

**WROXTON & BALSQUOTE PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
DUE TO COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS THE MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON
11th November 2020 at 7:30PM**

Present:

Cllr Harvey Marcovitch – Chairman

Clerk Kate Brown

Cllr Geraldine Collinge

Cllr Duncan Collins

Cllr Miranda Ker

Cllr Michael Robarts

Cllr George Reynolds

Cllr Fergus Garwood

Members of the Public

Absence: Cllr David Giles**80/20 Welcome & Apologies**

Cllr. Marcovitch welcomed the Councillors and members of the public to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence noted.

81/20 Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest

82/20 Minutes of Meeting on 14 September 2020

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th September 2020 were discussed, approved and signed.

83/20 Matters Arising

Cllr Marcovitch asked for the agenda to be circulated 9 or 10 days before the meeting to allow time for it to be circulated, agreed and added to the noticeboards.

Cllr Ker raised the issue of outstanding work to be carried out by Thomas Fox in Wroxton. Quotes were obtained for weed spraying and other works to be carried out in Wroxton & Balscote. Cllr Ker advised that the work quoted for in Balscote has been completed but she believes only the spraying in Wroxton has been carried out. **The Clerk will complete a reconciliation of the works invoiced so far and inform Cllr Ker**

84/20 Public Forum

No issues raised by members of the public in attendance

85/20 Finance**Bank Reconciliation**

Cllr Robarts has experienced some technical difficulties with his online access to the HSBC account and has been unable to produce a Bank Reconciliation. He has been in contact with HSBC on a number of occasions regarding his access issues but is still waiting for HSBC to rectify the matter. **Cllr Robarts will continue to pursue the matter**

Progress on new cheque book. Cllr Robarts has successfully obtained a new cheque book from HSBC, the Clerk has this in her possession. Due to Cllr Robarts access problems, the Clerk will send the cheque book back to Cllr Robarts so that payments can still be made in the event that his access problems are not resolved quickly. **Clerk to send Cllr Robarts the new cheque book**

Audit

The Parish Council have received a clean audit. **Cllr Robarts will arrange for the certificates of Audit completion to be displayed on the noticeboards**

86/20 Council Business

Co-opt New Councillors

Due to the resignation of Mike Whelan, a Parish Councillor vacancy needs to be filled. The necessary notice has been advertised for the vacancy but no nominations received. The Parish Council can now co-opt a new member.

Fergus Garwood has applied for the vacancy and it was unanimously agreed to co-opt him as a Parish Councillor. Due to the meeting being held remotely the necessary paperwork will be signed after the meeting.

Approval of Spratt Endicott invoice for Stonepit 5 & 6 Registration An invoice in the sum of £1333.20 has been received in relation to the legal work that has been carried out, in respect of Stonepit 5 & 6 registration of Title Deeds. The invoice was agreed for payment. **The Clerk will arrange for the invoice to be paid.**

87/20 Decisions

Speed Signs

A legal claim against SG Manufacturing (the supplier of the original speed signs) has now been prepared by DAS on behalf of our insurers; a Letter before Action is currently being drafted (currently on its 3rd draft) and will be issued giving the recipient 28 days, plus a further 10 days to respond. If there is no response, the Parish Council will be in a position to apply for court proceedings with all costs up to that point being covered by insurance. This process will run into 2021 and possibly beyond before we have a decision.

In the meantime, there is a real need for speed signs to help calm the traffic moving through Wroxton on the A422. At the last meeting it was agreed that the Parish Council would take up the offer of a free 30 day (now extended to 60 day) trial of a solar power digital speed sign from a Company called Stock Signs. The trial has been going well so far. The sign has worked perfectly and many of the residents have commented on its performance. Its battery life is also far superior to that of the originals. These signs cost £2,976 each (plus VAT which is recoverable). The Clerk has spoken to another Parish Council in Canons Ashby who have purchased a speed sign from Stock Signs. They were very happy with their sign and had no issues in the 3/4 years since they purchased it. They also confirmed good battery performance.

It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain a third quote from a different speed sign supplier and if all was satisfactory after that, the Parish Council would purchase two signs from Stock Signs and let the legal process against SG take its course. We will need to submit evidence of poor performance of the old signs to prove the Parish Council's claim, if the case is not settled satisfactorily in advance of Court proceedings. The Clerk suggested that these statements be obtained sooner rather than later, especially if we take down the old signs and start using new ones as the memory of their poor performance may become diluted over time. **It was agreed that Councillors would ask people to provide statements.**

Clearing of areas around Wroxton Hotel & Pub

This issue has been put on hold due to the Covid 19 restrictions that are being introduced this week.

Request from Balscote Parochial Church Council to remove unused planters

It was agreed that the planters belonging to the Parish Council situated near the Church are an eyesore and needed removing. **Cllr Robarts will deal with their removal**

Certas Planning Application

Cllr Collinge raised a question regarding the Parish Council's plans if the application is approved this week. Cllr George Reynolds advised that there have been numerous objections to this application and the decision has been escalated to CDC's Planning Committee. The Parish Council will keep a close eye on this application.

The Clerk will check the website regularly for any updates.

88/20 Updates

Stonepits - Registration of Title Deeds

Spratt Endicott has submitted an application to register the title to Stonepit No.5. If this is successful, they will then submit another application, free of charge for Stonepit 6. There is no update at present as the application is still with the Land Registry, awaiting approval.

Renegotiation of Airwaves Solutions Mast Rental

Fisher German are confident that they will be able to renegotiate the rental agreement for around £5000 per annum as this contract is not in the scope of the new Telecommunications code. The code does apply to the Arqiva mast so a lower rent can be expected when the lease for that mast expires in 2022. At present there is no update on the renegotiation of the contract. **Cllr Robarts will chase Fisher German**

Cemetery - Consecration of Ground progress report

Due to the Covid pandemic there has been a delay in the process. Cllr Robarts confirmed there is no recent progress on this matter.

Update on Railings at Wroxton Pond

The work to repair the rust on the railings hasn't been started yet but will be done free of charge. It is probable that the work will not be carried out until spring 2021.

Update on Quarry

Cllr Collins provided an update on the activity at the Quarry. Earthline Ltd are the new Company moving into the quarry. Once they have signed the lease they will be laying tarmac at the entrance and updating the wheel washer. Councillors welcomed this as it should help stop the mud being dragged through the Village. It will take a few weeks before Earthline Ltd move in and once they are up and running they have offered to meet with a representative(s) of the Parish Council. **Cllr Collins to keep in Contact with Earthline Ltd**

Update on White Gates at entrance to Wroxton Village

Cllr Collins offered to approach the Quarry to request use of their cleaning facilities to clean the white gates at the entrance to Wroxton Village. Due to the current changes at the Quarry we will have to wait until Earthline is up and running before requesting if it would be willing to carry out the work.

Cllr Collins to request cleaning of Wroxton Village gates by Earthline Ltd

Bonfire Night celebrations

It had been agreed that the Parish Council would make a donation to both villages towards Bonfire Night or another celebration but these have been postponed due to the current Covid 19 restrictions. Cllr Robarts has purchased some fireworks, in the sum of £100. The same amount will be made available to Wroxton village on request. **Councillors will arrange appropriate events when Covid 19 guidelines permit. Clerk to reimburse Cllr Robarts £100**

Update on container at Wroxton Sports Club

The sports club had indicated that they wish to purchase a shipping container to store equipment in and instal it behind the Cricket Pavillion . Cllr Marcovitch has written to the Sports Club, detailing the requirements that were agreed in September's Parish Council meeting. There has been no reply to his letter and there appears to be no progress at the site.

Clerk Update (Recycling Bins, Salt Bins, etc)

Recycling Bins

It was agreed that the Parish Council would request that the Salvation Army clothing bank be removed permanently, due to the mess that it causes. The Clerk has requested Cherwell District Council to remove it but this has not been done. **The Clerk will continue to monitor the issue.**

Salt Bins

The Clerk has reported to CDC the rogue salt bin at the entrance to Leys Close and requested it's removal. She has also reported the condition of the salt in some of the bins as unusable. She has not received a reply and will continue to pursue the matter.

Additional Bin in Balscote

She has also requested that the new litter bin in Balscote be emptied

89/20 Planning Applications

20/02070/F	Old Police House Stratford Road Wroxton Change 2 Velux windows to Dormer Windows	Objection submitted by PC
20/02453/F	Hornton Grounds Quarry (Certas)	Objection submitted by PC
20/02126/CLUE	Wroxton Motocross Park Stratford Road A422 Wroxton Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use	Application Withdrawn
20/02065/TCA	Farleigh Dickinson College Wroxton Treework	Supported by PC
20/01820/LB	The White Horse Inn Stratford Road Banbury Replacement floors and beams and ceilings	Application Refused
20/00238/ENF	The Nook, Stratford Road A422 Wroxton Banbury, OX15 6FT Property appears to be being lived in and work has commenced on building	Concerns reported to CDC

90/20 Correspondence Distributed as received**91/21 AOB**

Paula Snow has made a request for a donation of £30 towards Balscote's Christmas tree. This has been agreed and the same amount will be made available for Wroxton's Christmas tree. **The Clerk will arrange for the payment to be made to Paula Snow**

The Hedgerows were flailed at the end of summer and were left in an unsatisfactory state. A complaint was submitted and a tidying up operation followed, resulting in a marked improvement in their appearance .

92/20 Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Monday 4th January 2021 at 7.30 pm. Due to Covid 19 restrictions the meeting will be held remotely, via Zoom. Further information will be detailed on the next agenda.

**Signed:
Cllr Harvey Marcovitch
Chairman**