

Minutes of a Meeting of Wootton Parish Council held on Wednesday November 27th 2024 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room

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

1. Apologies for Absence: Rosa Dalton.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

3. Matters Arising

It was agreed that there is far less lorry movement coming through the Village in relation to the Spath Quarry development. But Tim had not received a reply from Planning to confirm whether or not the required S106 Agreement has been concluded. He will continue to press for further information from Staffordshire C C Planners.

4. Financial Report

a) The current account stands at £4005.30. Forecast income before the end of the year is £250.00, and forecast expenditure £670.30. The balance at the end of the year will therefore be £3585, barring any other unforeseen expenses. Last year's end of year balance was £3519.19.

Lloyds has sent information about the account becoming a Community Bank Account. This means there will be some charges for using the account.

However, as our number of payments is minimal, it looks as if the only charge we will incur is an Account Maintenance fee of £4.25 per month.

b) **Precept** – The balance at the end of the year will be very similar to last year's, so it was agreed to keep the amount the same at £1500.

5. Authorisation of Payments

There are no bills outstanding. There will be one to come soon for Adrian Green for his work on the Reading Room roof.

6. Reading Room

Thanks were expressed for all those who had worked on the garden, including Barbara, Sally, Ruth, Richard, Tim and Pat.

Dampness has appeared again on the wall above the fireplace. Adrian Green is due to come on Friday and it is hoped that his work on the chimney flashing will solve this problem. Richard Barratt has pushed back a lot of the loose slates; he has also tried to adjust the guttering to the front elevation so that the water will run properly.

Adrian has suggested that the fillets on the roof are best replaced with flashing; this will be a bigger job so we would need an estimate. When Adrian has had a look on Friday, Tim will email what he feels is best.

John said maybe we should review the responsibilities of the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council; it was felt that we could talk about this again when Cross

House is sold.

7. Cross House

Tim said he had received an email from the agent about the state of the house, which said that no decision would be made on the sale of the property until next Spring. However it does look better as some work has been done in the garden.

8. Highways

There continues to be problems with drains in several locations, particularly in Hall Lane and Back Lane. These issues need to be addressed to prevent further flooding and further deterioration of the road edges.
SCC needs to be alerted to the problem.

9. Community Work

Sam Griffiths at SCC had checked on the Land Registry and confirmed that the wall between the road and the brook is the responsibility of the owner of the adjacent field, Johnny Greenall. This is apparently true of all the walls alongside the lane. It was suggested asking Henry Dalton if he could approach Johnny about this.

10. Website Domain

An email had been received suggesting that all local authorities should have a gov.uk email address. The Clerk had contacted SPCA asking for advice; Robert Pritchard had investigated and said that this was not legally binding. It was agreed that we would follow his advice; it was probably more appropriate to authorities which undertook a lot of work and needed to appear very official. Pat and John had also attended an online meeting explaining the situation.

11. Carol Singing

Rosa has offered to help again. Last year there were a lot of children and it was felt that the event had been revitalised. Dave has said he was happy to pass on the responsibility. Linda Kneller will see to the donation to First Responders of the money raised.

It was felt that the money raised by the Christmas card donation could be donated to a charity related to illnesses experienced by some in the Village, eg a heart charity. Tim will consult these people.

12. AOB

It was suggested that we have another Climate Change meeting, maybe in April. Thanks were expressed to Seth Adams and Ruth and Richard Barratt for litter picking.

13. Date of Next Meeting

March 19th 2025.