.

The second cut has been requested and should happen soon as the weather is favourable. The red chestnut has been felled and the stump ground at the agreed cost of £250 + VAT. The planning condition is for a 3 metre tree to replace it, cost donated by the Ransoms, which will be planted before next March, ideally in November.

RW suggested that the Council should be controlling the method of installation of new manholes and that anyone needing to install one should approach the PC to discuss and ensure they are sunk low enough. TS informed us that there are 40 manholes, and it is hard to anticipate where a problem will occur. A great deal of work has been done in the past to re-grade the ground around manholes that are too high. BF wondered if there will be any new ones in connection with the construction of Ansell's Barn. TS will investigate. RW reminded the meeting that there are likely to be new manholes installed by Thames Water, when the planned work takes place, which will need monitoring.

Thames Water update: TS confirmed that Thames Water had said that the work for replacement of the water mains in the village was scheduled for September this year with completion in November but as yet no sign of this happening.

A wayleave payment of £296 has been received by Gigaclear which will help mitigate some of this year's unforeseen expenses as above.

- Pond update:

The Environment Agency (EA) has been in touch with TS to report the fact that there is extensive water primrose growth in and around the pond. This is highly invasive and is one of only 20 reported cases in the UK. It originates from S. America and is causing major problems in rivers in France with the potential to cause flooding. It is our duty to remove it, there being strong penalties for not doing so. Jack Smith, in the process of carrying out the annual clearance of the pond, has been asked to estimate for the removal of the water primrose. This will involve putting the fish into a tank, draining the pond, using a JCB to dig under the rhizomes of the bull rushes to remove the primrose which the EA has said will then have to be buried. Jack Smith has a suitable off site location where burial can take place. He may be able to save the lily pads. The EA have agreed to his proposal and his quotation for £1600, to include this year's work (normally £400). He has offered to line the pond for a further £150. This should inhibit further growth. Further discussion included treating it with a product like Roundup, but this wouldn't be an option for us as it would kill everything. Next spring, Jack Smith would look for signs of re-infestation and if so, will use a selective weedkiller. JR was in favour of lining the pond. A resident reminded the meeting that the pond was drained and pumped out in the past and the bottom of the pond was damaged leading to low water levels, so lining it now would be sensible. Since the meeting BF has checked to see if there's any sign of the primrose in 'Pam's pond' near Pear Tree Cottage, and fortunately found no evidence. One of the EA concerns is that there is an overflow pipe which runs eventually into the River Dikler. RW pointed out that it is a good time to remove it as the primrose is in flower, and no seeds have yet been set. TS said that we have to spend this money to remove it, but there should be a saving in the 2-3 years following as the annual weed clearance should not be necessary. It was agreed that this work should proceed including re-lining at a cost of £1750.

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

Update on Highways:

In Stow, the 7½ tonne weight restriction in Digbeth Street has been confirmed.

Work has been suspended on shared spaces, and now a range of schemes is being considered. Oxfordshire has delayed the implementation of the Burford Bridge weight restriction, but GCC are going ahead with the Sheep Street weight restriction, resulting in HGV's having to use the major road network instead.

In Stow, the traffic lights have been improved. There is an increased lighting budget. TS remarked that the traffic queues in Stow seem to be getting worse. NM felt that the increased lighting budget will help.

150 miles of resurfacing in the county has been pledged. In the current year, 50 miles of resurfacing has been achieved. Bourton will have some disruption between 5 – 17 October, but the resurfacing work will be done at night.

The recent disruption in Stow was in order to link sewer pipes to a new house bordering the Fosse Way and while this was being done resurfacing and patching in the middle of the road was achieved. The work finished ahead of schedule.

There will be a major stretch of road resurfacing done between Northleach and Cirencester soon.

When Amey finish their contract in April, the new contractor – Ringway – will be responsible for specific works including pot hole repairs, gulley cleaning, winter clearance and other local work.

6. District Council News: Councillor Mark Mackenzie-Charrington

Very recently, the Leader of the District Council has stepped down due to ill health. There will be a leadership election in December, until which time the Deputy leader is currently in place. The request from a resident to cut the overgrown hedges either side of the bridge near the Fosse Way has been dealt with – in a very savage manner. All agreed that it looks terrible, but it is hoped that it should heal in the spring.

MMC again reminded us that there was money still in the kitty (£200) to be spent on something to commemorate the end of the WW1. If we don't request our share, it could go to supplement funds for Cirencester's 'Human Poppy' event. After discussion it was decided that an option for Wyck Rissington would be a replacement bench by the pond, with a plaque

on it. AF will research the cost of a hard-wearing bench. It is important that we inform MMC as soon as possible, so if there are any further ideas or comments please let LF know.

7. Planning

- Proposed electric car charging station:

TS told the meeting that there have been many objections to the proposed 96 car charging facility which would involve the removal of the current tree screen with a large new building fronting the Fosse Way. There would be a shuttle bus to Bourton and Lower Slaughter. GCC have objected on highway grounds as no traffic impact assessment had been included with the application. Bourton Industrial Park would be a much more logical site. Currently there are 3 charging points at the Co-Op in Bourton which are very rarely used. The concern is that it is a 'Trojan Horse' and other uses will be formulated, turning the area into something resembling a motorway service station. As well as 22 individual objections from Wyck and Lower Slaughter, there are 2 in favour, from residents living immediately opposite. Councillor Moor told us that the objections are wide ranging including: concern about visibility into and out of the site, parking provision and the veracity of the bus stop. Advice will be taken from Transport in connection with the shared space.

Another resident was concerned as there is a continuous fight as to what happens at that site, and that the Local Authority needs to insist that this area is properly defined and not allowed to become a creeping development area. Given the history of this site, CDC must be more proactive. He has offered to attend a meeting with the planning officer, MMC and Richard Keeling, (the Bourton District Councillor) but this has not been followed up by CDC.

8. Finance Report

JR distributed the Finance Report for the period 1 April – 30 June 2018. During that period we received £2,733.05 – the precept and wayleaves, and spent very little (£135.00) resulting in a balance of £2,598.05. In the Instant A/C we are carrying forward £9,904.77 and £610.15 in the Treasurers A/C. With the upcoming pond expenses we may be marginally stretched.

6 new payments (which include recoverable VAT) were authorised:

- Came and Co – annual insurance premium £300.00
- Pyments of Campden – repairs to manhole covers £348.00
- Parish Council Website – annual hosting charge £120.00
- Cotswold Meadows – strimming round pond on road leading up to the village hall & round the trees following the hay crop £324.00
- F A Bartlett – removal of chestnut from Green £300.00
- Clerk's honorarium £ 60.00

9. Letters and Emails received by the Clerk

- Email regarding changes to recycling centre winter opening times: The centres will be closed one day mid-week, which will save a considerable amount of money. Fosse Cross will close on Tuesdays from 28th October 2018 to 22 March 2019. They will all be open on Bank holiday Mondays and Good Friday, always busy days.
- Email regarding 'the 5 steps to pre-sorted recycling'. If you can accommodate a second black box to separate glass bottles and jars from paper and magazines, you can order one for free. The white sack can now be used for tins/cans and aerosols as well as for plastic bottles. Please 'wash and squash' before recycling.

10. A O B

- TS said that it has been a noisy year in the village, an inevitable consequence of building work to several properties, for some residents more than others, depending on proximity. In future, it is proposed to ask all residents to let the Parish Council know of any noise works planned (or parties), and the Clerk can notify residents. It is felt that everyone would appreciate being pre-warned including an estimate of length of time for the building works.. AF pointed out that there have been many early starts to building sites. Bye-laws restrict these to 8am to 6pm weekdays, 8am to 1pm Saturdays and no work Sundays or Bank Holidays.

- Thames Water have sent an application for works across the Green in order to connect the new Ansell's Barn to the existing pipework.
- A resident asked if something could be done about the oversized Costa coffee 'mug' that sits on the forecourt of the petrol station. It is blocking visibility turning in and out. NM will have a look and see what can be done.

Next Parish Council Meetings will be on Monday 3rd December at 6.00 pm.