

**WOODBOROUGH
PARISH
COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of the meeting of Woodborough Parish Council held on
Thursday 15th December 2022 at 7.00 pm in the Parish Room**

Present: Councillors Steve Napier, John Brewin, Josh Dear and Brian Marnane
Clerk Ruth Kinderman

Residents Chris White, Karen White, Caroline Allen, Helen Garcia, Ines Garcia and Andrew Cooke.

1. Apologies

Cllrs Linda Winter, Andy Towler, and Johnny Paterson.
Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway

2. Pecuniary and other Interests

As a neighbour of Little Manor, Cllr Napier declared an interest in item 9ii and said that he would not speak. It was noted that, as the owner of Little Manor, Cllr Towler also had an interest.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2022

Cllr Brewin proposed that these be accepted as an accurate record; seconded and signed accordingly by Cllr Napier, with no objections.

4. Matters arising

Defibrillator training has been arranged for Wednesday 1st February in the Parish Room, to coincide with the coffee morning.

Mark Sheen of Wootton Woodland has completed the fencing work and resurfacing of the field footpath as required.

Shielding has been requested for the streetlight at the western end of Smithy Lane; there is an expected eight-week lead time.

5. Update from Wiltshire Council

In Cllr Oatway's absence, Clerk reported several items:

Code of Conduct - Wiltshire Council has approved the new code as recommended by the Standards Committee. Cllr Oatway (Chairman, Standards Committee) and the Director of Legal and Governance for Wiltshire will be writing to all town and parish councils to encourage adoption of the new Wiltshire code as a common Code will simplify addressing complaints; officers currently have a huge variety of codes to consider when investigating potential breaches by councillors.

Positive Community Action (PCA) – formerly Pewsey Community Coronavirus Assistance (PCCA) - the group has received funding in the past and attended the Area Board meeting on 28th November to explain its new role and how it continues to assist vulnerable residents in Pewsey and the surrounding villages.

Warm Spaces – Wiltshire Council continues to give financial support to vulnerable residents, with £183million having been paid in Covid grants to date. A further £2.7million has been passed from Central Government for Wiltshire Council to make household support grants. Libraries and leisure centres will be available to all residents as warm spaces and sources of help and advice during the winter months.

Bus services – the new demand-responsive service was presented at the Area Board meeting on 28th November. Additional funding from central government has been used to create better links between Marlborough, Devizes and railway stations and the new buses have been ordered in readiness for the launch next year; the exact timing of the launch will depend on the availability of drivers.

Environmental Health – there has been a problem elsewhere in the Pewsey Vale with the spreading of sludge derived from human waste on agricultural land; some villages were unable to open their windows for several weeks during the excessively high temperatures this summer. A Wiltshire Council Officer explained the legal regulations and preventative measures at the Area Board meeting on 28th November.

6. Payment and Finance

Current Account (Lloyds, reconciled to date) £464.24

Deposit Account (Lloyds, Including interest to date) £17,242.88

Of which approximately £6800.00 is categorised as ‘free reserves’.

Payments made since the last meeting in accordance with Appendix A (Table 1) of the Financial Regulations, and approved at this meeting:

16/11/22 1stGreenElectrical for Parish Room	£514.90 + VAT	£102.98	S133
26/11/22 Charlton Baker - payroll service – Nov	£11.67 + VAT	£2.33	S111
28/11/22 Clerk's salary - November	£110.00	n/a	S111

Payments approved at this meeting:

15/12/22 Hall Hire – December	£13.00	n/a	S111
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The 'Receipts & Payments & Budget Performance' spreadsheet was emailed to all councillors prior to the meeting and was available for perusal at the meeting.

The Draft Budget for 2023/2024 with the proposed precept and updated Forecast Reserves were also emailed to all councillors prior to the meeting; no comments or suggestions were notified to the RFO prior to the meeting.

7. To approve updated Financial Regulations

Financial Regulations had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting; it was noted that the only change for consideration was the new appendix clarifying the limits of expenditure for the RFO and Clerk.

Cllr Dear proposed that these Regulations be approved; seconded by Cllr Marnane with no objections.

8. To approve budget and set precept for 2023/2024

The draft budget had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting and was available to view at the meeting. Cllr Brewin explained that the level of un-earmarked reserves should not exceed the annual precept. It was agreed that some reserves would continue to be ear-marked for future hedge and verge maintenance should expectations for parish councils to fulfil this role materialise; it was noted that Wiltshire Council continues to limit its verge cutting to meeting statutory requirements only.

Cllr Brewin proposed a precept of £9500 for 2023/2024, an overall increase of 11.76% on the 2022/2023 precept of £8500; this was seconded by Cllr Dear with no objections. The annual increase for a Band D property will be 10.37%, an additional £5.90 per year.

Action:RK

Cllr Napier thanked Cllr Brewin for all the hard work he puts into preparing the budget.

9. Planning Update

i) To note decisions by Wiltshire Planning Department

PL/2022/07535 – Ruxley – Tree Preservation Order Consent - Reduce by 3.5m & cut back on neighbouring side to clear building by 1.5m

Consent had been granted with conditions; it was noted that no decision documents had been uploaded to the planning portal and Clerk was instructed to make enquiries as to what conditions had been stipulated prior to the works being carried out.

PL/2022/07827 - Little Manor - T1 Willow- 4m crown reduction- tree too large for area and growing over driveway; T2, T3- Eucalyptus- Pollard to 6m; T4- Willow- Pollard to 6m

Wiltshire Council had approved these works.

PL/2022/08624 - Peacock Cottage - Cockspur thorn tree – fell

Wiltshire Council was due to publish a decision today. (*Post-meeting note; the works have been approved.*)

ii) To consider new planning applications

PL/2022/09298 - Little Manor - T1 Cypress, 50% height reduction. T2 Eucalyptus, Pollard to 6m.

It was agreed to submit no objection to Wiltshire Council.

Action:RK

A question from the floor related to PL/2022/00109, TPO consent granted to the Diocese in the spring of 2022 to reduce and shape the lime trees in the Glebe Field adjacent to Silverton Cottage. Residents were advised to contact the applicant directly to enquire why the works had not yet been carried out. It was noted that these works could not have taken place during the bird nesting season and that a Traffic Order application may be required to be made by the tree surgeon if road closure is necessary.

A letter from Pewsey Parish Council to Danny Kruger, MP, had been shared with parish councils in the PCAP area, with the suggestion that parish councils could also write to him. It was noted that there is considerable backbench discontent in the House of Commons with the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) proposals, especially the current arbitrary 5YrHLS (Five Year Housing Land Supply) figures, which are manipulated by developers to over-ride NDP's (Neighbourhood Development Plans). It was agreed that Clerk should draft a letter to Danny Kruger, expressing support for Pewsey Parish Council's letter with the addition of a reminder about the meeting he had with Cllrs Napier and Brewin to discuss the planning permission granted under NPPF proposals for a new house in the garden of St Mary's, application PL/2021/05296. *Action:RK*

10. Community Speedwatch

Caroline Allen reported that the schedule last week had got off to a good start on Monday with a visit from Wiltshire's Speeding Enforcement Officers, who visit various speedwatch locations around Wiltshire on a rotation basis, with offenders automatically sent a penalty notice. Although the morning was quiet, they did record 3 vehicles. The rest of the week was quite uneventful, with 4 of the 9 planned sessions cancelled due to freezing weather; Caroline expressed her thanks to the team who stood out in the cold on the days they did operate. Of the sessions that were run, 16 vehicles were recorded speeding (including the 3 on Monday) – an average of 9.64% of total vehicles. Caroline said that this is typical, with the figure being a constant 8-10%.

It was noted that the old SID at The Sands displays the wrong speed by approving 30mph at the entrance to the 20mph zone. Cllr Brewin has discussed this with Colin Gale and reported that the speed setting on the SID cannot be easily changed. Caroline suggested that the new SID, which can be easily altered and is currently used outside Brow Cottages at the eastern entrance to the 20mph zone, should be used for The Sands, with the old SID set at 30mph re-deployed somewhere near the Garden Centre. Cllr Brewin will look at possible locations in the New Year. *Action:JB*

Cllr Dear noted that the recent Pumpkin Trail in the village would have benefited from temporary traffic warning signs about pedestrians in the road. Clerk to enquire with Wiltshire Council. *Action:RK*

In response to a question from the floor, it was noted that negotiations about a second CSW site along The Sands are ongoing. Clerk had forwarded recent correspondence to Cllrs Napier and Brewin, following on from which it was agreed to request a meeting with John Derryman of Wiltshire Police during the week commencing 9th January.

11. Coronation Event/Party

The coronation of King Charles III is due to take place on 6th May 2023. It was agreed that a committee of villagers should be formed in the New Year to make plans to replicate and improve on the successful Jubilee event of last summer. It was agreed that an entrance fee should be charged if an attraction such as the Red Devils is arranged. *Action:SN*

12. Areas of Responsibility

Footpaths – it was noted that all stiles between Woodborough and the Seven Stars have now been repaired.

PRMC – Cllr Dear has obtained various items of kitchen equipment which will be plumbed in during early 2023. Cllr Napier will hold a wood sale once the big ash tree has been felled in the New Year. The shed will be re-roofed. The old photographs will be displayed in the back hallway. There has been an enquiry from the Scout Association about using the Parish Room for a new Scouts group in Woodborough. Clerk to invite them to the next PRMC meeting on 24th January.

Parish Steward – Cllr Napier reported that the new steward, Adam, is excellent; the pothole opposite the Church Lane junction was repaired promptly and the pavements along Broad Street and the C261 were swept as requested.

Cllr Marnane agreed to take responsibility for arranging the Coronation Party.

Action:BM

13. Diary dates and Correspondence

Wednesday 18th January – 6.30pm – WALC ZOOM meeting to address the lack of volunteers to sit on the committee – Cllrs Napier and Dear to attend.

Action:SN/JD

Thursday 19th January – PCAP meeting – venue to be confirmed – Cllr Brewin to attend.

Action:JB

Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson is consulting about a proposed increase to the police precept; Clerk to circulate details. *Action:RK*

Photographs of apparent structural defects to the canal bridge in Woodborough had been received from members of the public; they had been circulated to all councillors and submitted to the Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT) for comment. CRT telephoned Clerk to explain that they understood the concerns raised, judging from the pictures, but wished to reassure the parish council and the public that canal bridges are visually inspected every two months by lay-persons employed for this purpose; a full structural survey is carried out every eight to twenty years. Woodborough Bridge was last surveyed in 2013 and was graded C (fair, with A being the best) so is unlikely to be surveyed again for another two or three years.

14. Any Other Business

Cllr Napier invited Chris White to re-state his question to the parish council about what steps are being taken to help towards Wiltshire Council's goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2030 and how Wiltshire Council's declared Climate Emergency affects parish council-funded infrastructure projects in the village. The example given was the choice of materials for the pavement extension, with more environmentally-friendly materials than concrete being rejected on the basis of cost.

It was noted that although the pavement extension does represent a large proportion of next year's budget, Cllr Brewin has been accumulating reserves towards this project over several years. Chris wondered whether Wiltshire Council make any grants available to help parish councils install 'greener', more expensive options.

Cllr Napier noted that the parish council does not have any real authority in this area but could consider formulating a policy. He noted that working with Wiltshire Council to re-paint the stream railings in accordance with environmental policies had presented challenges which suggested that larger projects would be even more complicated.

Comments from the floor indicated that other villages had achieved aesthetically pleasing solutions more suited to rural areas than concrete pavements; it was agreed to ask Highways to consider white lining on the road to separate pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

Cllr Dear suggested that a wider variety of recycling facilities could be provided at Woodborough Yard.

Cllr Napier invited Chris White to lead a sub-committee to address these matters; Clerk will give him the Wiltshire Council Community Environmental Toolkit, which was received in hard copy from Wiltshire Council at the end of 2021.

It was noted that not all residents agree with Wiltshire Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency.

15. Dates of Next Meetings

Thursday 9th February 2023 at 7.00pm in the Parish Room.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm