

Minutes of a Meeting of Wootton Parish Council held on Wednesday March 13th 2024 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room

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

Public: Richard and Ruth Barratt, Jeremy Kneller.

1. Apologies for Absence: John Burgess.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

3. Co-option of Parish Councillor

Rosa Dalton was proposed by Dot Adams and seconded by Tim Dalton. This was approved unanimously and Rosa was welcomed to the PC. She completed the Acceptance of Office and The Register of Interests.

4. Matters Arising

Dog Poo Bin: East Staffs BC have confirmed that they will continue to empty a bin which we will provide.

Uttoxeter Quarry: there is still no affirmation that the 106 clause will be activated.

5. Financial Report

The current account stands at £4213.00. This includes a grant of £550 from the Community Fund, yet to be spent. 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, and rent for Pilates Classes and the MOW group in the Reading Room. After the deduction of today's expenditure of £668.55, the balance at the end of the year will therefore be £3794.45, barring any other unforeseen expenses (bearing in mind that £550 is already allocated.)

6. Authorisation of Payments

a) Clerk's Wages Oct '23-March'24 - £480 Cheque no. 000298

b) Clerk's Expenses 2023-2024- £73.30 Cheque no. 000299

c) Jeremy Kneller – Carol Singing Expenses- £52.46 Cheque no, 000300

d) SPCA Subscription 2024-25 Cheque no. 000301

7. Reading Room

Ed Barker has bought 6 chairs at an auction sale and everyone considered they fitted in very well. And they only cost £12. This will mean a considerable underspend on the Grant, even allowing for some spend on flowers.

An email from the Grant Fund has been received, asking if we would be willing for them to use our project as a case study to share in their annual report. All were in favour of this.

Action: The Clerk will contact the Community Grant Fund to see whether we need to do a refund and to agree to our project being a case study.

The slabs are in place and it just needs the garden levelling up to their edge for safety.

There are signs of leaks showing on the walls.

Action: Jeremy and Tim will investigate the cause of the leaks.

8. Highways

Ellastone Road: Philip Atkins sent an update on Feb 28th to say that 'the staff are

investigating incidents, options and costs'. He also said that he was willing to support a new bend sign if it was cost effective and a viable option.

It was suggested that the pond in Back Lane, where the well used to be years ago, and the Millenium Stone need some TLC as they were overgrown and moss covered. It was agreed that this could be a Village project, as well as the tidying of some grass verges.

11. Day 80th Anniversary Celebration

Rosa said that Henry Dalton would be happy to light the Beacon at 9.15pm pm Thursday June 6th. The Clerk would let Ellastone and Denstone PCs know as they shared in the purchase of the beacon. Another part of the National event is a fish and chip supper which it was decided we would join.

Action: Clerk to contact the Cricket Club to affirm availability of the Pavilion, and Rosa said she knew someone who could provide the fish and chips and will make inquiries.

12. Any Other Business

Ruth and Richard Barratt talked of a community heating system which could possibly be suitable for the village. They agreed to do some homework and report back at the next meeting

13. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday May 29th 2024 at 7.30pm for the AGM.