

WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held in the Function Room, Village Hall, Woodcote Wednesday 23rd January at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Chairman	Mr. R. Peirce. Mr. D. Booth Mr. M. Smith Dr. P. Sudbury Mrs. J. Farmer Mrs. McGurk.
Parish Clerk	Ms. Jenny Welham

1.0 To receive apologies for absence
Mr. A. Crockett

2.0 To receive Declarations of Interest
None.

3.0 Public Forum: Opportunity for members of the public to address the Council, the public may also speak about specific items of business as they arise, with the permission of the Chairman.
Mr. Tate to speak on planning application P18/S4205.

4.0 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th January 2018.
Minutes Approved as a true record.

5.0 Matters arising from those Minutes not on the agenda elsewhere.
None.

6. Planning Applications

P18/S4205/FUL Conversion of restaurant into two dwellings and construction of a pair of semi-detached dwellings. Location: Woody Nook, Goring Rd. Woodcote Reading RG8 0SD.

The chairman invited Mr. Tate to speak, he outlined the changes which had been made and confirmed that highways did not have any adverse comments regarding the access.
The Parish Council Fully support this application.

P18/S3769/FUL for development work at the following location: Chiltern Rise Cottage, Stable Cottage and Garden Cottage and Reading Road Woodcote.

The Parish Council support this application with the provision that all the previous conditions are maintained including the Section 106 legal agreement.

6.1 Applications Granted by SODC:

P18/S3832/HH Application proposal, including any amendments Single storey rear extension. Front aspect garage conversion. Site Location 59 Wayside Green Woodcote RG8 0PR.

6.2 Applications Refused by SODC

None.

6.3 Other Planning Matters

Parish Council response to SODC Local Plan 2034 – review draft & finalise.

Cllr. Smith had circulated a draft via email to all members and the Clerk. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Smith for his good work with this reply. He requested that some wording be changed, that the word updated Neighbourhood Plan be changed to read the second Neighbourhood Plan. All members agreed to the draft following this amendment.

The reply to be sent to SODC with the form completed and the Clerk to email a copy to District Councillor and the Chairman of Goring Parish Council and their Clerk.

7. Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group – PC to review Chairmanship.

The Chairman advised that since the resignation of Cllr. Botting from the WPC he had spoken to him regarding him continuing to Chair the Neighbourhood Planning Advisory Group. Mr. Botting is prepared to continue with his Chairmanship providing the PC agree.

The Chairman asked for the views of the members, Cllr. Booth agreed and stated he felt Mr. Botting was the most qualified person to continue with this post.

Cllr. Sudbury stated he felt Mr. Botting was an excellent Project Manager, but he was concerned that conflicting views are responded to destructively, and that this at times led to actual or potential conflict with the Nolan Principles.

He sought assurances from the Chairman that he would use his ex officio membership of the NHPAG to ensure that the Nolan principles can be demonstrated to have been followed at all times, and particularly that the widest possible range of views and ideas are fairly and objectively considered and that consideration is put in the group's minutes.

The Chairman responded with assurances that he attends all the NHPAG meetings as a non voting member and he will continue to attend the meetings and ensure all views are heard and reviewed. Those assurances having been given, Cllr. Sudbury had no objections to Mr. Botting Chairing the NHPAG.

Cllr. Smith pointed out that the group had always followed the correct governance but it was not clearly documented, which has been rectified and the PC had reviewed and agreed all the documents concerning this. Cllr. Sudbury agreed.

Cllr. McGurk referred to the February 2017 consultation stating there was bad feeling from residents who attended who felt that their questions were not fully answered. She also stated the feeling within the village via social media etc is that the PC do not want any development, and she agrees this is not the case and that WPC need to continue to ensure they get this message out to the village.

The Chairman responded stating that the consultation review concluded that the consultation could have been handled better and that all in NHPAG had accepted this.

The Chairman asked for the PC to vote on Mr. Botting continuing to Chair NHPAG group. It was resolved as all agreed. Chair to advise Mr. Botting.

8 Finance

15/01/2019 Smartwater Technology Ltd 818 £492.00 40 home kits
15/01/2019 Kings Tree Care Services Ltd TRANSFER £336.00 Hedge cut on Greenmore
23/01/2019 T. Smallbone 819 £30.00 War Memorial Garden Jan
28/01/2019 J. Welham SO £837.55 Jan Salary
28/01/2019 L. Crockett SO 200.00 Jan Litter picking
29/01/2019 British Telecom SO 109.70 Monthly line & BB
Total Payments 2,005.25

Approved.

8.1 Quotations/Grants received for review/approval.

None.

Cllr. Smith advised that he had attended a meeting at SODC regarding the Capital Grant applied for by the PC towards the new pathway to the rear of the village hall from the Zebra Crossing. He gave an overview of how SODC score points for certain aspects of the grant application to reach a decision on how much grant funds would be allocated up to a maximum of 50% of the total applied for. SODC felt that WPC had a lot of funds in reserves and questioned why they needed a grant.

Cllr. Smith gave them details of the earmarked reserves for other projects particularly the Zebra Crossing. Initially the application had scored low, following the discussion the committee agreed to grant the 50%. SODC Cabinet to give final approval when they meet.

Woodcote Village Hall MC had also applied for a grant and they had achieved 50% also, awaiting SODC Cabinet approval.

9. Reports from Other Village Groups

Village Hall MC – Income will be short by approx. £1000 on operating costs for the FY. The Committee to review their true operating costs.
Dance Connection a major regular user will move in April to their own premises, this reduces income further.

Village Green Committee - meet next week.

Traffic Group – Power to the Zebra crossing finally connected. PC await the invoice from OCC.

10 Communications

The Chairman advised that the Clerk had requested that this agenda item be revisited and review the desired outcome from this item.
Cllr, McGurk advised that she sees to use this item to update the PC on social media comments and views regarding the village and residents' comments.
Cllr. Booth suggested that the WPC look at having an Instagram account to give instant news items about matters in Woodcote.

The Chairman asked if Cllr. Farmer and McGurk would work on this together, they agreed. Cllr. Farmer to email the Clerk

11. Other Matters for the Chairman to consider matters arising after agenda published.

The Clerk advised that the Grounds maintenance contractor Berinsfield were closing at the end of March 2019. Their Director Mark Williams had advised that one of their employees and volunteer directors Lee Collins was going to take over the Parish grounds maintenance for parishes that Berinsfield cover, and the WPC could have a contract with them.

WPC resolved to take a one year contract with the new company. Clerk to action and advise.

12. Correspondence – to consider & review any received.
None.

12. To note date of the next Parish Council meeting: Wednesday 6th February.