

**WROXTON & BALSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT WROXTON VILLAGE HALL ON  
1st NOVEMBER 2021 at 7:30PM**

**Present:**

Cllr Harvey Marcovitch – Chairman                      Clerk Kate Brown  
Cllr Miranda Ker  
Cllr Duncan Collins  
Cllr David Giles  
Cllr Michael Roberts                                      Members of the Public  
Cllr Geraldine Collins                                      Cllr Doug Webb  
Cllr Fergus Garwood

**73/21 Welcome & Apologies**

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

**74/21 Declaration of Interest**

No new declarations of interest

**75/21 Minutes of Meeting on 6 September 2021**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 September 2021 were approved

**76/21 Matters Arising**

None

**77/21 Public Forum**

No issues raised by members of the public in attendance

**78/21 Finance**

**Bank Reconciliation**

Cllr Roberts presented the bank reconciliation which was agreed.

Cllr Roberts also raised the issue of the Arqiva lease which will end in March 2022. Due to the new telecoms regulations, Arqiva will almost certainly want to renegotiate the terms of the contract. Fisher German will negotiate on our behalf when the time comes.

**79/21 Council Business**

**Changing Bank Accounts.**

As HSBC are introducing fees, Councillors and the Clerk have looked at other bank accounts available on the market. It was agreed that the Parish Council should arrange for the account to be moved to Lloyds Bank.

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**80/21**

**Grass Cutting Contract**

This contract will need renewing at the end of 2021 for a 3 year period. The current contractor, Nigel Prickett, has provided the Clerk with a quote for grass cutting at the current rate with an annual inflationary increase of

3%. The Parish Council agreed to follow correct protocol and put the contract out to tender as was done when it was renewed previously. It was agreed that the verge outside Crossways in Silver Street should also be added to the quote. **The Clerk will place an advert in the Banbury Guardian to invite other Contractors to tender.**

#### **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration**

The Parish Council understands that a street party to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee is planned for Balscote, but are unsure if Wroxton has any plans at present. Cllr Ker will make enquiries in Wroxton regarding this.

#### **Balscote Newsletter funding request**

Jill Endicott is looking to start circulating a monthly Balscote newsletter. She estimates the cost to produce each newsletter will be £30+ Vat. She anticipates 2 newsletters before the end of the year and has asked the Parish Council to fund the newsletters with a sum of £60 + VAT. It was agreed to fund the first 2 copies of the newsletter only, but would invite a further application next year. Councillors expressed concerns that not all houses had received a copy; it was also suggested that the organisers should consider seeking further funding by paid advertising.

#### **Community Governance Review - Amendment to Wroxton Boundary with Horley.**

The Community Governance Review will be taking place over the next 12 months. As part of the review, an amendment to the Horley & Wroxton boundary has been proposed. The caravan site is currently very close to Horley's boundary and it has been proposed that the boundary be amended to include the caravan site within the Parish of Horley. The Parish Council has no objection to this.

#### **Repairs to Church Steps Balscote**

The Parish Council has received a request to carry out repairs to Balscote church steps. Cllr Garwood and Cllr Robarts have looked at the steps and have agreed that they are currently safe. Cllr Robarts has offered to clear the adjacent grassy area and the Council suggested residents might wish to assist.

#### **81/21 Updates**

##### **Treework Balscote**

Cotefield Nurseries have carried out the work required to the conifer on the grassy bank outside the church in Balscote at a cost of £261.60; the invoice has been paid.

##### **Speeding in Wroxton**

The data from the speed cameras for October is consistent with previous months, recording over 50% of cars driving through the village above the speed limit. There are also still huge volumes of traffic travelling through (more than 50,000 each way every month). The Community Police have been in contact regarding the relaunch of Community Speedwatch. The Clerk has registered the Parish Council to be included in this initiative and she is waiting for an update. Oxfordshire County Council are also launching a campaign to reduce the speed limit through villages and Towns to 20mph. The Parish Council has already tried some of the strategies suggested by OCC to reduce speeding cars, but will support any campaign to reduce the limit to 20 mph.

##### **Traffic Signs and Insurance Claim**

A writ has been issued on S G Manufacturing, who have until 5 November to file a defence.

##### **Pollution Issue Balscote**

Thames Water visited last week to inspect the drains but haven't taken any action about the faulty manhole cover.

Cllr Robarts continues to communicate with Thames Water regarding this.

### **Cherry Blossom Project**

Wroxton Primary School has agreed to allow the Parish Council to plant 15 Cherry Blossom trees being gifted by the Japanese Embassy as part of its Sakura tree project. Cllr Marcovitch has obtained 2 quotes for the planting of the trees from Fourth Corner at £245 +vat and Cotefield Treecare at £901.00 + vat. Cllr Marcovitch has left messages to obtain a quote from Akermans but has not received a reply from them. It is not clear to the Parish Council why

the quotes vary as much as they do, so it was agreed that a third quote should be obtained.

**Cllr Collinge to facilitate a quote for planting 15 Cherry Trees**

### **Stonepits - Registration of Title Deeds**

Spratt Endicott has emailed the Parish Council to confirm that they have checked the Land Registry's online portal and the signs are that the Parish Council's application has been accepted and is being processed, but this has not yet been confirmed. The land has been allocated title number ON359406.. The Land Registry has also asked for a copy of the lease to Apollo which is thought to be the last step in the process before title is granted. **Cllr Roberts will continue to monitor the progress of the application**

### **Scribe Cemetery Software**

Councillor Roberts and the Clerk need to load some data onto the Scribe cemetery software to familiarise themselves with the system. **Cllr Roberts and the Clerk will add 12 previous burials to the system so they can familiarise themselves with the functionality.**

### **Clerk Update**

The Clerk has asked CDC to replenish salt in the various bins around Wroxton. The salt bin at Wroxton Church needs replacing. The Clerk has contacted C.D.C.

## **82/21 Planning Applications**

### **New Applications:-**

#### **21/03050/LB The Steps Main Street Wroxton OX15 6PT**

To erect black painted custom-made iron railing on stone steps at front of property.

To remove existing boarded wooden door (white painted) and replace it with a stable door with a leaded glass window to match existing window to right of door custom-made, painted white, with black ironmongery. **Supported by PC**

#### **21/03225/TPO Wroxton College, Wroxton, OX15 6PX**

T080 Lime & T081 Lime - Crown reduce to a high pollard framework due to proximity to house. Reduce by approx 6-8m for both trees- subject to TPO 001/2002

**Application Withdrawn**

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#### **21/03332/TCA Wroxton College, Street From Church Street To College, Wroxton, OX15 6PX**

Treework

**Supported by PC**

### **Existing Applications**

**21/02772/F&** Barn Rear of Pool Farmhouse, Main Street, Wroxton, OX16 6PT  
**21/02773/LB** Alterations and change of use of barn to residential dwelling **Supported by PC**

**21/02764/F** Land North Of Jasmine Cottage And South Of And Adjoining, Stratford Road  
Wroxton Erection of 2 new dwellings **Supported by PC**

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

**21/02112/F** Wroxton Mill Wroxton OX15 6EZ  
Retrospective planning permission for rebuild of store that was damaged by  
fallen tree **Granted by CDC**

**21/02071/TCA** Trinity College c/o Laws & Fiennes  
T1, T2 x Sycamore - Remove as damaging walls. Removing to stop further  
damage and to allow repairs to the walls. **Supported by PC**

**21/02549/Q56** Conversion of Concrete Hovel to a single dwelling house  
Concrete Hovel, Street From Friars Hill To Ragnell Bottom, Wroxton  
**Granted by CDC**

**21/01293/F** Wroxton Church Of England Primary School Lampitts Green Wroxton OX15 6QJ  
Concert Hall and Ancillary rooms **Supported by PC**

**21/01964/F** The Old Post Office, Shutford Road, Balscote, OX15 6JW  
Replace single glazed 1980's windows with black thermally efficient Aluminium windows  
**Supported by PC**

**21/01650/DISC** The Chantry Stratford Road A422 Wroxton OX15 6QS **Supported by PC**  
Discharge of Conditions

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**21/00517/F** Land Used For Motocross Stratford Road A422 Wroxton  
OX15 6HX  
Creation of a motocross track and soft landscaping scheme and  
the change of use of agricultural land to hold moto-cross events  
**Under consultation by CDC**

**21/00023/F** Stables Wroxton Hall Wroxton Heath Wroxton OX15 6EU  
Manege and groom's residence **Granted By CDC**

**83/21 AOB**

Cllr. Giles has tendered his resignation as he is moving out of the area. The Council thanked him for his work on its behalf and will invite expressions of interest from any resident proposing to stand for election.

Cllr Marcovitch contacted the Conservation Officer on several occasions regarding the property, Peacehaven in Balscote, due to its poor state of repair. Cllr Doug Webb agreed to chase the Conservation Dept regarding this issue as no action has so far been taken despite the Parish Council's previous requests.

James Collins, who works for the new owners of the North Arms, has written to the Parish Council to advise that the owners have decided not to reopen as a pub on the grounds that it would not be commercially viable. The owners have instead put the property back on the market. It is possible that any buyer might apply for a change of use to a residential property. The listing of the North Arms as an Asset of Community Value has now come to an end. The Clerk will contact James Collins to inquire as to the identity of the current owners.

The Parish Council agreed to hold their annual Christmas Dinner at the Butchers Arms at a date yet to be agreed. This may have to be held in January..

Cllr Ker confirmed that Thomas Fox have completed another spray in Wroxton, including Mills Lane. A further visit to both villages to clear gullies and footpaths will be required once the leaf fall has finished..

A resident pointed out that standing surface water was again apparent on the A422 after a recent heavy downpour. The Parish Council should encourage OCC Highways to clear the grips across the verges as standing water presents a regular and quite serious safety hazard. **The Clerk will report this.**

A resident also reported that the wall of the ramp leading to Wroxton Church is crumbling and needs attention. It appears to be the responsibility of Highways and **Cllr Marcovitch will notify OCC via FixMyStreet.**

**84/21 Date of next meeting**

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Monday 10th January 2022 at 7:30 pm in Wroxton Village Hall.**

**Signed:**

**Cllr Harvey Marcovitch**

**Chairman**