

**Minutes of the Woolaston Parish Council meeting**  
**Held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 8.00pm in Woolaston Memorial Hall**

**Present:** Councillors; Mick Fairless, Mary Greenslade, David Harris, Andy Lord Terina Riches, Martin Rose

**In Attendance:** Ashley Rees (Clerk)  
2 members of the public

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

There were none.

**2. To receive Councillors declarations of interest**

M Rose declared an interest under item 7.9

**3. Public open forum**

The member of the public presented the Councillors with a petition signed by the residents on Ash Way in support of funding additional street lighting on the pathway between Ash Way and Netherend.

**It was proposed and agreed to bring item 7.8 forward**

**7. Other matters**

**7.8 To decide whether to fund further street lighting within the village**

The member of the public was allowed to speak and presented their case for funding additional lighting on the pathway between Ash Way and Netherend. M Fairless showed the Council photos of 5 pathways within the village, that he had walked in the dark, so that all Councillors could see the current level of lighting. After a lengthy discussion a vote was taken, by show of hands, with 4 Councillors voting against funding additional lighting and 1 Councillor choosing to abstain. This request was voted against on the grounds that Woolaston is a rural village and as such areas that are not always fully lit should be expected. It was felt that it is important to keep the level of light pollution to a minimum. The Clerk is to contact Gloucestershire Street Lighting Team to see if there is an alternative way to light the passageway whilst keeping light pollution to a minimum.

**4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

These were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

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

There were none.

**6. To consider the following matters:**

**6.1 Policing Issues**

The meeting was informed that there had been a series of agricultural break-ins in surrounding Parishes

## **6.2 Highways and Footpaths Issues – Actions of reported/new defects**

### **a) To receive an update on the blocked gulleys on Woolaston Common.**

It was reported that these have been cleared twice now, with no effect on the flooding, CCTV of the drains is to be carried out.

## **6.3 Maintenance**

### **a) To receive the quote for the works required at the Community Orchard**

It was agreed to go ahead with the works to the Orchard.

## **6.4 Churchyard and Cemetery**

### **a) To receive the quote for the hedging replacement at the cemetery**

It was agreed to go ahead with the hedging replacement at the cemetery.

## **6.5 Finance**

### **a) Account balance**

This was accepted without question.

### **b) To approve the following payments:**

- i. Mick Fairless – Safety Signs for cemetery - £9.99
- ii. Mick Fairless – Moss Killer - £28.95
- iii. Mick Fairless – Travel expenses - £39.60
- iv. Mick Fairless – Travel expenses - £17.10
- v. Merlin Waste – dog waste services - £75.00
- vi. Stephen Hamblyn – litter picking - £135.00
- vii. A Rees – first aid kit and accident book - £13.46
- viii. P Neale – cemetery fencing - £2,628.00

The above payments were all approved for payment.

### **c) To note that the following payments have been made since the previous meeting**

- i. A Rees – Clerk salary - £493.68
- ii. Stephen Hamblyn – Litter picking – £130.00

### **d) To note the Merlin Waste price increase to £3.90 per bin from April 2020**

This was noted

## **7. Other matters**

### **7.1 To progress with filling the current Councillor vacancy**

This is still ongoing

### **7.2 To receive a report on tree planting within the Parish**

It was proposed and agreed to discuss this under item 7.10

### **7.3 To agree the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting date**

It was agreed that this should be held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April

**7.4 To further progress with purchasing swift nest boxes**

It was agreed that the Parish Council would purchase a nest box, the Clerk to progress

**7.5 To adopt Woolaston Parish Council's Health and Safety Policy**

This was adopted.

**7.6 To receive the Street Cleaning Risk Assessment**

This was received.

**7.7 To further progress with marking disabled parking spaces at the Memorial Hall and cemetery**

It was decided that the spaces would initially be marked with paint only. The Clerk to liaise with M Rose to progress.

**7.8 To decide whether to fund additional street lighting within the Parish**

This item was discussed under item 3. Public Open Forum.

**7.9 To further consider the VE celebrations planned for May 2020**

Given that the nature of the celebrations planned had changed slightly, the Council is now no longer able to commit to fund matching, but will consider making a donation, in the form of marquee hire, to the event. This will be added to the Agenda, and be decided upon in the April meeting.

**7.10 To receive an update on tree planting agreed as part of the VE day celebrations**

D Harris gave a report to the Council on the progress made with this, it was agreed that the bulk of tree planting would be in the Common Wood, with a few trees planted near to the skate park. It is to be further discussed next month and put on the Annual Parish Meeting Agenda.

**7.11 Woolaston Wassail**

D Harris proposed that an annual Wassail be held at the Community Orchard, this is usually held at the end of January. The idea was agreed in principle with more details to be agreed upon in the September 2020 meeting.

**8. To receive correspondence**

**8.1 To receive an e-mail inviting all Councillors to the meeting of Parish and Town Councils on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 6pm**

This was received.

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

- It was reported that there was a medical incident at the Rising Sun recently, in which the defibrillator may have been required. The Rising Sun is currently fundraising to

purchase another defibrillator for the village. It was agreed to add this to the April agenda to see if a contribution to this should be made.

- Two Rivers have informed the Chairman that the damaged bench at the entrance to Reddings Close will be removed.
- The Chairman reported that he had been the Oldbury Power Station Stakeholders meeting and that it was very informative. There is another meeting in May and it was agreed that he should attend that meeting too.

**10. Date of the next meeting**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in the Memorial Hall

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_