

WYCK RISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Zoom Meeting on Monday 23rd November 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

TS welcomed Andrew and Elizabeth Ransom as our auditors for discussion on the 2021/22 Budget and the Risk Plan.

There were Declarations of Interest from: Andrew and Louise Fifield (Honeysuckle Cottage planning application) and Brian Finnimore (Heath Lawn planning application)

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 10th August** were approved and will be signed.

- **Matters Arising**

Dog Bin cost/location:

This will be provided by Publica Group at a cost of £210+VAT. There will be no ongoing cost and no cost for emptying. Ubico will schedule the emptying to match demand. LF will liaise with Publica as necessary. A location (in a prominent position) has been agreed with the resident living nearest the proposed site – by the gate to the Oxfordshire Way at the northern end of the village. It was agreed to proceed with one now and consider acquiring another next year if necessary.

Heath Hill Farm:

TS met with the County Public Path Order Officer and the Public Rights of Way Officer together with a member of the Maugersbury PC and the landowner. A helpful meeting detailed the planned re-siting of the footpath. Signs will be provided, and the landowner will organise the necessary bridges and stiles. The whole process could take as long as 18 months as the proposal has to be advertised and if there are objections an Inspector has to be appointed.

- **Maintenance of the Green and Pond**

Green and Road (TS)

1. Both cuts have been completed and paid for at agreed cost of £985. Maces Farm is on the market and if buyers don't renew the grazing licence to Brian Brazington there is a risk that it will be uneconomic for him to continue cutting the Green. Finding someone else to lift after cutting will be difficult, based on past experience.
2. It is proposed to ask Meadows to clear the leaves around the VH – likely cost £100. HP has suggested that she has this done at a considerably reduced cost. This was agreed – thank you Hilary.
3. Approval sought for replacement of two damaged manhole covers. Pyments have quoted £435+VAT (similar to previous year). A further cover on VH lawn needs re-setting and raising at a cost of £95 to be refunded by the VH. BF suggests an annual inspection.
4. Kerbstone repairs completed. £1795 +VAT (payable in 2 stages, one on completion of work which has been paid and balance in April 2021) and repair to the damaged water main lid completed and paid - £135+VAT
5. Tree works completed at £540 +VAT and paid
6. Points raised by a resident at last meeting have been progressed. Repair to pothole previously marked but missed has now been completed, and damaged road signs at bottom of drainpipe and the Fosse Way junction are being replaced.
7. Wet area on the Green near the entrance to Porters Farm was as agreed reported to Thames Water who discovered a leaking joint on a section recently replaced during new mains installation. Work completed.

8. Re-surfacing of the drainpipe (including the passing places) due to be carried out imminently. Road will be closed from 7am to 7pm.

Pond: (RM)

1. Maintenance: RM is still to hear from Jack Smith with invoice for final balance for pond maintenance and his quote for 2021
2. Water primrose: It is now established that the water primrose is confined to the Village Pond and is not coming from anywhere else. The Environmental Agency (EA) visited recently and plan for the removal of as much of the remaining primrose as possible. Assistance with the costs of herbicides has been discussed, and we are told they will try to do so, but there is no confirmation as yet. No further payment required this financial year, and it is proposed to wait until next Spring to see what further work might then be needed. RM to monitor this. TS asked about the white lime dressing on the retaining wall surrounding the pond. RM has asked for it to be washed down and will see that it is achieved.

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

1. A417 Missing Link
Following lobbying and a feasibility study, this project is back on track and funding has been agreed. Work is scheduled to start in 2023 and is likely to take 6 years.
2. Background to the Legal notice served blocking Stow Horse Fayre
Using the powers under Covid-19 regulations the landowner was served with a 'notice of concern' giving them 48 hours to address concerns raised by the County Council, Police and CDC. No steps were taken so a legal notice to block the event was served.
3. Ash Die-Back and Tree Planting
GCC Highways are carrying out work along the A429 Fosse Way. Nearly 3,000 trees need to be felled. There is a scheme for providing a thriving network of sustainably managed trees and woodland covering at least 20% of the County by 2030 (currently at 13.4%). There is also a scheme which community groups and parish councils can bid for. Details of this will follow.
4. A436 Adlestrop Bridge
Data has been collected at 4 monitoring points and a report follows which will compare these results with data collected in February 2020.
5. Speed Survey (and horse and rider signs)
The speed survey recently undertaken in the village shows some high speeds at 1.00 am, 6.00 am and 10.00 pm, but between 6 am and 6 pm the mean speeds are within the 30mph speed limit. HP felt that delivery vans were driving fast between houses. NM suggested we ask Rhodri Grey to provide detailed schedules. TS raised the issue of 'horse and rider signs. There are several horses now in the village. There followed a discussion of where these signs might be. A suggestion was made to have one at the top of the drainpipe and then two further signs in conjunction with the 30mph signs at both ends of the village. Not everyone was in favour. NM suggested we put it forward for the Local Highways budget for the next financial year. It was agreed to follow up with Rhodri on the speed survey and investigate the possibility of horse and rider signs, reporting back at the next meeting. Andrew Maclean is concerned about speeding on the top road at Wyck Beacon, where the settlement is fragmented. NM felt it needs more thought.
6. Redevelopment of Gilders Scrapyard
The Appeal Public Inquiry is now open and lasts until Friday 27th November. WRPC has liaised with Lower Slaughter PC and with the help of a resident has been instrumental in drafting the final comprehensive objection which was then submitted to the Planning Inspector.

7. HRC Winter Opening hours

Now winter hours – 10am to 4pm. The booking system will remain in place over the winter and it is undecided whether this will become a permanent feature.

TS reminded the meeting that Nigel Moor was not standing for re-election to the County Council next May and thanked him on behalf of the PC for all his help – in so many ways over the last eight years. He will be missed.

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

1. CDC are running a consultation on their budget until December 8.
<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/budget>
2. New Fly tipping service
There is an app link to a new service reporting fly tipping. A new online form allows the user to pinpoint a fly-tip on an interactive map so that they don't have to spend time describing the location or looking up a post code:
<https://community.cotswold.gov.uk/s/fly-tip>
3. CDC have launched a call for sites to update their local plan. Among others they are asking for sites for housing, energy projects, commercial and business uses.

TS thanked AM.

- **Planning:**

1. Heath Lawn: Compliance with condition 3 of details regarding removal of conservatory and replacement with seating/dining extension.
BF – this was submitted several months ago. The planners have raised queries once the consultation date was over.
2. Honeysuckle Cottage: Application for demolition of shed and erection of single storey rear extension
Supported by WRPC
3. Redevelopment of Wyck Hill Court
Replacing 5 houses with 4 modern houses. These proposals were generally supported but there is a concern that this might represent the first stage of re-development of the site of the original nursery.
4. Proposed conversion of existing stable to holiday let – off Wyck Road
This has been permitted.

- **WRPC Draft Risk Plan**

The draft risk plan had been circulated in advance of the meeting. There followed a discussion during which there were several differences of opinion. The matter has still to be resolved. ER suggested that the possibility of the Green not being cut if we can't find someone to do it should be added. TS highlighted a further issue – that of the VH lease. If the Village Hall Trust was ever wound up due to lack of funds for repair etc there is provision for their lease to end in which case the liability would fall on WRPC. It is therefore important that the Trust provide annual accounts to WRPC to make sure there are sufficient reserves (provision of annual accounts being a requirement of the Trust deed). BF agreed to add these two new issues.

- **Draft Budget and Finance Report:**

The draft budget for 2021/22, along with the finance report for the November 2020 meeting had been previously distributed and posted on the website.

1. The Budget for 21/22

It was suggested that we increase the precept by £800 to £4,000 – first increase for 10 years. This would give us a total projected income of £4,900 to include VH ground rent, wayleaves and an estimated VAT reclaim of £500. Projected expenditure reflects increases in most items with the exception of the VH hire and the Clerk's honorarium. This could leave us with a small deficit of £105. BF felt that we should be able to accommodate likely contingencies within the funds held. The proposed increase in the precept was approved. TS noted that our neighbouring villages mostly now had precepts in the £5,000 to £6,000 range.

2. Financial Report for November 2020

Since the last meeting, £800 (2nd tranche of precept) has been received, along with personal contributions from 3 Councillors for the privately funded traffic survey. Expenditure totalling £3375.40 includes payments to Pyments, JS Fisheries, Town and Parish Council Websites, Cotswold Meadows, Louise Fifield and Brian Brazington (both cuts). Anticipated expenditure before the end of the tax year include Bartletts £648, Traffic Survey, Clerks honorarium £96, Dog bin £210+VAT, leaf clearance outside the VH and manhole repairs £500 all of which were approved. The bank balances at 03/11/20 were Treasurers Account - £469.70 and Instant Access - £6982.31. BF thought we should end up the financial year as budgeted.

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

1. What3words

Email sent by Molly Macgregor describing the benefits of being able to give your precise location in an emergency. What3words is now being used by 80% of emergency services in the UK and has helped nearly 4,000 incidents since it first began. The system gives every 3m square in the world a unique identifier of 3 words For example ///tortoises.swarm.announce will take you to a precise location on Ben Nevis where in Feb 2020 a group of hikers were rescued. The app is free to download

2. Request

A resident has sent an email to ask if it might be possible to be notified when there are plans for chemical spraying on the farmland around the village. This was discussed at some length and it was suggested that damage earlier this year was most likely to have been caused by a late frost. LF will reply to this effect.

• **A.O. B.**

Emails sent to the village distribution list

An email sent out recently regarding fireworks caused concern from a few residents. There followed a discussion regarding messages sent to the village distribution list – requests have grown considerably recently, and it was felt that there should be an agreed policy on this. It was decided that information emails, e.g. regarding the imminent road closure, or a thank you from the British Legion for the Poppy Appeal etc can be sent without agreement from the PC but for other messages permission will be sought from the PC before an email is sent.

Perry Pear donated by James and Sara Ross

AR is shortly to collect the tree kindly donated by James and Sara. It will be planted opposite Pear Tree Cottage between 2 existing chestnut trees

Dates for the 2021 Parish Council Meetings

Monday March 22nd

June meeting to be decided when the accounts are finalised

Monday September 6th

Monday December 6th