

Minutes of the Woolaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 8th November 2018 at 8.00pm in the Memorial Hall

Present: Councillors; David Harris, Mary Greenslade, Roger Southee, David Storrar, Terina Riches

In attendance: Ashley Rees (Clerk)
1 member of the public

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from M Fairless and A Lord

2. To receive Councillor's declarations of interest

There were none.

3. Public open forum

The member of public present spoke to express their concern over the decision made at the last meeting pertaining to the permission granted in respect of a memorial stone in Woolaston cemetery. He felt that an exception to the rules could have been made and that the decision made was not necessarily the right one.

It was confirmed that this matter was due to be discussed during item 7.5 of the agenda.

4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th October 2018

These were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting

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

Under item 7.4(a) of the October minutes the hedging in the cemetery was discussed. R Southee confirmed he had investigated this further, and reported that only about 20% of the holly had survived and none of the beech had. It will cost £960 incl VAT to replace the plants if the Councillors plant them themselves, which is a significant reduction on the quotation received. It was agreed that R Southee could order the plants from Hopes Grove Nursery and organise the planting.

6. To consider the following matters

6.1 Policing matters

It was reported to the meeting that further to the fatal crash on the A48 earlier in the week, an email had been received from the owner of the property outside which the crash had happened to express their concern over it. It was decided that the Council would await the outcome of police investigation before taking any further action.

6.2 Highways and Footpaths issues

- It was reported that the gate at the end of the path leading from Ash Way had been removed.
- A complaint had been received from a parishioner about the road surface from the Woolaston Inn to Netherend, they were advised to, and had, reported it to Highways.
- It was reported that one grit bin had been placed at the bottom of Sandtumps and

that the second was due to be placed at the top of Birchwood Road. Two further bins had been delivered and it was agreed that one would be placed at the bottom of Birchwood Road and the second at the bottom of Severn View Road by the new estate.

- It was further agreed that the new dog waste bin should be located between the two dugouts on the playing fields. It was suggested and agreed that the bins should be emptied on a weekly, rather than bi-weekly basis

6.3 Maintenance

There were no issues

6.4 Churchyard and cemetery

a) To consider becoming a member of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management

After a discussion over whether to join, it was agreed by a vote of 3-2 in favour, to join.
Clerk to progress

6.5 Finance

a) Account balance

This was accepted without question

b) To approve the following accounts for payment

- Carol Southee – Litter collection - £130.00
- Earth Anchors – Memorial Bench - £849.60
- A van der Heijden – Website maintenance - £15.00
- Merlin Industrial – Dog waste bins - £190.18
- PKF Littlejohn LLP – Audit - £240.00
- MR Builder Man – Parish Maintenance - £256.00

The above accounts were all approved

c) To note that the following payments have been made since the last meeting:

- Merlin Waste – dog waste bin services - £30.00
- AM Services – October grass cutting - £683.58
- A Rees – October Salary - £438.12
- British Legion – Wooden crosses - £41.50
- Community First – Insurance - £913.16
- Festive Lights – Christmas tree lights - £139.86
- Brunel Engraving - Memorial Plaques - £144.00
- Kingfisher Direct – Grit bins - £164.38

7. Other Matters

7.1 To consider applying for a TPO for the mature oak tree at Woolaston Common

It was agreed that as the tree was both a landscape feature and a 'notable tree' and having been aged at 300 years old would still have another 600 years left to live, a Tree Protection Order should be applied for.

7.2 To consider the wording for the plaque to go on the memorial bench

It was agreed that the plaque should say why the bench was placed there and who had erected it. D Harris to organise and order.

7.3 To consider joining the Dementia Action Alliance, and if agreed to agree the three actions to commit to

Following much discussion over the matter it was agreed not to join the Dementia Action Alliance at the moment, but to still support Dementia awareness within the Parish. It was agreed, in the first instance, to contact the local memory group and other groups already in existence to see what, if any, help they would like from the Parish Council.

7.4 To consider purchasing '20 is plenty' signs

This was agreed in principle and suggested sites were close to the entrance to Ash Way and but the shop. Prices will be provided at the next meeting, when the exact amount to be purchased and their placement can be decided.

7.5 To receive the complaints from Ian Watts & Son (Mon) Ltd and their clients.

Two complaint letters had been received and circulated to all Councillors in advance of the meeting in order to consider the points raised. R Southee reminded all Councillors of the timeline of events, from the point the initial application was received in June, to date. It included a summary of all the correspondence between the Clerk, Ian Watts & Son (Mon) Ltd and the Chairman, concluding with a reminder of the complaint letters received and the issues raised within them. This gave the Councillors opportunity to consider whether due process had been followed and the decision reached in a fair and objective manner.

It was then requested that the Councillors vote, by a show of hands, whether they agreed to uphold the original decision made to decline the application for the coloured memorial. It was unanimously agreed to uphold the Council's decision.

The Clerk is to respond to the complainants to inform them of the decision and advise them of the next steps available to them.

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

- It was reported that the new bench would require a plinth to ensure it remained level. This is to be added to the agenda for the February 2019 meeting.
- The new Christmas tree lights had been received and it was felt that 5 more 10m strings of lights would be required. The Clerk to order.
- The Christmas tree will be put up at the start of December, although D Harris will need volunteers to assist with this.
- It was queried whether all the names of the soldiers who had died during the two world wars were on the plaques. M Greenslade and T Riches agreed to look into this.
- A comment had been received concerning the placement of the silhouette soldiers, asking why one had not been placed near the Memorial Hall.
- D Harris and R Southee were thanked for their assistance with placing and putting up the new bench and silhouettes soldiers.

9. Date of next meeting

Thursday 13th December 2018 at 8.00pm in the Memorial Hall

Signed: _____

Date:

draft