

Minutes of a Meeting of Wootton Parish Council held on Wednesday March 15th 2023 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room

Present (Parish Council): Tim Dalton (Chairman), Dot Adams, Debbie Finnikin, Ed Barker (ESBC), Pat Fielding (Clerk).

Steve Sankey and Laura Beech, prospective ESBC Councillors as Ed Barker is not standing again.

1. Apologies for Absence: John Burgess, Angus Dalton

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

3. Matters Arising

Dot had not received a reply from JCB regarding a plaque on the Car Park bench.

The Carol Singing had raised about £250.

4. Reading Room

It is hoped to have more volunteers for the next project which is painting the interior. There will be the cost of the paint, and then a new carpet. Steve Sankey said he would find out if we are open to funding. It was also suggested that we could ask a carpet shop if they would be willing to offer funding. It is also pointed out that we could use some of the annual donation from Matthew Elias.

5. Financial Report

The current account stands at £3802.02. With deduction of today's payments of £665.95 the balance is £3136.07. Forecast income before the end of the year is a donation of £150 from Matthew Elias, of Nigel Davis Solicitors, towards the upkeep of The Reading Room; expenses will be c.£63 for electricity. The balance at the end of the year will therefore be £3223.07, barring any other unforeseen expenses.

6. Authorisation of Payments

a) Clerk's Wages Oct '22-March'23 - £480 Cheque no. 000261

b) Clerk's Expenses 2022-2023- £73.30 Cheque no. 000262

c) SPCA Subscription 2023/2024 - £62.79 - Cheque no. 000263

d) Jeremy Kneller – Carol Singing Expenses- £49.86 Cheque no, 000264

These payments were proposed by Dot Adams, seconded by Debbie Finnikin and approved unanimously.

7. Recycling

It was felt a flyer re soft plastics and that oral items could go in the Recycling Bin would be useful. SCC sends out weekly Green Tips and these could be forwarded on the Village App.

8. Planning

a) Uttoxeter Quarry – There now seem to be no more lorries passing through the village than in the past.

b) Back Lane Farm P/2022/00943– this Application has now been approved.

9. Highways

Road Safety: the Clerk has reported this to Highways, asking for a Give Way sign at the bottom of Back Lane, and has also informed Philip Atkins to ask for his help.

10. Coronation Celebrations

A flyer will be delivered to every household inviting villagers and their families and friends. The WOW group have offered to provide the food for this event. It will be decided whether it is to be held in the village centre or at the Cricket Club if available. The Clerk said that funding is available through the National Lottery, and it was agreed that we should apply for £600 for food (for an estimated 120 people), as well as for a band and the rent of the Cricket Club.

Action: Tim to investigate the availability of local musicians and their cost. The Clerk will then apply for a grant from the National Lottery.

11. Election

This will be held on Thursday May 4th at The Cricket Club. ESBC have persisted in refusing to return to the Reading Room in spite of the latter being more convenient for everyone. It was noted that voters now need to produce photo ID in order to vote, and this will be highlighted on the notice advising of the election.

It was decided to invite current Parish Councillors to a meeting next week to run through the application process.

12. Any Other Business

Tim expressed great and sincere thanks to Ed Barker, on behalf of the Parish Council and the Village for his support and help over the past 8 years.

Jeremy reported that a horse on a footpath through one of Mr Varro's fields was causing problems for walkers. Tim agreed to contact the Public Rights of Way Officer for advice.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday May 24th 2023 at 7.30pm for the AGM.