

Minutes of General Meeting, Wyck Rissington Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall on Monday 4th September 2023, 18:00

Councillors Present: Cllrs Finnimore, Maclean, and Gorton
In attendance: 18 members of the public

040926/1 The minutes of the previous meeting were approved

040926/2 No declarations of interest were declared

040926/3 The water subcommittee was formed. It constituted as follows:

Colin Cook Chairman

Simon Gorton

Robert Montague

Peter Watson

Its terms of reference are to consider the flooding and surface water issues affecting the village. Its members are those least directly affected. The Chairman will take on liaison with GCC on behalf of the subcommittee.

The Planning Applications subcommittee was formed and constituted as follows:

Peter Watson Chairman

Simon Gorton

Hilary Ponti

It will be a standing committee : its first task is to complete the recommended approach to Planning Applications for consideration and adoption by the Council and of course subsequently to put that into effect.

In addition during the period between the Parish Council meeting and the formal reconstitution of the Parish Council, a Transition Working Party made up of Colin Cook (Chairman), Brian Finnimore and Simon Gorton was formed to oversee this and to facilitate the work of the Parish Council in the meanwhile.

040926/4 Following the formation of a working group to consider the damage being caused by cars parking on the common land near the footpath at the western end of the village, a report was subsequently sent to the clerk. It was pointed out that it would have been helpful to have published the report prior to the PC meeting to allow people to consider its contents but Elizabeth Ransom, who chaired the group, kindly briefed the meeting on the findings. A member of the public spoke and said he did not want people to be encouraged in any way to park on the opposite (north-eastern) side of the road, stating this would be both damaging to this area of the common, dangerous as it would hamper visibility for residents vehicles leaving property close by and highly inconvenient to local agricultural traffic attempting to use the nearby gateway. A discussion followed on the various options presented. It was concluded that the working group would make a recommendation including costings and funding to allow a more informed decision to be made. Both Councillor Mackenzie-Charrington, and Councillor Maclean said it may be possible to source external funding as a percentage contribution from both the County and District Councils.

040926/5 Cllr Gorton updated the meeting on the cutting and baling of the common land. Having spoken to the Contractor numerous times since June, he said the extremely wet summer had caused extensive issues for agriculture nationwide and our contractor was being overwhelmed with a large backlog of work. The contractor felt it was possible the grass would be cut and baled this week but he had also stated that the PC had to make contingency plans in the event the weather curtailed the option to make hay. One option was to leave the grass uncut for one year, another to cut the green but leave the cuttings and another to cut and then

remove the grass to be composted at a nearby location if one could be found. A member of the public suggested another option, which was to create wrapped bales. Attempts could be made to sell these at a local agricultural sale. Another member of the public suggested grazing sheep. It was agreed that Cllr Gorton would speak again to the contractor if hay could not be made in the traditional manner in the near future.

Cllr Gorton also spoke on the water primrose in the village pond. He had spoken to the Environment Agency who were extremely helpful but made the point that the PC was legally bound to continue to attempt to eradicate the primrose.. The primrose is only found in sixteen locations nationwide and the agency were trying to ensure that the weed was eradicated before it entered the nations watercourses. In the past, the Environment Agency had visited the pond and helped to physically remove the plant, but this help could not be relied upon in the future. Cllr Gorton had been informed that the recommended course of action was to physically remove as much as possible asap and leave to compost away from any water courses. It was then recommend that any weed emerging in the spring should be sprayed with a herbicide by a licensed contractor but this would clearly come at a cost, which is currently unknown. A member of the public has used a contractor that may be able to help and would supply the details. It was agreed that Cllr Gorton would see if a group of members of the village could be formed to help physically remove the plant.

- 230626/6 Cllr Mackenzie-Charrington updated the meeting on relevant County Council news. Cllr Gorton asked for further information with regards supplying salt for the roadside bins
- 230626/7 Cllr Andrew Maclean updated the meeting on District Council news. He said there was a Rural England fund that covered village halls, heritage buildings and active travel. It was possible that the latter might provide some funding if the parking solutions discussed above involves a cost. A member of the public raised the issue of the Tourist Information office in Bourton on the Water. It is facing closure unless the County Council can be persuaded otherwise. She urged people to sign the petition requesting it to stay open if they felt it should.
- 230626/8 The planning application 23/0205/FUL was discussed. There was widespread agreement that it should be objected too. Cllr Gorton asked the meeting to consider that applications will likely continue for the site to be developed and probably not, in his opinion, as an EV station. Cllr Finnemore agreed to compose an objection that would be posted on the planning portal on behalf of the PC.
- 230626/9 The finance report was discussed. A member of the public asked why there is a cost for payroll when there were no paid employees. Cllr Finnemore explained that there was a minimal charge to keep the account open until a new clerk could be employed - the alternative was to close and then bear the one-off cost of setting a new account up in the future. The finance report was approved.
- 230626/10 It was agreed that notice would be posted of the three councillor vacancies to set the statutory two week period running during which residents could request an election and eligible residents could register their interest. In the event that there are only three applicants they would be co-opted without further consideration. In the event that there are more than three applicants a transparent selection process would be put in place commencing with statements of eligibility from applicants. Cllr Maclean emphasised that all members of the village are encouraged to make an application should they have an interest to do so.
- 230626/11 Correspondence received by the PC was considered. Andrew Fifield had kindly ordered and replaced the battery on the defibrillator which has a five year life. He explained that the battery should be supplied free of charge under a life time service agreement but the original company was no longer trading. He has

successfully managed to obtain a free battery this time and the battery will next need to be changed next in July 2028 unless the defibrillator is used. He will continue to monitor the pads.

The PC had received a request for an original Deed of Grant across the common land and from the solicitor representing the vendor of Maces Farm in its current sale. Richard Wheeler had kindly agreed to deal with this correspondence and he informed the meeting that he had had corresponded with the vendor's solicitor and informed them that the PC did not have the original, or a copy as the PC had no record of this being granted.

230626/12 Public Session (maximum of 15 minutes) :

The report from the Working Group established to look at the parking on the common was discussed above.

040923/13 It was agreed that the dates of the next meetings would be 4th December 2023, 4th March 2024 and 27th May 2024

Meeting ended 7.11pm