

Minutes of a Meeting of Wootton Parish Council held on Wednesday September 13th 2023 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room

Present: Tim Dalton, Dot Adams, John Burgess, Debbie Finnikin, Pat Fielding (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence: Angus Dalton

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

In the absence of Angus, this item was postponed until the next meeting.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

4. Matters Arising

Uttoxeter Quarry – a lot of lorries in convoy had been seen driving past on the road between Ramshorn and Ellastone in the last week. Tim has been told by SCC that the 106 is not yet in place, which means they have no restrictions in place.

Tim will pass on our concerns to SCC.

5. Financial Report

The amount spent on the Coronation Party was £506.15, which left £543.85 unspent from the National Lottery Grant. They advise that if less than £1000 is left unspent this can be for activities with the same goal; in this case it is bringing the community together and Tim and I are pretty sure we will not be asked to return the outstanding amount. Instead it can go towards the work we are doing on the Reading Room.

So far we have spent £961.26, including today's items, on The Reading Room. After using the £543.85 remaining from the National Lottery Grant, we will have £417.41 outstanding.

We have made an application from an SCC Community Fund, but this does not apply retrospectively: it will cover the cost of 10 new chairs, and slabs for a bench in the garden. So the £417.41 not covered by any grant money, will come out of the Parish Council's account.

The current account stands at £3334.61. With deduction of today's new payments of £609.45 the balance is £2725.16. Forecast income before the end of the year is £1039, and forecast expenditure is £608. The balance at the end of the year will therefore be £3156.16, barring any other unforeseen expenses.

6. Authorisation of Payments

a) Dot Adams -blinds for Reading Room – £137.33 Cheque no. 000287

b) Holmes Carpets – carpet for Reading Room – £500 Cheque no. 000288

c) Holmes Carpets – coir mat for Reading Room – £64 Cheque no. 000289

d) Tim Dalton – paint for Reading Room – £44 Cheque no. 000290

e) Tim Dalton –gift for P. Duffell re Reading Room work – £24.99 Cheque no. 000291

f) Dot Adams – lampshades for Reading Room – £44 Cheque no. 000292

g) ESBC – Election – £91.30 Cheque no. 000293

- h) B.W.Belcher – fire extinguisher service – £15.60 Cheque no. 000294
- I) P. Symonds – fixing lighting in Reading Room -£35 Cheque no. 000295
- j) Clerk's Wages April -September '23 - £480 Cheque no. 000296
- k) John Burgess – Website and Domain renewal - £129.45

Dot proposed and Tim seconded that these be approved and they were approved unanimously.

7. Reading Room

It is hoped that it will become a community facility, building on its use by the successful Pilates class. It was suggested that we might have a social event to show the village the improvements and to encourage its use.

It was also suggested that wild or garden flowers be planted out side to attract insects.

8. Recycling

As the bin is becoming a bit of a mess, it was decided that only crisp packets would be collected in the village, and that people should be encouraged to take other plastic recycling to supermarkets.

SCC emails regular Green Tips and it was agreed that Tim would put these on the Village App and the notice board. Pat agreed to alert him when she had forwarded the email.

9. Highways

A pothole on Hall Lane has been fixed and also those on the road coming out of Ellastone.

The Clerk said she had been in touch with Trevor Mellor over the collapsed state of a cattle grid on Back Lane, which Jacqui Kinch had reported to her. Trevor visited the site the following day said he would log a complaint; however, when he came to do so he found it had been registered since March! He has now accelerated the repair process. The Clerk also learned that he had been responsible for finally getting the potholes on Ellastone Road mended. He is an invaluable contact.

Speeding cars, and at least one lorry, have done considerable damage to hedge and trees in the last 3 months on a corner going down Ellastone Road from Wootton.

There have been bits of cars found in the wood as well.

Action: Clerk to contact Trevor Mellor asking for a warning road sign to be installed.

10. Dog Poo Bin

It has been reported that the dog poo bin near the Smithy has smelled very bad this year. It is very well used and is emptied regularly. It was suggested that a bin with a closing lid might be better than the existing one with a slot in the top.

Action: the Clerk will phone the Council and see if they would still empty the bin if we bought a lidded one ourselves.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday November 29st 2023

