

**682 WROXTON & BALSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
DUE TO COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS THE MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON
14 September 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 David Giles Members of the Public

67/20 Welcome & Apologies

Cllr. Marcovitch welcomed the Councillors and members of the public to the meeting. All Parish Council members were present at the meeting. No apologies for absence noted.

68/20 Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest

69/20 Minutes of Meeting on 6 July 2020

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th July 2020 were discussed, approved and signed.

70/20 Matters Arising

71/20 Public Forum

One of the hedges on the way into Balscote has been flailed. A member of the public has reported that it has not been done well and looks terrible.

Cllr Marcovitch will look into the matter.

72/20 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation was discussed and agreed.

Progress on new cheque book. Cllr Robarts is still trying to obtain a cheque book from HSBC. It has been promised but has not arrived yet. We have also been awarded £100 compensation from HSBC for the issues we have encountered. The Clerk reported that the debit cards now appear to be cancelled as she tried to use it today to upgrade the Zoom account and it was declined. **Cllr Robarts will continue to pursue the matter.**

73/20 Council Business

Co-opt New Councillors

Due to the resignation of Bob Jesson and Mike Whelan, both Parish Councillor vacancies need to be filled. The necessary notice has been advertised for the vacancies but no nominations received. The Parish Council can now co-opt 2 new members.

David Giles had applied for one of the vacancies 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.

74/20 Decisions**Wroxton Sports Club Container/Fencing**

The sports club have indicated informally that they wish to purchase a shipping container to store equipment in and to instal it behind the Cricket Pavillion . Cllr Marcovitch has already pointed out that this would be visible from 2 sides and that, under the terms of the sub-lease, the Parish Council would require that the container be screened with a fence of sufficient height to conceal it. So far, no formal request has been made to the Parish Council regarding this. The Sports Club will need to apply for Planning Permission to erect a fence of this height (8 ft). A letter will be written to advise the Sports Club that the Parish Council will agree to the container being installed, and will be unlikely to object to any planning application, providing that or specifies fencing of a height which conceals it from view . A copy of the letter will also be sent to Trinity College. **Cllr Marcovitch will draft a letter**

Wroxton Motocross Track - Application of Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use

There have been some complaints regarding this application from residents in Hornton and Wroxton Heath. It was noted that this is not a normal planning application and does not have scope for lodging objections, but it was decided that the Parish Council would inform Cherwell District Council of the residents' concerns and request CDC to consider any conditions of use it might apply. the Parish Council will keep a close eye on any further applications in the future. **Cllr Marcovitch will reply to the complainants**

Traffic Signs (Including possibility of ordering replacements)

Due to the issues encountered with the faulty speed signs, it was agreed at the last meeting that the Parish Council would contact the insurance brokers, Came & Co, to determine whether our legal protection insurance would cover the cost of any claim on the suppliers for recompense as the signs do not work properly . The claim has now been submitted and the Parish Council has been advised it has a better than evens chance of success if the case goes to court. A letter before action is being drafted and will be issued giving the recipient 28 days to respond. If there is no response from S G Manufacturing Ltd then the Parish Council will be in a position to apply for court proceedings with all costs up to that point being covered by insurance. Cllr Robarts has been in contact with another Company named Stock Signs. Their signs are of a higher specification than the signs we currently have with two costing £5600 incl VAT. They offer a 1 month no obligation trial. It was agreed that the Parish Council should trial the signs and review progress at the next meeting. **The Clerk will contact Stock Signs to discuss the trial and find out where else they have installed signs, with the aim of speaking to the relevant Clerks to discuss their suitability.**

Microsoft Office for PC Laptop

The Clerk has requested that Microsoft Office be installed on her laptop. **It was agreed that the Clerk should purchase this as soon as possible.**

Planting of Tree on Balscote Village Green

Work on the trees is due to commence on 25 September 2020. The Parish Council has agreed that the dead Oak Tree should be replaced with a Common or Garden Oak of a reasonable size. **The Clerk will inform Cotefield Nurseries.**

Contribution to Villages for Bonfire Night Celebrations

It was agreed that the Parish Council would make a donation to both villages towards Bonfire Night celebrations. These may be delayed due to Covid 19 so the monies can be held by the respective village for any appropriate replacement event.

75/20 Updates

Invoices for Balscote Village Hall The Clerk has paid the invoice in the sum of £1496.00

Recycling Bins/Bottle Banks

There have been recurring issues with the mess that is left around the recycling bins on the A422 Stratford Road, in particular the mess left at the Salvation Army Clothing Bank. It was agreed that the Parish Council would request that this bank be removed permanently. **The Clerk will contact the Council**

Stonepits - Registration of Title

Spratt Endicott will submit 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.

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 2022i.

Cemetery - Consecration of Ground progress report

Cllr Robarts has provided the Diocese with the necessary information to have the lower part of the cemetery consecrated. Due to the Covid pandemic there has been a delay in the process, Cllr Robarts has spoken to them and the matter is in hand.

Distribution of Cemetery Regulations

The Clerk has distributed the revised cemetery regulations to the local Funeral Directors

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Litter Bins - Balscote

The new litter bins have been delivered and one has been installed at the Village Hall. The other bin is to replace the bin opposite the phone box. The Clerk will let the Council know that they need to empty the new bin at Balscote Village Hall. **Clerk to speak to CDC**

Temporary Road Closure/ 20's Plenty Signs

The Clerk has ordered 4 x 20's Plenty Signs, these have been delivered and will be erected ahead of the road closures that have now been delayed until November 2020.

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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.

Wroxton Drains/Gutters/Weed Spraying

The top drains in Wroxton Main Street have been cleared. There is an issue with gravel from residents' driveways going into the drains and contributing to them getting blocked, but there is nothing that can be done to prevent this other than appealing to householders to undertake remedial work to prevent this. The weed spraying by Thomas Fox has been done and has been very successful.

Grass Cutting in Wroxton

The current grass cutting contract contains provision for a maximum of 14 cuts a year, Nigel Prickett has now increased the mowing and the villages are looking much tidier.

Village Salt Requirements

Some of the salt in the bins has gone hard and will not be usable. The salt bin that has been left at the end of Leys Close also needs taking away. **The Clerk will contact the Council to report.**

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76/20 Planning

New Applications:-

20/02070/F Old Police House Stratford Road Wroxton **Objection from PC**
Change 2 Velux windows to Dormer Windows

20/02357/TCA Hill Barn 7 The Hedges Balscote
Treework **Supported by PC**

20/02126/CLUE Wroxton Motocross Park Stratford Road A422 Wroxton
Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use **See earlier agenda item**
PC to submit comments

20/02065/TCA [Fairleigh Dickinson University Wroxton College]
Treework **Supported by PC**

20/01820/LB The White Horse Inn Stratford Road Banbury **Supported by PC**
Replacement floors and beams and ceilings

20/01980/TCA The Steps Main Street Wroxton OX15 6PT **Granted by CDC**
Treework

20/02055/TCA 5 Stonehill Manor Farm Lane Balscote
Treework - 5 Day Notice **Granted by CDC**

20/01985/TCA Balscote Village Manor Green Balscote **Granted by CDC**
Treework

20/2075/TCA Fairleigh Dickinson University] Wroxton College **Granted by CDC**
Treework - 5 Day notice

20/01870/TCA Wellstone Church Street Wroxton
Treework **Granted by CDC**

20/10625/TCA Pool Farmhouse Main Street Wroxton **Granted by CDC**
Treework

20/00238/ENF The Nook, Stratford Road A422, Wroxton, Banbury, OX15 6EFT
Property appears to be being lived in and work has commenced on building _____
_____ **Concerns reported to CDC**

20/00241/ENF The Old Police House Stratford Road Wroxton OX15 6QR
A resident has suggested that this is not being built as per approved plans
- 18/02130/F _____ **Concerns reported to CDC who inspected and**
replied that the building was within the permitted dimensions._____

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77/20 Correspondence Distributed as received

78/20 AOB

The Parish Council approved the subscription to Zoom to enable the council meetings to be held remotely . The cost is £119.90 + VAT for 12 months. **The Clerk will need to be reimbursed for this.**

Cllr Giles asked for an update on the quarry as there has been a lot of movement there recently. **Cllr Collins advised that he will make some enquiries and update the Parish Council.**

The white gates situated at the entrance to Balscote Village need cleaning up. **Cllr Collins will also discuss this with the quarry to see if their cleaning equipment can be used.**

The hedges on the roadside need cutting on the road from Stratford into the Village. **Cllr Giles will advise the Clerk of the locations. The Clerk will contact Highways to report the issue**

A comment was made by a member of the public, that the trial of replacement traffic signs is sound but the Parish Council should obtain a list of suppliers of speed signs and who they supply to, in order to obtain details of the performance of their products before considering which is the more suitable supplier.

79/20 Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Monday 2nd November 2020 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