

Minutes of the Woolaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 13th September 2018 at 8.00pm in the Memorial Hall

Present: Councillors; Mick Fairless, Mary Greenslade, David Harris, Andy Lord, Roger Southee, David Strorrrar

In Attendance: Ashley Rees (Clerk)
PCSO G Jayne
5 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

There were none.

2. To receive Councillors declarations of interest

Councillor Harris declared interests under items 7.3(a) and 8.7(a)

3. To progress with filling the current Parish Councillor vacancy

A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to co-opt Terina Riches onto the Council. The relevant forms were completed and signed and will be returned to the Elections team at the Forest of Dean District Council.

T Riches then joined the table

4. Public open forum

An allotment holder raised the concerns of other allotment holders over the management and state of the allotments. It was felt that there was little action of active management and unhappiness over the state of the vacant plots. He stated that the allotment owners were happy to assist with weed suppressing measures.

D. Harris responded to the points raised by giving a brief history of the allotments and stated that the allotments did not fall under the Allotment Act of 1908, as it was run by a Charity for the benefit of the poor in Woolaston, and therefore fell under the 1815 Enclosure Act. This meant that legally, due to charity law, monies raised could not be used for the management of the allotment.

It was suggested, and agreed, that the two parties should get together outside the meeting to discuss the matter further.

Another resident spoke on behalf of villagers to request some kind of memorial be erected to commemorate the 1918 armistice, a bench was suggested. It was agreed that this matter would be fully discussed by the Council under agenda item 8.3.

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th July 2018.

The minutes were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

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

There were none.

7. To consider the following matters:

7.1 Policing matters

a) PCSO Jayne

PCSO Jayne introduced herself to the meeting, she discussed her role in the community. The issues discussed were speeding in the village, parking in-front of the school and reduction of the speed limit along Netherend. PCSO Jayne said she would chase up the speed limit reduction requested and confirmed that it was difficult to enforce the 'no parking' zone in-front of the school. She suggested that highways might be able to provide a sign with parking restriction times. The clerk to find out more information.

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

There were none.

7.3 Maintenance

a) To consider the quote for clearing the community orchard of brambles and weeds.

A quote was presented to the meeting from TrunkArb in the sum of £420.00. It was agreed to accept this quote. **D Harris had disclosed an interest in this agenda item and therefore did not vote on the matter**

It was also agreed to ask AM Services to quote to cut the community orchard twice a year and for the clerk to request a reminder that the fruit can be picked by anyone be put in the primary school newsletter.

b) To receive the final confirmation from the Insurance underwriters concerning the use of a Parish handyman

The underwriters confirmed that any handyman used should have their own PL insurance and there was no way to include the handyman under the Council's insurance unless they were undertaking the work in a voluntary capacity.

c) To consider what, if any, action is required to the brambles growing on the path between Birchwood and Pinedale

A Lord agreed that he would clear the overhanging vegetation

7.4 Churchyard and cemetery

a) M Fairless confirmed that the new cemetery was registered to the Parish Council but that there was a question over the documentation showing when the original cemetery was transferred to the Council. The solicitors are still chasing and requested an extension from the Land Registry

b) The purchase of new gate posts is still ongoing. A Lord agreed to contact a new contractor

c) R Southee reported that the hedging was now completely dead and new bushes would have to be planted. He will get 2- 3 quotes to replace it, it was agreed not to use the previous contractor.

7.5 Finance

a) Account balance

This was accepted without question

b) To approve the following accounts for payment

- i. A Rees – Tesco mobile - £45.00
- ii. M Greenslade – Book tokens - £20.00
- iii. C Southee – Litter collection - £260.00

The above accounts were all approved for payment

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

- i. AM Services Ltd – July grass cut - £1,002.57
- ii. Merlin Waste – Dog waste bin services - £30.00
- iii. A Rees – Clerk Salary - £438.12
- iv. A Rees – Clerk Salary - £438.12
- v. Merlin Waste Services – Dog waste bin services - £30.00
- vi. Kingfisher Direct – 2 x Grit bins - £164.38
- vii. Parish Noticeboards – 50% notice board deposit -£327.00

The above payments were noted.

8. Other Matters

8.1 To consider changing the order of the meetings to include a public open forum in the Planning & Development Control Committee meeting

It was agreed to trial a public open forum in the Planning & Development Control Committee meeting, in order that it is not required to swap the order of the meetings if there are members of the public present who wish to comment on planning matters.

8.2 To further consider the purchase of new Christmas lights

To be added to the October agenda, along with an item to agree the purchase of a Christmas tree. The clerk reported that she had now made contact with the person responsible for giving permission to hang lights from street lamps, and was hopeful to have a response before the next meeting.

8.3 To consider plans to commemorate the centenary of the 1918 armistice

It was agreed to purchase a commemorative bench, to be sited near the phone box. The Clerk to order and request the wording read 'lest we forget.....'

The Clerk will also contact the British Legion to enquire about purchasing silhouettes and forward the information to all Councillors.

8.4 To consider the purchase or hiring of a self storage unit within the Parish

A Lord volunteered that he had a suitable space available and was happy for the Parish Council to have items delivered there.

8.5 To receive the insurance renewal calculation for 2018/2019

It was proposed and agreed that the Council agree the Premium for 5 years in order to benefit from the 10% discount.

8.6 To consider the correspondence received from Forest of Dean District Council concerning the renewal of the Street cleaning arrangements

It was agreed to continue with the current arrangements until March 2020, at which point the District Council will be in contact to confirm their new arrangements for the wider street cleansing contract for the area.

8.7 The Woolaston Allotments and the management thereof by the Poolsland Charity

a) To receive a letter from Woolaston Pools Land & Woolaston Recreation Trust

It was agreed that, as this matter had been dealt with in the Public open forum and not all Councillors had been sent a copy of the letter, an update on this matter would be given at the next meeting. The Clerk to ensure all Councillors have a copy of the letter.

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

- a) M Fairless confirmed he had presented the book tokens to the winners of the road safety poster competition at the school, in July.

10. Date of next meeting

Thursday 11th October 2018

Signed

Date:
