

# 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 of 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 continue until mid- January to enable the most effective handover. BF has kindly agreed to take on the role, having made it clear that he has no training or background in formal financial management. 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 two 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 as more damaged covers are replaced. 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 RM 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 weed killer, 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**

NM confirmed that Highways will be here on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December with specialist equipment for root cutting and drain clearing. TS will be present.

Burford Town Council will begin weight restriction in the High St. At the same time GCC will introduce a weight restriction on the A436 at Adlestrop to deter HGVs coming through Stow to the Fosse

There will be a Parish Council Tree Planting Challenge. There will be a fund to start an extensive tree planting programme.

Local Transport Plan is being reviewed and is out for public consultation in January. Our view will be welcome. GWR are introducing a new rail timetable from 15<sup>th</sup> December with additional trains to Paddington. GCC officers will liaise with Pulhams to ensure that the 802 service serving Kingham Station integrates well with the new schedules.

GCC is responsible for subsidised public transport to access essential services e.g. work, education, health and food shopping, mostly serving rural areas which are expensive to run, vehicles are travelling long distances to pick up relatively few people and serve some villages where no-one boards at all on some days. A business case is being developed in the Cotswolds for a scheme that is for demand-responsive rather than using fixed routes and only upon request, rather than to a fixed timetable. The features of this pilot are:

- 7am-7pm Monday – Friday
- Small minibus-type vehicle, accessible for those with mobility issues
- Attractive to students, commuters, and other currently non-bus users
- Integration with larger bus network, dropping passengers at nearest bus stop
- Internet and telephone booking options

NM confirmed that the Gilders application had been turned down. TS told NM that there had been several people who had sent thanks.

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. A resident felt that the 'merge in turn' sign on Stow hill was 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 felt that it will get worse as more HGVs will use the Fosse at Stow because of the Burford bridge weight restrictions.

RM wanted to highlight 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 but that following the refusal by CDC, the applicants may appeal.
- 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. Neighbours have been approached with a view to avoiding any problems at an early stage. JR is advising his new buyers to support this application which can only enhance the property. BF explained that the applicants 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. It was agreed that WRPC should support the application and 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 mostly 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 excepting attaching the extension to the house, 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. Drawings of the proposed planning application have been shared with neighbours and the Parish Council for comment and BF would like the Council's support when formally consulted following application. TS felt that there was nothing contentious in this.

- **Finance Report:**

JR distributed the finance report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> 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 – both cuts)	£1158.00
• Use of the Village Hall	£ 200.00
• Meadows (clearing gutters and road to VH)	£ 141.60
• Clerks Honorarium (including tax of £12.00)	£ 60.00

A resident asked if we should be discussing the precept for next year. JR saw no reason to change it from the current level which has been held for the last seven years. 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 budget and precept for the next financial year.

- **The Old Dairy:**

An application has been received 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 our lawyers Kendall & Davies and the owner's lawyers. There is now an agreed deed, ready for signature.

A small corner of the Green had become incorporated into the garden and a wall built across some years ago. After discussion with lawyers and the owners it is felt that the best way to resolve the issue is for the owners to build a stock proof fence on the correct boundary, thus returning the corner of land to the Green. A section of 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 by the owners. 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](mailto: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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

• **A.O. B.**

- HP told the meeting that their daughter is getting married on 27<sup>th</sup> 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. HP will 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 be happy to review.
- Token for Annette: It was agreed that LF would buy a token for Annette (and her daughter Belinda) as we do each year for the flowers on the Village drinking fountain.
- Lost Dogs: Following the discovery of a lost Labrador recently, a resident 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 March Parish Council Meeting in March has been changed to Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 6.00 pm in the Village Hall.**