

WYCK RISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Zoom Meeting on Monday 22nd March 2021

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

In attendance: 5 residents

There were no apologies

There were no Declarations of Interest.

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 23 November 2020** were approved and will be signed.

- **Matters Arising**

Dog Bin

This has now been installed, but (£210 +VAT) not yet invoiced and paid.

- **Risk Plan, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct**

The Risk Plan was discussed at length at the last meeting. Our risk auditor was unhappy about one item, believing we could be seen as liable for loss resulting from electricity supply issues. BF has since amended the wording to make clear that we are only responsible for reporting any of the listed matters in the risk plan to the Electrical provider. Nonetheless and despite the amendment it is recorded that the inclusion of the item Mains Supplies is against our risk auditor's professional advice. BF said that our auditor had raised other concerns which have been addressed – and it was noted that we had taken advice from the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC) who are content with the matters that have been covered. The draft Risk Plan was ratified..

The Standing Orders and Code of Conduct, along with the Risk Plan have been uploaded onto the website in the Parish Council section under 'documents'.

TS thanked BF for his work on producing the Risk Plan.

- **Maintenance of the Green and Pond**

Green and Road (TS) – (report previously circulated to attendees)

1. Flooding of central part of the Green and a number of surrounding houses on 23/12/20 following heaviest rainfall since 2007. BF summarised:
7 properties were flooded, the 3 most affected have commissioned a study from a hydrologist who will prepare a proposal for further attention to flood defences.
Fortunately, Wyck did not suffer as badly as many Cotswold properties did with the combining of foul and surface waters. The Fire Brigade attended and pumped out the lake that had formed on the Green but the severity did not necessitate the attention of GCC. NM requested a copy of the report before attending a meeting at GCC, and will update us.
2. The leaves have been cleared from the VH road, arranged by HP's gardener at a much reduced cost. Thanks to HP.
3. Replacement of 2 damaged manhole covers (£435+VAT, as quoted) has been completed. The cover by the VH (£95 quoted) which is located on the lawn that is included in their lease from the PC required more work and therefore was more than quoted at £210. It was agreed that the PC would pay the extra and ask the VH for only the original £95, as their income has been so affected by the pandemic. This was agreed..

4. Resurfacing of the drainpipe was carried out in December to include all passing places which Glos. CC Highways originally rejected as they had not previously been surfaced. Very thorough job involving removal of old surface and laying of new tarmac resulting in a much improved surface and camber. TS thanked NM.
5. Three blocked gullies, two on the drainpipe and one at junction between A424 and Wyck Beacon road have been reported to Glos. Highways several times since December but not action as yet. NM will speak to Bob Skillern of Glos. Highways as this has gone on too long.
6. Quotation awaited from Cotswold Drainage to clear out 2 blocked gullies on road to VH
7. Glos Highways have said that if we apply in first week in April there is a reasonable chance that we can have 4 horse/rider signs at top and bottom of the drainpipe and on entering village from the north. This was agreed by a majority.
8. Triennial tree survey carried out last week by Nicholsons for same price of £400 + VAT as in 2017. Report awaited but one tree near Pear Tree Cottage is noted for limb reduction as the branches are too low.
9. The Perry Pear, donated by the Ross family had now been planted in the agreed location, opposite Pear Tree Cottage. Many thanks to the Ross's for their generosity. They hope to visit in April (when allowed) to admire the tree followed by a fertiliser application ceremony!

Pond: (RM)

Very little activity following the early winter visit by the Environment Agency (EA) and Jack Smith's last visit. The EA had commented that the water primrose taken out had been very difficult to kill. It will grow back. Fortunately there is no sign of it anywhere else in the village.

RM noted the point made in recent flooding dialogue, regarding pond level and whether the lining of clay had been damaged (mentioned by a resident) when JS cleared and drained the pond on first weed clearance. BF said that the pond is low at the moment, and TS said that the damage might not have been caused in this way. RM said that the EA suggested that the drying out of the edge of the pond could have contributed to the problem, with a gap opening up. This is all speculation but it was agreed the water levels were generally low. BF commented that the 2 gullies leading into the pond are blocked, which might be advantageous. These are all pond issues which need investigation, but are not part of the hydrologist report. RM feels that it has more capacity for holding water. TS reported that on 24th December it was up to over-flow level.

RM also confirmed that further dredging of the small pond to the right of the entrance to Olive Hill is not necessary which had been a concern of a resident.

In months ahead, EA will visit in late spring. It is hoped that they will propose a plan and consider cost implications with regard to possible financial assistance. JS will continue to do monthly maintenance (remaining at £35 per visit to include grass cutting to surrounds) but won't commit to any further work concerning the water primrose

• **County Council News: report by Councillor Dr Nigel Moor:** (previously circulated).

1. Annual Budget 2021/22

GCC has approved a budget of £483 m for 21/22 – an increase of £14.8m on previous financial year. At GCC Cabinet meeting on 24/03/21 it is set to invest:

- a. an extra £1m to create a Gloucestershire Restart Fund
- b. £220,00 to fund 500 new charging points around the county
- c. £10,000 to each councillor for Highways local schemes

2. Rural Mobility Fund
£1.3m to pilot a demand responsive public transport project in North Cotswolds and Forest of Dean. 2 accessible minibuses will respond to journeys that cannot be undertaken by existing public transport routes, 7am - 7pm on weekdays and 8am - 4pm on Saturdays between designated pickup points. Bookings by phone or online via ThinkTravel Journey planner.
3. Shire Hall project scoops national 'Constructing Excellence' award
– with solar panels and insulated cladding systems, which have reduced its carbon footprint and heating bills.
4. Ash Die-Back Community replanting scheme
Planting in the spring will include nearly 8,000 trees and 2400 hedging plants either by GCC teams or through donations to PCs. In autumn a further 7000 trees are planned.
5. Carriageway Resurfacing
Extensive programme starting from 1st April to 31 August in North Cotswolds to include (locally to us) B4068 Lower Swell Road, A429 Fosseway; Unicorn Junction at Stow; A436 Sheep St, Stow; B4077 Stumps Cross to Ford Manor, Temple Guiting; Moreton North Cotswold Hospital to Longborough/Donnington junction
6. Adlestrop Bridge weight restriction
This has been successful in curbing traffic into Stow via Sheep Street.
7. HRC Summer Opening hours
Now summer hours – 9am to 5pm. The booking system will remain in place.
8. Fusion Power Reactor
GCC asked to agree support for a partner bid for site nominations which if successful, will aim to build the world's first prototype fusion power reactor by 2040. Fusion technology uses the same principles that power the sun, fusing hydrogen isotopes to make helium and safe carbon neutral energy. Could create thousands of jobs and attract billions of investment. Sites being considered are Oldbury-on-Severn and Berkeley.

TS reminded the meeting that Nigel Moor was not standing for re-election to the County Council in May and thanked him again for everything he has done for us in Wyck Rissington and on behalf of us all, wished him luck in his retirement.

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

1. AM shared his excitement that the CDC admin was more committed to social housing, as there is a real problem
2. The Liberal Democrats are going Green!
Following a grant being made available, there are many more solar panels being erected in Moreton in Marsh and Cirencester.
3. AM reminded the meeting that there were Covid grants available, as well as grants for people coping with the adverse effects of Brexit. Information on these can be found on the CDC website at: <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/business-and-licensing/>

TS thanked AM.

- **Planning:**

1. Electric Car Charging Station at Gilders..
The planning application for a 100 bay electric car charging station, previously refused by CDC, has now been granted on appeal despite numerous (65+) local objections including the Cotswold Conservation Board and all the surrounding parish councils.

TS told us that the report following the inquiry seemed to suggest it would have been very difficult for the planning inspector to turn it down, even though he had appeared sympathetic to the objectors, given the present climate. One positive to come out of it was that it is likely to involve rapid charging, thus negating the need for a shuttle bus taking those having their cars re-charged around villages in the area or hire of bicycles to keep people occupied during a lengthy charge. Also, the applicants have said that they now intend to phase the development starting with 25 bays. A resident who had greatly assisted with drafting our objections and those made by Lower Slaughter PC said we should wait now to see if the permission is implemented.

The applicants have now applied to move the metal recycling plant to the other side of the Fosse and have applied to Glos.CC for permission for this (as a former minerals site this comes under GCC). The gravel pits are to be filled in and there are to be 3 buildings (sheds). It is hoped that these will not be visible from the road but it was noted that this proposal is likely to raise strong objections from Lower Slaughter.

2. Court Hayes Farm – replace single storey building with 2 storey storage and office building
Application granted. The only concern was if the offices were on the first floor there may be a light issue.
3. Honeysuckle Cottage: Application for demolition of shed and erection of single storey rear extension
Granted
4. Redevelopment of Wyck Hill Court
Replacing 5 houses with 4 modern houses. BF felt this was an improvement. AM said there are likely to be more to come on the old nursery site.
5. Traveller Site, Meadowview, Fosseyway
This site is just over our parish boundary and located in Mangersbury PC and had been previously included in the local plan for 4 traveller sites but the temporary permission had expired 2 or 3 years ago. A resident had reported that there is now a scrap metal yard, for which it appears there is no permission.. AM put us in touch with the senior planning officer at CDC who has confirmed that they will be taking this up with the landowner..
6. Biomass application at Court Hayes Farm, Wyck Beacon
This is for a certificate of lawful use for the biomass boilers and silos installed in 2014.

- **Finance Report:**

Financial Report for March 2021 (previously circulated)

BF explained that over the year there had been, as anticipated, a depletion of funds at the financial year end but this is at the lower end of the expected range resulting in overall bank balances at the end of the financial year of almost £6,000.. Approval was given for the payment for the manhole cover repairs (£645 ex VAT) with a £95 refund from the village hall. All other items had been approved.

The second tranche of the kerb repair (Pyments) is to be paid in the new financial year, coinciding with the arrival of the precept, Wayleaves and VAT refund.

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

1. Note of thanks
Annette and Belinda Aked thanked the PC for the annual garden token given at the end of the year in appreciation of their continued care of the fountain.
2. Letter from Dr Paul Morrish about a 20mph speed limit
Dr Morrish suggests that 4 villages might jointly apply to Glos Highways to have a 20mph limit in the village. It would be extremely expensive (even if £10,000 shared by

all 4). We have debated this on previous occasions and the overall feeling was that it had not been very successful in Little Rissington - who are now looking to introduce other traffic calming measures - and may not make much of a difference in Wyck, as well as being difficult to manage or control. BF felt that given the agreement to pursue the horse and rider signs, the additional 20mph signs would then mean there'd be too many signs in the village. So it was concluded that we should not take this any further.

3. The verges

A resident has written to ask if something could be done to protect the verges from being continuously torn up by tractors and lorries. Unfortunately this is a long standing problem. TS said it always happens in the winter but grass is very resilient and come the spring weather it always seems to come back. Permanent barriers can't be used because of our policy of managing the green: they would affect the mowing of the green.

- **A.O. B.**

Track widening request

A request has been made by a resident to widen the track on one side of the drive leading up to Hope Lodge, as the current width means that delivery lorries are causing a muddy dip when they reverse back out which becomes water logged and looks unsightly. AF commented that the same problem exists all along the section in front of nos 9 – 12 and therefore the whole section needs the same treatment. TS has asked if the colour of the gravel could be matched as closely as possible. This was approved. AF said that the second part (in front of 9 – 12) would be done after the extension project at no 9 was completed.

Drive renewal at College Farm.

HP has sent a sample of the gravel suggested and TS felt it was a good match. It is proposed to keep the rural look by retaining the grass in the middle of the driveway.

Thanks for the litter collecting

HP thanked everyone who had recently made such a huge effort to collect the litter from the verges in and out of the village. It makes a huge difference. TS thanked HP for organising it.

Date for the next Meeting: Monday June 14th – AGM and Parish Council meeting