



WATERPERRY with THOMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

24th February 2021

Minutes of Waterperry with Thomley Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday
24th February 2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom

Contact: Lawrence Wootten (clerk)

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MINUTES

Present: Sue Parker, Lawrence Wootten, Daryl Atkinson, Simon Melton
Apologies: Royston Davis
Also Present: 2 parishioners for item 7

Actions

1. Apologies received from Royston Davis.
2. There were no declarations of interest.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting on 27th January sent to all councillors approved and signed and will be added by Lawrence to the website. Matters arising were discussed under the relevant sections below. **LW**
4. Public Open Session: 2 parishioners addressed the Parish Council under item 7 below.
5. Finance and Administration:
 - a. Lawrence had attended the OALC “Year End for Parish Clerks” course and now understood the protocols which should have been followed at the end of the 2019/20 tax year. Unfortunately, the PC’s internal auditor became very ill in late January 2020 and is now registered blind – this explains why the PC had heard nothing from him since Adrian sent the first set of accounting files to him in January 2020. As a consequence of this, our 2019/20 audit was not completed. Lawrence is seeking advice from OALC to complete the 2019/20 audit retrospectively. **LW**
 - b. A new auditor will need to be appointed to complete our 2020/21 accounts. Lawrence will obtain a recommendation from OALC. **LW**
 - c. No invoices had been received since the last meeting, no payments required.
 - d. 2021/2022 budget reviewed briefly.
 - e. Lawrence explained that he would be unable to be employed as Parish Clerk until a year after he resigned as Parish Councillor because of local council law preventing any potential conflict of interest. He suggested that Sharon (Popsie) Wootten be appointed as paid Parish Clerk from 1st April 2021, and he continue to support the Parish Council as unpaid RFO and Deputy Clerk until the end of the next tax year. This proposal was accepted by councillors.
6. Update on Village Projects:
 - a. Sue reported that she is still waiting for free legal advice from OALC which might be helpful in getting the Village Recreation Ground land registered. The possibility of registering the land as an open space with SODC or as a village green were also discussed. **SP**
 - b. The general reduction in traffic speed through the village as a result of the reduced speed limit and vehicle-activated speed limit sign were noted. **SP**
 - c. Sue would put something in the village news and via social media asking for suggestions for recreation ground furniture. **SP**
 - d. Bollard options to protect the village verges from further erosion had been sent to councillors by Sue. Royston still has some wooden bollards purchased by the Parish Council to distribute as required. The best way to repair and protect the verges and the possibility of using an OCC contractor to do the work

discussed. Sue to investigate with OCC.

7. Highways:

2 parishioners addressed the Parish Council, highlighting the state of the road to Waterperry Common. This road is a single track public highway, not a private road, and the condition of it has deteriorated to the point the cars cannot safely drive on it without damage. They had already contacted OCC Highways with a thorough report on the state of the road. Sue agreed to write to Mark Francis at OCC Highways to add the Parish Council's concerns to those of Waterperry Common residents and try to get some repairs carried out as soon as possible.

SP

8. Planning:

There were no planning applications to consider.

9. Correspondence:

Lawrence had received a letter from Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice, thanking the Parish Council for its charitable donation of £150.

10. Date of next meeting:

Other than possible meetings for planning applications, the date of the next meeting will be on Thursday 25th February 2021 at 7.00pm – venue to be agreed but in all probability the meeting will be held via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 9:00pm