

WYCK RISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held by Zoom meeting on Monday 10th August 2020.

Present: Tim Simon (Chairman), Andrew Fifield, Brian Finnimore, Robert Montague, Hilary Ponti, Councillor Dr Nigel Moor, Councillor Andrew Maclean, Louise Fifield (Clerk)

In attendance: Andrew and Elizabeth Ransom

There were no apologies

There were no Declarations of Interest

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 2nd December 2019** were approved and will be signed. All matters arising are dealt with on the agenda.
- **Maintenance of the Green and Pond**

Pond: (RM)

1. The previously circulated report detailed the work in reducing the amount of water primrose completed by Jack Smith. He is due back very soon to pull out some more as the water level is low. The Environmental Agency has been updated.
2. The small pond known as Pam's Pond has been cleared out and Jack will continue to be responsible for this at no extra cost.
3. The dip in front of Highfield has been filled in with the mud extracted from Pam's pond and seeding of this area will be undertaken in due course. TS thanked RM for his work on this.

Green: (TS)

1. The hay crop has been taken and the other (unreachable by large tractor) areas have also been cut. Brian Brazington confirmed the figure for both the Summer and Autumn cuts with an increase of £20 on last year's cost, i.e. £985 ex VAT. Meadows have also confirmed £19.50/hour and have cut around the trees and the edges.
2. Pyments have been asked to proceed with kerbstone repairs based on their quote of £1795 ex VAT and repairs to damaged water main lid for £135 ex VAT. Both were approved at the PC meeting in March. The Village hall are not contributing to this work. Pyments have agreed to defer half of the payment until the next financial year so as to spread the cost to help cashflow.
3. There is one Chestnut and two smaller trees which need under-pruning to let the large tractor get under the trees next time. There is also a dead elm tree near Pam's pond, needing to be removed. It was agreed to ask Bartletts to quote for this, including making an opening to the area of land that is part of the Green at Porters Farm, now fenced and an opening made in the wall for access from the Green.
4. Tree Survey. The last one was done in 2017 at a cost of £400 ex VAT and Nicholsons advised to do this at a different time of year. It was agreed to go ahead with this in the Spring of 2021
5. Damage done to PVC vent pipe, down pipe, and boiler flue vent on the roadside of the Granary, likely to have happened over the years during grass cutting. It was agreed to ask the resident to obtain a quote for the repair work. In future it was agreed that this should be done by Meadows with a strimmer. Resident has also been advised to install a French drain to alleviate damp penetration. This has been approved by the PC.
6. A damp patch has occurred on the Green near the entrance to the Old Dairy which has been revealed since the Green has been cut. Andrew Ransom believes this could be caused by either old cast iron pipes or connected with the meter for mains water. It was agreed to contact Thames Water in the first instance.
7. The blocked drain near the Church is still outstanding. It was rodded last year which helped but there was concern that it would collapse. It needs replacing. TS

suggested that we wait and see how it performs this Autumn and remind Highways that the job is still outstanding.

- **County Council News: report by Councillor Dr Nigel Moor:** (sent in advance of the meeting).

1. Climate Change

As a result of a variety of changes made by GCC, the corporate emissions for 2019/20 show a 70% reduction on the 2006/7 levels.

2. Emergency Active Travel

The DfT has given Gloucestershire £321,757 for emergency pop-up walking and cycling improvements. Bourton on the Water is one of 4 trial schemes.

3. Council to combine energy contracts to drive efficiency

The council moved all its electricity purchases to carbon neutral sources, making the switch last year to 100% green electricity.

4. New contract boost for Household recycling centres

Currently run by Ubico who have been awarded a new five-year contract. Sites are performing well with over 60% of all waste being reused or recycled.

5. Food recycling

More food waste is being recycled than ever before, although 25% of food waste is still being put into landfill.

6. Public Transport

Council has been supporting bus operators, challenged by social distancing, by paying 90% of contract rates and concessionary scheme reimbursement while services are reduced.

As COVID recovery grows concerns about peak times were raised. As schools return, shops re-open and furloughed staff return to work bus services have been increased but with only 20 – 25% of normal capacity there are times when people are unable to board. It is hoped this will be mitigated by a reduction in the 2m social distancing rules and the requirement to wear face masks.

7. A417 Missing Link

Although backed by Government, the scheme will be delayed. There has been a meeting with the National Trust who promised to work with others to find an alternative plan. TS expressed disappointment that this should happen so far down the line as a result of the National Trust at an advanced stage refusing to allow their land to be used for the creation of a green bridge over the new road.

8. Waste Management

All 5 Household recycling centres have reopened. All visits need to be booked online and social distancing measures are in place on site.

9. Weight Restriction on A361 at Burford, and on the bridge at Adlestrop

This came into force on 5th August. GCC will monitor the HGV traffic flows resulting from these changes at Sheep Street, Stow on the Wold and Stow Road, Bledington. TS asked if anyone was enforcing it. NM replied that it is a police matter.

- **District Council News: Councillor Andrew Maclean**

AM thanked everyone for our parish response to the COVID19 situation. The response has been really good in all four Rissingtons.

1. The District Council has postponed the decision to build a multi storey car park in Cirencester

2. An ecological emergency:

The disappearance of limestone grasslands is of enormous concern. They have declined from 40% to 1.5%. The Cotswolds AONB is involved in a national project to conserve and restore our wildflower-rich meadows and grasslands. If anyone wants to learn more or get involved, link to Cotswolds AONB is

<https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/our-landscape/wildflower-grassland/>. Alternatively contact Andrew Maclean at andrew.maclean@cotswold.gov.uk.

3. Planning in Little Rissington
Permission has been granted for 2 sets of barns for housing at Church Rise. There are likely to be more applications.

TS thanked AM.

- **Planning:**

1. Electric Car Charging Station
TS thanked HP for her help in getting our MP Sir Geoffrey Clifton- Brown involved. There has been a recently circulated email from a Bourton Councillor elected to represent our parishes on Cotswold Conservation Board. They have objected and TS felt that their comments submitted to the planning inspectorate were very well made. Lower Slaughter PC are developing a poster campaign and have asked us to be part of it. TS felt on balance it was better not to get involved. The PC and many of our residents and those in Lower and Upper Slaughter have sent a well-reasoned argument to the inspectorate without the need for posters in windows. This was agreed by the meeting.
HP said she would like to be involved in attending the appeal meeting. There has been no date set yet.
2. Application for 2 dwellings on land next to Ladybird cottage at the junction of Wyck Lane and the Fosse Way
This has been refused.
3. Retrospective application for stable building at land off Wyck Road
This has been approved.
4. Proposed shed to existing stables and manege at Grafters, Fosseyway
This has been approved.
5. Porters Farm
The application to extend has been refused. The Conservation Officer was not happy with any of the elements. The residents will appeal – and will look at the issue of increasing the height of the wall between them and the Granary.
6. Garronfield, Wyck Road
The two-storey side and single storey rear extensions have been approved. It was not seen as contentious.
7. Pear Tree Cottage
Replacement of timber window with full height glazed doors and windows from timber to conservation metal frames. This has been approved. BF has reached stalemate with the earlier application relating to double glazed windows and may go to appeal. AR reminded the meeting that a similar application at Highfield was approved, as well as their own replacement windows at Greenfields some time ago. AM said that if asked he would support the PC and refer it on, as he has had success when supporting similar applications.

- **Finance Report:**

The finance report for the August 2020 meeting had been previously distributed. Income is secure for the year – 1st stage of the precept has been received. A discussion of the precept for next year will take place at the next meeting in November. The budget forecast is for a budget overspend of £1,300 but it should be contained within reserves.

1. Items for payment - approved at the meeting

Clerks honorarium	£60.00
Town and Parish Council Website – Accessibility Report	£330.00
Pyments 2019/20 manhole repairs	£204.00
JS Fisheries Pond maintenance (to include £225 for small pond)	£600.00
Town and Parish Council Website – hosting	£130.00

2. Noted at the meeting

- Approval obtained by email for tidying up the Green following the cut at an estimated cost of £150 based on £19.50/hour
- Approval obtained at March meeting for repairing kerbstones at a cost of £1795 ex VAT. Half to be invoiced on completion and the balance at the start of F/Y 21/22
- Approval obtained by email for cutting and lifting the green at cost of £985 ex VAT
- In principle agreement to fund a dog litter bin, actual cost and location to be determined
- In principle agreement to repair the downpipe to the Granary damaged by the cut – anticipated cost C£100. Quote to be obtained
- In principle agreement to a tree survey in Spring 2021 C£400. Quote to be obtained.

3. Financial Procedures (distributed before the meeting)

These were agreed by email. They do reflect Elizabeth Ransom's suggestions, to be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. BF to bring forward draft risk register for discussion then.

ER asked why it was necessary to shred files/invoices etc? BF felt that we should have a robust system whereby everything is held electronically. The shredding is to protect privacy – they should not be put in a bin. TS suggested we discuss this further at the next meeting and that in the meantime BF should retain hard copy. Thanks to BF for such a comprehensive report.

• **Heath Hill Farm Footpath:**

TS had circulated a covering note to the village, and there have been no comments of objection, and one of support. The landowner at Heath Hill Farm is planning to apply for permission to divert one section of a footpath that crosses Heath Hill Farm, currently running past farm buildings and a field where horses are kept. In return he is offering to open a circular walk. TS and HP were shown the new path and agreed it would be an improvement. The concerns were that the first field would present problems if walking with a dog. Since their meeting, the landowner has put a water trough either side of the path enabling part of the field to be fenced off if there were animals in it. BF and HP commented that the existing footpath is currently blocked with an electric fence in two places, and we should raise an objection to this. TS also noted a foot bridge that could be potentially hazardous as it has no handrail. These concerns will be passed on to the landowner. AM said he would refer this upwards and that there are funds in place for such projects. He also said there are plans to convert the old railway line which runs through the farm into a cycle path.

• **Update on WRPC Accessibility:**

LF had circulated her report previously. Town and Parish Council Websites who look after our WRPC website, submitted their report which details various amendments that had to be made both on the website and in the documents that we post – agendas, minutes and financial documents, in order to be compliant before the deadline of 22nd September. The required amending of the agendas and minutes back to September 2018 to make them compliant has been achieved. The financial documents have proved more of a problem. All but the most recent 3 financial documents have been scanned pdf versions, which are not able to be converted to Word or Excel without Acrobat Pro. Our recently published Accessibility Statement makes it clear that most of the financial documents are not accessible. However, in future we should be compliant, which is the essential requirement. TS thanked LF for the time she has spent on this and for having successfully completed the amendments.

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

1. 20 mph speed limit

Raised by HP. TS reminded us that in the past we had requested this but had been told these limits were very unlikely to be granted – but now Little Rissington has one. HP felt that it would encourage drivers to reduce their speed, particularly as so many people now park to go for a walk. It would also help when riding through the village. TS felt that perhaps we should have another try although the signage necessary for these limits to be effective would involve creating gateways at each end of the village with large 20mph markings on the tarmac. AM said they were becoming more common, but this was a County Council matter and we should enlist Nigel Moor's help.

2. Dog bins

A resident has asked about dog bins, discussed at a previous meeting but not yet progressed.. We had agreed previously that we would have one installed, but no decision has been taken about where it should be. RM agreed that it was necessary. Ubico will be the company that empties them on a regular basis. The cost of the installation is the responsibility of the PC.

3. Pothole and hidden road sign

A resident has noted that there is one pothole near the entrance to the village that has been missed after the others were filled. Also – the sign to Wyck Rissington on the Fosse has become dangerously obscured by overhanging branches. TS will contact Highways to report both concerns.

4. Email from Ian Shirley (distributed before the meeting)

Asking for feedback on his project to support elderly, vulnerable individuals in the Cotswolds – his elderly father had been determined to stay at home despite progression of his illness. The gap in his care provision prompted Ian to install 24-hour monitoring with his consent. This enabled him to stay at home far longer. He would be happy to discuss this with anyone who might be interested. Please contact LF for his details should anyone wish to contact him.

- **A.O. B.**

There were no further items of business.

Date for the Next Parish Council Meeting – November 16th, 23rd or 30th?