

Minutes of the Woolaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 11th October 2018 at 8.00pm in the Memorial Hall

Present: Councillors; Mick Fairless, Mary Greenslade, Andy Lord, Roger Southee, David Storrar, Terina Riches

In attendance: Ashley Rees (Clerk)
4 members of the public

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from David Harris

2. To receive Councillors declarations of interest

There were none.

3. Public open forum

It was agreed that, as two of the members of the public were in attendance due to their interest in agenda item 7.4(b), the public open forum would be held during this agenda item.

There were no further comments.

4. To receive a presentation from the Dementia Action Alliance

A presentation was received from Ruth Ward of the Forest of Dean Dementia Action Alliance. She explained the purpose of the Alliance is to enable people suffering from dementia to stay in their homes and local for communities for as long as as possible. The Dementia Action Alliance is looking to get Parish Councils to sign up, which would involve the Parish Council committing to undertake three actions to either assist in spreading awareness or work towards making the community more inclusive. It was agreed that the decision to join would be added to the agenda in November.

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th September 2018

These were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

6. To consider any matters arising from the minutes other than on the agenda

A Lord reported that he had cleared the overhanging vegetation on the path between Birchwood and Pinedale.

7. To consider the following matters

7.1 Policing Issues

There were none.

7.2 Highways and Footpaths Issues – Actions of reported defects / new defects

It was reported to the Council that a new street light had appeared on Birchwood without prior notice to the residents. The Clerk will contact Highways to see if this is standard practice.

M Fairless informed the meeting that he had contacted Highways about the noise level on the newly resurfaced A48 and was told that over time it should become quieter.

It was requested that the Clerk contact the Local Planning Authority to ensure that the large area of hedging that had been completely removed along the A48, just before Stroats, was in compliance with planning permissions.

7.3 Maintenance

a) To consider and decide upon the positioning of the new dog waste bins and grit bins

It was agreed that one dog waste bin would be placed next to the one already on Birchwood and another along Severn View Road, just up from the bench. It was further agreed that another bin should be purchased to be placed between the two bins on the playing fields.

It was agreed that one of the grit bins would be placed along Standtumps and another at the top of Birchwood. The Council agreed to purchase two further grit bins which would be placed at the bottom of Birchwood and by the Rising Sun pub.

7.4 Churchyard and Cemetery

a) To receive and consider the quotation from RJ Glover Builders Ltd in respect of the posts for the cemetery gates

It was agreed to accept the quotation, given the difficulty that there had been in obtaining one and to have the work carried out as soon as possible.

R Southee reported that he had received a quotation in respect of the replacement hedging for the new cemetery. He felt that, as the quote was rather high and the work would not be carried out until November, which is not the optimal time to plant holly, he and his wife would purchase the plants and plant them themselves. The Council agreed that the Cemetery Committee could authorise the purchase of the plants, once a cost was established.

b) To consider recent application for a memorial stone in the cemetery.

The history surrounding this application was given to all Councillors and the two members of the public present with the interest in the application were invited to speak during this item. After a lengthy discussion, in which the process behind application permission was detailed, all relevant information and examples of current memorial stones already in the cemetery was discussed, it was decided, by a vote of Councillors that the second black and white application should be granted permission. It was unanimously decided, by the Councillors who chose to vote, to decline the colour application but grant permission to the black and white application. A Lord chose to abstain from voting.

It was agreed that the cemetery rules and regulations should be reviewed and be added to the agenda for December.

7.5 Finance

a) Account balance

This was accepted without question

b) To approve the following accounts for payment

i) PKF Littlejohn LLP – Audit Fee - £240.00

This payment was not approved as the audit review had not yet been completed, the Clerk will contact PKF Littlejohn for further clarification as to why the invoice had been submitted.

c) To note that the following payments had been made since the previous meeting

- I) Merlin Waste – Dog waste bin services - £30.00
- ii) AM Services – Grass Cutting September - £683.58
- iii) A Rees – September Salary - £250.00
- iv) British Legion – Silhouette donation - £250.00

d) 6 month accounts to 30th September 2018

These were presented to, and accepted by, the Council.

8. Other Matters

8.1 To consider and decide upon the purchase of Christmas lights

It was agreed to go ahead with purchase of the Christmas tree lights suggested by D Harris. It was felt that due to the time constraints lights to be hung from the street lights should be tabled at July 2019 meeting.

8.2 To consider the purchase of the Parish Christmas tree

It was agreed to ask TrunkArb to supply the tree, as the one they had supplied last year had received many positive comments. A budget was set at 'on or around' £150.00.

8.3 To receive correspondence concerning the election in 2019

Projected costs of both an uncontested and contested election had been forwarded by the monitoring officer. It was queried what the cost for Halarose training was, the Clerk to confirm.

8.4 To consider the purchase of wooden crosses to represent those in the Parish who lost their lives in the two World Wars

It was agreed that 15 crosses would be purchased and sited next to the silhouette soldier.

9. To consider any other matters as deemed by the Chairman as important

A Lord reported that he had received an update from PCSO Jayne with regard to the speed zone in front of the primary school. She reported that although there seemed to be very little that could be done at the moment, other areas had reported decreased speed after the hanging of "20 is plenty" signs. This is to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

10. Closure and date of the next meeting

Thursday 8th November 2018

Signed _____

Date: _____