

**WOODBOROUGH
PARISH
COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on THURSDAY the 26th of May 2022
at 6.30 pm in the Woodborough Parish Room**

Present: Parish Councillors Steve Napier (Chair), John Brewin, Josh Dear, Linda Winter, Johnny Paterson
Clerk Ruth Kinderman
Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway
Residents Adrian Lythgo, Brian Marnane, Tony Phillimore, Chris and Karen White

1. Welcome by the Chairman

Cllr Napier welcomed everyone to the meeting, explaining that this is the main event in the parish year, giving everyone an opportunity to review the past year's activities.

2. Apologies

Parish Councillor Andy Towler, Chairman of Woodborough School Governors Tim Atkins.

3. Report from Woodborough Primary School

Tim Atkins was unable to attend the meeting; attendees would like to know whether the school has been successful in its bid for funding the second phase of its proposals, to replace the old mobile classrooms with a brick-built extension to the main building.

4. Report from Wiltshire Council

Cllr Oatway began his report by noting that Wiltshire Council spends one million pounds sterling every day, of which 75% goes to addressing social needs.

Millions more than usual had been spent during Covid; Cllr Oatway had ensured that every hospitality business in his division had successfully applied for at least one of the £6000 grants available, with most receiving two or three.

Wiltshire Council had finished the year with a £27million deficit, which has been balanced with help from a £12million grant from central government and a considerable amount of manoeuvring by Wiltshire, to raise money by increasing parking charges and the green wheelie bin scheme within the restraints of a maximum 1.99% precept increase.

Spending during the forthcoming year will include £11million on adults' and children's services, with a further £20million pending; £308million on infrastructure, including a doubling of the CATG/LHFIG budget from £250,000 to £500,000; £3million on leisure centres; £10million on high streets; £46million on education and skills, including £6.5million on school maintenance; and £16million on Highways.

As Chairman of Wiltshire Standards Committee, Cllr Oatway hopes the proposals for a new Code of Conduct, using the new National Code as a model, will soon be presented to full

council for consideration. Council group leaders are currently giving their views on the proposals to the focus group; indications are that the majority of councillors will opt to retain the existing, less stringent, Wiltshire Code.

As Vice-Chairman of Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS), Cllr Oatway said that central government needs to be made to understand that capping the national fire service precepts at 1.99% is unsustainable. If the cap is not removed, DWFRS will have to cut costs after two years; the Chief Fire Officer is determined not to close stations so initial savings will be made by removing 'second-aways' from most stations, halving the number of fire engines available. Cllr Oatway said that DWFRS had been graded 'good' on all criteria at last inspection, especially commendable when the response time is measured from the moment a 999 call is taken rather than from the moment the station doors open, as other fire services do.

Cllr Oatway noted that the White Paper currently before central government aims to transfer all blue light services to the Police and Crime Commissioners. It is to be hoped that refusal to review the 1.99% precept cap for fire services, and to allow tax-raising powers equal to that enjoyed by the police forces, is not a deliberate ploy by central government to sweeten the White Paper proposals, by making fire services appear to be inefficient.

In discussion, it was felt that transferring responsibility for fire services to the police commissioner was undesirable. It was noted that the PCC had attended the recent Area Board meeting, where opinion on Wiltshire Police performance appeared to be divided; Cllr Oatway noted that Wiltshire Police had also been graded 'good' on all criteria at last inspection.

Cllr Oatway said that having recruited the first Community Speedwatch Enforcement Officer, and put in place the funding for a second, a third is now due to be recruited by Wiltshire Police. Cllr Oatway has advised the PCC that as all CSW reports must be actioned within fourteen days, the Traffic Team will not cope with processing the additional enforcement notices without additional staff recruited for the back office too.

5. Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report

Cllr Napier presents his report which is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

6. Guest speaker – subject to confirmation

Cllr Napier explained that the hoped-for speaker was abroad and unable to attend the meeting.

7. To finalise Jubilee event plans

Cllr Napier said that with a full four-day program of events in the village, he hoped that there would be something suitable for every resident. Flyers have been delivered to every household.

Sufficient bunting has been located in the Parish Room shed.

The beacon on Woodborough Hill will be lit on Thursday evening at 9.45pm, in line with other beacons nationwide. It will be preceded by fireworks to be let off at 9.30pm. Cllr Napier is arranging radios for the organisers and lights for the track back to Church Farm Lane.

The Social Club will host a barbecue on Friday evening, with an indoors event if the weather is inclement.

Arrangements are in place for the P3 (Platinum Picnic in the Paddock) on Saturday. The village photograph will be at 2pm, to be led by Cllr Napier and Milly Liu. Cllr Paterson will arrange the purchase of ice-creams, to be distributed free at the picnic.

Two portaloos are to be delivered on Friday 3rd. Two generators have been obtained. The power source for the bouncy castle needs to be confirmed, with an additional generator ordered if necessary. Cllr Napier has arranged to borrow a PA system which he will test this weekend. The Social Club is arranging the beer tent; power requirements to be confirmed. Two sets of face paints have been purchased. Cllr Napier will purchase prizes for the Nerf gun range, best gazebo, and a trophy for the cake competition.

Volunteers are needed from 12.00 on Friday 3rd to help with initial set up in the paddock. It was agreed that a further planning meeting is not necessary.

There will be a service in the church on Sunday, organised by the PCC, to be followed by refreshments.

8. Residents' Parochial Matters

Chris White asked Cllr Oatway whether any progress has been made with plans to resurface the C38 between The Sands and the crossroads. Cllr Oatway said this job is still waiting to be done and that the number of road closures in place show that the new Highway Engineer Matt Perrott is working his way through the list of work.

Cllr Napier thanked everyone for attending the meeting and invited all to stay for refreshments.

Meeting closed at 7.20pm

Report from the Parish Council Chairman to the Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 26th May 2022

The year got off to a good start, with Woodborough coming first in the first round and second in the second round of the Best Kept Village competition last summer.

This was followed by the school fire in September, another moment in time for the village history books. The practical support and help offered by so many surrounding villages was amazing, and people everywhere were so impressed at our rapidly the school got back on its feet. And only recently, our first glimpse of the splendid new roof only enforces our belief that the school will, like a true phoenix, continue its rise from the ashes.

During the last year, the parish council considered fourteen **planning applications**, of which seven were notices of tree-works in the Conservation Area, and the other seven were for full planning permission, including the school's proposals to replace the old mobile classrooms with a brick-built infill extension, an application that the parish council was pleased to support.

With much of the village being designated a **Conservation Area**, the Parish Council has a heightened awareness of **planning regulations**. Not only is there the requirement to be extra vigilant with regards to tree works, there is always the complex and changing National Planning Policy Framework to which we have to be alert; the Parish Council requested and obtained a meeting with Danny Kruger MP, last autumn, when it became apparent that central government policy was not very happily aligned with village aspirations and allowed planning applications to be approved, which would have been denied previously. We understand that NPPF proposals are now being reviewed, but we continue to monitor the situation.

We continue to address the **destruction of our verges**, which is largely beyond our control; however, the likelihood of achieving an extension to the footpath along the C261 is improving, with each CATG/LHFIG meeting bringing it closer to reality.

A trial of patience was finally rewarded this February, with our first live sessions for the new **Community Speedwatch Team**; plenty of volunteers stepped up to the plate, have completed their online and roadside training, and are willingly giving up their time to ensure the 20mph zone works for all road-users, whether local or passing through. As part of our campaign to control traffic speeds, we are still waiting (nearly a year after asking!) to have our road markings and 20 mph roundels repainted.

Achievements this year have included installing a new, replacement **kissing gate** behind the Woodborough Manor and considerable success with eventually getting Network Rail to make improvements to their **stiles** either side of the footbridge at the far western edge of the parish.

The villager-run **Community Chat** app continues to be very successful, with its scope having gone far beyond the original aim of assisting villagers during the Covid era.

I just want to remind everybody about the **defibrillators**, which are fully accessible at all times and are easy to use. The training session last year never materialised but hopefully SWAST are getting back off their feet now that Covid restrictions are no longer in place. The defib at the Social Club is as usual, but the Garden Centre machine got blown over in the February storms and we are relocating it to the Parish Room, where it will be closer to more residents.

Parish Council **representatives** continue to attend regularly meetings of the Area Board and the Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP) as both organisations do much to formulate policy at a very local level. The Parish Council maintains an amicable working relationship with the Parochial Church Council; representatives of both groups sit on the Parish Room Management Committee to maintain it as a useful asset to the village.

We have been very grateful to our Unitary Councillor, Councillor **Paul Oatway** QPM, for all the advice and support that he has given us; much of his work is very often 'behind the scenes' at County Hall and unseen by our residents.

I also wish to thank our **Parish Steward**, who does all the odd jobs around the village that we cannot do.

We have entered the **Best Kept Village Competition** again this year and the large number of **volunteers** coming forward have been splendid at clearing out the **Parish Room**, tidying the garden, and litter-picking the entire village during April. Judging may take place any time until the 12th June...

Whether or not we win this time, we are clearly succeeding in our aim to be a **safe and beautiful place** in which to live, with Savills Estate agents including us in the five most desirable villages in Wiltshire.

Steve Napier, Parish Council Chairman 2021/2022