

**WROXTON & BALSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF PARISH MEETING AT  
BALSCOTE VILLAGE HALL on 4th March 2024 AT 7.30PM**

**Present:**

Cllr Harvey Marcovitch - Chairman  
Cllr Duncan Collins  
Cllr Michael Roberts  
Cllr Fergus Garwood  
Cllr Miranda Ker

Clerk: Gail Williams

**Members of the Public**

Cllr George Reynolds  
2 members of the public

**13/24 Apologies:**

Cllr Dominic Walshe  
Cllr Sarah Colbert

**14/24 Welcome**

**15/24 Declarations of Interest** - none

**16/24 Minutes of Meeting on 8th January 2024**

Two minor corrections highlighted. Item 6/24 white lines should have been 'yellow' lines. And the address in the last line should have been 'Dark' Lane.

**17/24 Matters Arising**

- Salt delivery has not arrived in Wroxton. **ACTION Clerk to chase.**
- 'Rat run' concerns through Wroxton relating to 20mph limit- no replies from OCC and no further action by PC.
- Leaf clearing. **ACTION tenders to be sought by Clerk.**
- Ownership of Village Hall. Title Deeds make it clear that the PC is not the owner, but rather a "custodian trustee". Management of the VH is by the VH committee. PC have no financial responsibility. **No further action proposed.**
- PC insurance. Cllr Roberts wrote to MP Victoria Prentis who has taken forward the concerns about the cartel that appears to operate against the interests of most if not all parish councils - characterised by unacceptable commission levels and legal bar to lodging appeals..

**18/24 Public Forum**

Mr Chris May expressed concerns on behalf of himself and other villagers about the future implications of access to the North Newington Road in relation to building proposals at The Laurels. PC maintains its opinion with regard to the previous and current applications.

**19/24 Finance:** Bank Reconciliation: approved

**20/24 Council Business****a) Decisions:**

FINANCE: A minor adjustment is required to the budget relating to renewal of the lease for the mast at Stonepit 6. Fisher German have been asked to negotiate the lease but their terms include a fee, only part of which will be met by the leaseholder. The RFO proposed that the likely extra negotiating and legal costs, likely to be £2-2.5K be spread over two years. £1,000 to be taken from the contingency line on the 2024/35 budget, leaving the budgeted surplus unchanged.

**PC unanimously agreed to ratify engaging Fisher German to negotiate on its behalf and the Clerk was asked to provide Fisher German with a copy of the resolution.**

**The amendment to the 2024/25 budget was agreed and, as the budgeted surplus would not change, it was considered that the budget did not need to be re-advertised.**

**a1) ALLOCATIONS:** Agreed that allocations for both village halls should be increased to to £2,000 for each hall. The previous allocation of £5,000 for dealing with ash dieback has not yet been used and it was agreed that this should be used for the capital costs of tree planting and maintenance at the increased level of £7,000. It was noted that allocations effectively simply earmark a proportion of the PC's reserves and that they do not represent firm spending commitments until specific projects are formally agreed.

**a2) CDC PARISH BULLETIN:** This highlighted sources of funding available for village halls; the Chairman has already drawn this to the attention of Terry Allen re Balscote VH.

**ACTION Clerk to communicate to relevant people at Wroxton Village Hall.**

**a3) CEMETERY REGULATIONS.** The proposed new regulations were agreed.

**ACTION Clerk to place on the notice board and website and circulate to Funeral Directors.**

**a4) WEED SPRAYING:** Quote required for both villages for each spray. A quote has been received from Thomas Fox.

**ACTION Clerk to request quote from Faye Eldridge when she returns from holiday and circulate to Councillors for decision.**

**b) Discussions:**

**b1) ELECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR MAY 2024**

**ACTION**

**Clerk to attend election briefing on 6th March.**

**Clerk to request hardcopy nomination forms and closing date confirmation, circulating to current councillors and candidates from whom expressions of interest had been received.**

**Clerk to put details on website and notice boards**

**b2) TREE REPLACEMENT, LANGWAY/SLAD , BALSCOTE**

Charlie Bates is exploring type/ planting / costs. Planting only in Autumn 2024.

**b3) LIGHTING IN CHAPEL LANE**

Estimate from OCC for two lamp standards, cabling and future electricity charges was over £17,000. PC agreed not to pursue the matter further.

**b4) SANCTUARY LAND OWNERSHIP**

Cllr Robarts had searched the land registry and confirmed that Sanctuary definitely do own the land.

**ACTION Clerk to confirm this with Sanctuary. requesting their commitment to maintaining it on a regular basis.**

**b5) DROP-IN MEETINGS BY COMMUNITY LINK WORKER FOR THE ELDERLY**

CDC Community Link person has asked if she could attend 'Tuesday afternoon meetings of villagers'

**ACTION Clerk to advise Community Link to contact representatives of the two Village Halls.**

**b6) PARISH COUNCIL LINK WITH OWNER OF WHITE HORSE** Cllr Collins to continue as the link person with the owner to ensure smooth communications.

**b7) VERGE MAINTENANCE** Issue of disposal of grass cuttings.

**ACTION Cllr Colbert to explore if she can identify a landowner willing to take cuttings from Wroxton village green. If so this should be an agenda item for May.**

c) Clerk update: Nothing to report

## **21/24 Planning Applications**

### **New Applications:-**

#### **23/00130/F Laurels Farm, Dark Lane Wroxton**

Demolition of 3 existing barns followed by the erection of 9 new dwellings; conversion and alterations to existing barn to form 1 dwelling; formation of new primary access from Newington Road, parking, landscaping and other associated works

**Previously supported by PC**

### **Applications Awaiting Decision**

#### **23/03297/PIPTec Land adjacent to 5 Leys Close, Wroxton**

Consent for the erection of a detached bungalow, with gardens to the front, side and rear, permission in principal application number 22/03103/PI

**No PC comment**

#### **23/03311/F Land north of Pool Barn, Main Street, Wroxton**

Variations to conditions and alterations to approved drawings

**No PC comment**

#### **23/03355/LB Barn Rear of Pool Farmhouse, Main Street, Wroxton**

Alterations of approved drawings - variation on 21/02773/LB

**No PC comment**

#### **23/00212/LB Charian Cottage, Church Street, Wroxton OX15 6QE**

Privacy panels on gate for front garden

**No PC comment**

#### **23/01248/F Charian Cottage, Wroxton**

Retrospective planning re: chimney

#### **23/02720/F**

#### **23/02616/LB**

#### **Balscote Mill**

Conversion of former mill into ancillary residential use to provide 1 No. 2 bed & 1 No. 1 bed self contained holiday accommodation, New vehicle entrance Balscote Mill

**No PC comment**

#### **23/02707/F**

#### **Barn Rear of Pool Farmhouse, Main Street, Wroxton**

Variation of Condition 2 (plans) of 21/02772/F - the following design changes - pitched roof over garage and kitchen, entrance doors to threshing barn, staircase position altered in threshing barn, bi-fold doors to dining room, conservation roof lights over kitchen/breakfast room, internal layout changes to kitchen and en-suite of bedroom 1 and bedroom 2 and flue positions

**No PC comment**

#### **23/00129/F**

#### **Trinity College Grange Farm, Chapel Lane, Balscote, Banbury, OX15 6JN**

Erection of agricultural buildings, hardstanding and other associated works, located at the top of The Slad, off A422.

**MW.0058/23**      **Wroxton Quarry**  
 Details pursuant to Condition 66 (working in close proximity to electricity pylons or cables) of planning permission no. (MW.0020/19)

**MW.0091/23**      **Shutford Sewage Works (Thames Water)**  
 Construction of temporary car park, formation of temporary topsoil bund and formation of two vehicular accesses, for a time-limited period in connection with upgrade works to Shutford Sewage Treatment Works. Restoration of the land to the west and east of Shutford Road to agriculture and other existing uses at the end of the permission period.

**21/01258/F**      **Wroxton Sports Club Old Ironstone Sports Field Horley Path Road**  
 Installation of ISO shipping container on sports field for storage of field maintenance equipment, erect 6ft screening panels on three sides

**Applications decided**

**23/03417**      **Friars Hill Hovel Friars Hill Wroxton OX15 6BA**  
 Conversion of hovel into single dwelling house and associated works  
**Permitted by CDC**

**23/03170/TPO**      **4 Silver Street Wroxton OX15 6QB**  
 Tree work  
**Permitted by CDC**

**22/24**      **Date of Next Meeting**  
 Monday 13th May at Wroxton Village Hall:  
*7.00 pm for annual parish meeting* followed at 7.30 for the bimonthly meeting.