

Minutes of a Meeting of Wootton Parish Council held on Wednesday September 18th 2019 at 8pm in the Reading Room

Present: Tim Dalton, Jacqui Kinch, Dot Adams, John Burgess, Ed Barker (ESBC), Pat Fielding (Clerk)

Martin Forrest (Member of the Public)

1. Apologies for Absence: Angus Dalton.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were approved unanimously, and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

3. Matters Arising

None not covered by the agenda.

4. Reading Room

The Clerk read out a letter from Nancy Barker on behalf of the former WI; they are “willing to leave the contents of the Reading Room for the use of the local community but would request we be permitted to hold an occasional meeting in the Reading Room free of charge”. All agreed to accept this without the need for any formal agreement.

The Clerk also read out a letter from Barbara Butler, Warden and Treasurer of the PCC; they have decided to pass over to Wootton PC responsibility for the Reading Room which will mean we will pay for the electricity and the insurance. We will also receive payment from ESBC for the use of the Room for voting at elections.

All agreed to accept this. The Clerk had done some work on the increased Insurance which will cover the rebuilding cost of £60,000 (as advised by the PCC) and contents cover up to £1300. This new insurance is effective from Sept 16th.

Action: Clerk to arrange electricity provider as from Sept 15th when the PCC paid their final bill, and to contact Matthew Elias with the current costs for this and the insurance.

5. Financial Report

The current account stands at £3922.29. With deduction of today's payment of £692.66, and payments due before the year end, the balance at the end of the year, barring unforeseen expenses, will be £2644.65. Of this £200 will now be unspent Transparency Code Grant from SPCA (having deducted the £79.06 for the Website hosting).

6. Authorisation of Payments

a) Clerk's Wages Apr-Sept '19 £440 Cheque no. 000229

b) ESBC – Election cost £86.02 Cheque no. 000228

c) John Burgess – Website Hosting £79.06 Cheque no. 000230

d) Zurich Insurance – Reading Room £87.58 Cheque no. 000231

These payments were approved unanimously.

7. Highways

Potholes: SCC recently responded very quickly to requests for repairs, though there are still a few outstanding.

Wicket Gates: it was decided to abandon this idea, partly due to the cost involved in their erection.

It was noted that from 23rd September the speed limit in Ellastone will be reduced to 30mph.

8. Planning

It has been noticed that someone seems to be living in the building on Mr Varro's site as lights have been on. Ed agreed to have a word with Dave Ward, the ESBC Enforcement Officer and will report back.

9. Environment

Tree Charter Project – Tim will ask Angus about the possibility of planting free trees again this year.

10. Calendar

The WOW group had suggested the proceeds go to a prostate cancer charity but it was decided to stick with the First Responders.

11. Any Other Business

Christmas Carol Singing: There is a chance that Dave Blant may be away, but will know for sure next month.

Community Gang: it was suggested that the community come together for village tidying next Spring with time to think of a specific project.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday December 4th 2019.