

WYCK RISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 10th June 2019 at the Village Hall.

- 1. Present:** Tim Simon (Chairman), James Ross, Andrew Fifield, Brian Fimmimore, Robert Montague, Louise Fifield (Clerk), Councillor Andrew Maclean and 5 residents.
- 2. There was an apology** from Councillor Dr Nigel Moor and one resident.
- 3. Declarations of interest**
Robert Montague declared an interest in the Planning discussion for No 20
- 4. Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 3rd December 2018.**
The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.
- 5. Matters arising:**
Update on Thames Water: Following the completion of the work to install new water mains, TS confirmed that 23 out of 25 items on our snagging list had been completed.
- 6. Maintenance of the Green and Pond**

Pond: (RM). Having successfully made the first treatment to eradicate the water primrose Jack Smith will be attending once a month under the new arrangement. We are paying him £75/month for 8 months and he has a list of tasks to complete – a job he does for other parishes. He is watching for a recurrence of the water primrose. If necessary, weed killer will be used and a large rake to move the larger reeds. The Environment Agency has contacted the Clerk to enquire about future progress and RM has asked Jack Smith to be in touch with them directly to keep them updated. A letter of complaint had been received from a resident regarding the recent strimming which it was thought had had a detrimental effect on the wild flowers before they had a chance to self seed. RM will monitor this carefully and in future the strimming will be done later. There was concern about the shrubs – and the question was asked as to whether they will be replaced. TS said that the Dogwoods need to be pruned each year so it was decided to wait and see if they re-establish.

Green: There has been re-grading of the soil around the manhole covers, many of which over the years have been damaged. Since the autumn cut last year the two that Brian Brazington was worried about have been built up with soil and re-seeded to try and avoid a problem for the summer cut in July. The aim is to end up with all 40 in a good enough state not to damage the cutting equipment, or collapse as a result of it. This has been a recurring problem over the years and a great deal of work has been done to re-grade and replace those that were causing problems. BF suggested an annual inspection before the cut. TS asked him if he would kindly do this. It was suggested that the equipment could be raised a little, as with a lawnmower. TS felt this was not possible as it was set at a standard height but Brian Brazington would be asked the question.

The oak planted by the Ransoms has now come into leaf and is doing well. Andrew Ransom wondered if the decision taken by a vote of residents ten years ago to plant oaks as replacements for chestnuts (when necessary) was the right one. Wyck Rissington's chestnut trees are known for their blossom in the spring and so maybe we would consider again the Perry Pear. There is an ancient (Victorian) specimen in the orchard behind Porters Farm and they have in years past taken grafts from this tree which have been very successful. JR has a very successful avenue of Perry Pears which have done well. TS felt that it wasn't necessary to have replacement trees of the same variety. Nicholsons had reported last year that the trees were in better condition than anticipated, given that they mostly have the bleeding canker disease.

Councillor Andrew Maclean mentioned a Gloucester group: <https://glosorchards.org/home>. The Gloucestershire Orchard Trust website has interesting information about trees including the Perry Pear. TS felt that this issue would be revisited at a future meeting.

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

- The 4.99% raise in council tax: 2% of this has been ring fenced for elderly care, and along with child protection there is an ambitious plan to improve the infrastructure of the county.
- The recently agreed budget provides the 2nd year of the Conservative £150m investment road resurfacing programme. In its first year, this saw 164 projects carried out across the Gloucestershire, with over 108km of roads resurfaced and 60km surface dressed. In the Cotswolds this included more than 40 projects valued at £7m and some 80 km of roads resurfaced. This coming year will see a similar scale of work in the Cotswolds with many minor roads also included. This year's budget also provides every councillor with £25,000 of Highways Local funding to invest in repairing and upgrading roads and footpaths in their division.
- Key route announcement for the A417 Missing Link was announced by Government in March. Total cost of £500m. Consultation on preferred route summer 2019. Bid to government for finance to improve Junction 10 on the M5 (West Cheltenham) to increase capacity and build to a full junction with access/leave both North and South directions.
- Ashchurch Garden Town: located off the A46 near Junction 9 on the M5 and adjoining the station on the Gloucester: Birmingham line. There will be 10,000 new homes which should help to relieve housing pressures in the North Cotswolds
- £100m investment into Gloucestershire schools continues this year, with a range of capital projects, including a new secondary school for Cheltenham and improvements to local schools including Moreton, Stow, Rissington, and Bledington. At Rissington we have spent an additional £800K to provide nursery education, additional classrooms and accommodation. As a result of the Rissington experience that underestimated the number of school children, GCC are revising their Developer Contributions Policy which could mean a 40% increase in the contributions required from developers for education.
- GCC commits to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and will play its part in global carbon reduction. Following a Climate Summit to be convened with stakeholders from across the county GCC will publish its draft climate change strategy and action plan in the summer for widespread public consultation. This involves co-ordination across the whole of the county's activities: our transport plan, air quality, flood prevention, waste recycling, infrastructure planning, energy, and public transport. Later this year our waste to energy plant at Javelin Park south of Gloucester will open. This will save 40,000 tonnes of Co2 each year and generate electricity to serve 25,000 homes each year by diverting waste from landfill.

8. District Council News: Councillor Andrew Maclean

TS welcomed Cllr Maclean to the meeting following his recent election to the District Council to represent the Rissingtons. By way of introduction AM told the meeting that he lived in Upper Rissington and often walks or cycles through the village. It was a privilege to represent the Rissingtons and he looked forward to working with us. He thanked Mark Mackenzie-Charrington for all the work he has done in recent years and with whom he had a good relationship. AM is not on the planning committee, but will be on the Oversight and Scrutiny committee – including looking back at decisions made.

Housing: There will be a decision made about more new houses in Moreton – off the Toddington Road, behind the Industrial Estate. In Upper Rissington the application to use the business units for housing has been withdrawn. A small development on the Barrington Road (near the reclamation yard) has outline planning permission for 25 houses.

Grants available: There is a community Activity Support Grant of £2500 for the Rissingtons. If any capital project e.g. Village Hall roof was being considered, we would be eligible to apply for a grant from this fund. Since the meeting, the deadline for application has been extended to 1st July.

9. Planning

- 20 Wyck Rissington: Following an application made for an extension to the side of the cottage, TS and BF met the applicant. Currently these two Victorian cottages relate well to each other. It was concluded that there were elements of the application which needed revision and therefore the PC decided to object, providing enough constructive feedback for a possible rethink of the plans. BF had pointed out that a slope of the ground level existed where the extension was to be built. Revised drawings have now been submitted, taking into account the slope, resulting in a lowering of the extension. Andrew Ransom felt it was unfortunate that the PC had objected as we should be supporting a new young family. BF stated that the PC was not objecting to the principle of an extension, but the manner in which it was proposed. TS felt that the extension should be inferior to the existing pair of cottages. The objection has been lodged and if now anyone would like to object or support it this of course can be done through the CDC website. It was agreed to leave it as it stands.
- Electronic Car Charging Station: The application for a car charging station for 96 cars in place of the Gilder scrap metal yard on the Fosse Way was submitted in July last year. Many objections have been lodged with reference to the felling of trees, the 24/7 charging, the light pollution, traffic generation on a dangerous section of road, the time it takes to charge and the fact that it was proposed that those waiting to have their cars re-charged would be bussed to Bourton and surrounding villages. Overwhelmingly the feeling that there is a far better location on the Bourton Industrial Estate for such a facility. Recently there have been revisions of some of the drawings including additional landscaping, tree planting etc and it is understood that there will be a more detailed traffic review. Some of our residents have received letters from Gilders lawyers claiming that their objections were defamatory. In the case of one of these, CDC posted a comment stating that their legal department do not regard the comments as defamatory. Another resident said that they had also received a similar letter from the applicant's lawyers and had raised with CDC planning officers their concerns about this. Councillor Dr Nigel Moor has also posted a comment supporting the many objections by residents of both Wyck Rissington and Lower Slaughter. TS wondered how the CDC will deal with the application as it will soon be a year since it was originally lodged. Councillor Andrew Maclean will see if he can find out what is happening.

10. Letters and Emails received by the Clerk

- Letter from CDC re Emergency Plan: The clerk will reply to this stating that we don't have an Emergency plan, nor do we wish to have one in place as we are a very small village with a good network of safeguarding the elderly and those in need in case of an emergency
- Email from CDC re mowing of verges: reminding us of the guidance on the management of verges, and being over-zealous of poorly timed mowing leading to loss of wild flowers. This was received just after our verges had been cut by GCC!
- Email from CDC re using the recycling banks in Bourton responsibly – not leaving material on the ground, rather than placing it in appropriate banks.
- Letter from Cotswold Conservation Board re a new vacancy. BF is looking at it.
- Charity requests from Air Ambulance Brigade and Cotswold Friends. BF wondered if we should have a policy – are we able to donate tax payer's money? TS will check the legal position and there will be further discussion at the next meeting.

11. Finance Report – items of expenditure for approval

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| • Renewal of Insurance | £346.40 |
| • Clerks Honorarium (including tax of £12.00) | £ 60.00 |

12. A. O. B.

- TS thanked all the councillors and clerk for their efforts over the year.
- A resident has enquired about neighbourhood watch. Many years ago we took part in this scheme and Jeffrey Brain was the representative. A discussion took place during which it was agreed that our system works well – LF informing people by email of a variety of issues relating to the village. Following the meeting TS has looked into Neighbourhood Watch and it seems that it is a bit bureaucratic for our small community, involving unnecessary meetings, working best in bigger communities. We know our residents and our network of communication does a very similar, if not better, job.
- A resident asked about the new 'Wyck Beacon' 30 mph speed restriction signs at the top of the drainpipe. As this is within the Wyck Rissington Parish does that mean speed limits on the section of road could be introduced? Andrew Maclean said it was a difficult and extremely long process to change speed limits and even though Wyck Beacon was now identified by signs it does not follow that a speed limit should be introduced.
- AF reminded the meeting that the 20pmh speed restriction signs in Lansdowne, Bourton caught a large number of people in the first fortnight – and to be aware!
- A resident has commented that there has been an increase in dog poo in the village – sometimes bags just left on the green. TS wondered if we should have at least one dog poo bin near the gate leading to the Oxfordshire Way. Andrew Maclean will investigate and see if we are eligible for a grant.

Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 2nd September at 6.00 pm at the Village Hall