Woolaston Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 11 JULY 2024 at 8PM
AT WOOLASTON MEMORIAL HALL

PRESENT: Councillors Terina Riches (Chairman), Peter Brown, Mary Greenslade, Jeanette McElroy, Martin Rose

In attendance: Gillian Orchard Preece (Parish Clerk), CCllr Chris McFarling, DCllr Johnathan Lane, and 12 members of the public

85/24 **To receive Apologies for Absence.**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Mick Fairless and Hannah Greenslade.

86/24 **Declarations of Interest**
To receive the Councillors' Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda. There were none.

87/24 **Public Open Forum.**
a. P0294/24/FUL – Extension of an existing Anaerobic Digestion Plant and associated infrastructure.
A resident spoke on behalf of the Plusterwine Residents Association (PRA), consisting of residents from thirteen properties in the area, who strongly oppose the planning. The PRA has paid for an independent report which he produced to the council. He highlighted the statement on the Parish Council Meeting Agenda which states "Members *are reminded that the Council has a duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Biodiversity…. "*

He considered that the late notice to residents was deliberate. He referred to a report from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust which reports there will be a net loss of biodiversity as opposed to a gain. He produced a document which highlights residents' concerns, including dust, flies, damage to roads, increase of traffic especially to support gas carrying HGV tanker loads, difficulties for children walking to school. There was previously a limited allowance for HGV traffic of two vehicles per day, it is now up to six, and they are planning to increase this to 12.

He asked that the Parish Council reconsider its decision based on this latest information. He reminded councillors that during the previous application in 2020/21, the Parish Council raised all these concerns. He also referred to a pollution incident in the brook running past Brookend and produced a report from an independent laboratory.

Another resident informed the council that residents did not attend the previous meeting as they were not informed. He appreciates that the council acted on the information provided but considers that it is incorrect. Residents are constantly consulting with the EA. He considers that residents feel they do not matter and fear it will get worse and the amount of traffic will double. A third resident expressed concern about the number of flies the biodigester attracts and the difficulty in walking their children to school because of the need to climb into the hedge when HGVs go by.

The Chairman agreed to respond to residents as this item is not on the agenda. She reported that councillors noted at the meeting when the application was initially discussed that there were no neighbourhood responses at the time, as there has always been a vigorous response in the past – she now noted that this was because neighbours had not been informed.

The council previously raised "no objections" based on reports (traffic, noise etc.,) which said there were negligible effects. At the subsequent meeting in June 2024, after emails from resident emails, the parish council agreed to write to the planning department to ask them to consider resident's views, concerns, and objections.

DCllr Jonathan Lane has spoken to the officer involved and taken advice. He reported that if the Planning Officer is minded to approve the application, it will be Called in (i.e., the Planning Committee will determine it rather than the Case Officer). If is refused, then the applicant can appeal. If it goes to the Planning Committee, the DCllr, a member of the Parish Council and a resident will have the opportunity to speak for 3 minutes in person to state their case.

The parish council resolved to write to the Planning department to say that the Parish Council has now met with residents, read their report, and note the negative impact on residents if the application is approved. **Action: Clerk**

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b. The Rising Sun – Potential for Asset of Community Value (ACV). A resident said he was interested in the council discussion with regards to the Rising Sun becoming an Asset of Community Value, and asked how the process works as it is currently listed for sale. Discussed at Agenda item 13a.

c. A resident asked if would be possible to organise a petition. This is not something that the parish council could organise.

d. A resident mentioned that he heard that the District Council preferred option is brownfield sites but heard that more housing proposed in Woolaston is for greenfield sites – he asked how much effort is being put into looking at Brownfield sites. The Parish Council does not have the power to determine sites, the decision rests with the District Council, however residents have the opportunity to add comments to the Local Plan. There are consultation roadshows locally and the period ends on 9 August 2024, The local plan will be discussed further at agenda item 9a.

e. A resident asked who is responsible for clearing the overgrown footpath opposite the school down to Ash Way. As this is a Gloucestershire County Council Highways issue, she was signposted to the "Fix my streets" website.

881/24 **To receive the written reports from the County Councillor / District Councillor.**

a. CCllr McFarling had forwarded his report which was forwarded to councillors. He apologised for his hiatus for the last 6 weeks as he had been standing for Parliament.

b. DCllr Lane sent his report by email which was forwarded to councillors – there were no comments or questions.

89/24 **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 13 June 2024.**

The minutes of the meeting which was previously circulated to councillors were noted. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

90/24 **To receive the Parish Clerk's Report**

The Clerk's report (including the outline of updates on actions taken since the last meeting) had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting, and its content noted. There were no questions.

The Chairman handed the meeting to Cllr P Brown, Deputy Chairman of Planning and Development Control Committee

91/24 **To consider and agree a response to planning applications received.**

a. P0619/24/FUL | Erection of two-storey side extension, extension above existing single-storey kitchen, detached garage/workshop and alterations to existing dwelling. | The Skripett Park Hill Road The Woolastons Woolaston Gloucestershire GL15 6PT (fdean.gov.uk)

It was resolved to support the above application with the following caveat: Gloucestershire County Highways have requested that the proposed garage be set back at least 6m from the edge of the carriageway and requested a revised plan. It is noted that the applicants have submitted a revised proposal. If Highways are content with the proposed, the parish council have no objections. **Action: Clerk**

b. P0752/24/FUL | Erection of single-storey side/rear extension. | 9 Ash Way Woolaston Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6QA (fdean.gov.uk)

It was resolved to support the above application with the following caveat: There is concern that buildings may be built over the sewer or water main – if there is confirmation that this will not be taking place, the parish council have no objections. **Action: Clerk**

c. P0805/24/PIP | Permission in principle for the erection of 2 dwellings | Rose Cottage Severn View Road Woolaston Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6NP (fdean.gov.uk)

This was a late notification and the parish council agreed to consider the application at this meeting as the response date is 23 Jul. There is a discrepancy as to whether all of the land in question is owned by the applicants. The parish council has concerns about the access and note that Gloucestershire County Highways have queried the area covered by footpath FWO 104. They require evidence that the footpath can be included in the area to be used for access. There are also a couple of anomalies with relation to siting of the entrances - and is therefore confusing.

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There are TPOs on some of the trees - there is insufficient information on the impact of the trees and root systems
There are identified issues with bats and nesting birds with no information to demonstrate that they will not be affected.
The council is not currently able to support this Permission in Principle (PIP) application as there is insufficient information to make an informed decision.
The parish council also noted that with the short notice of this PIP application, and its short turnaround time, there is insufficient time to notify neighbours/residents of its inclusion at the parish council meeting and therefore not given the opportunity to comment. **Action: Clerk**

92/24 **To note Planning Decisions taken by FODDC in June 2024**

a. P0387/24/FUL | Erection of summer house ancillary to the main dwelling | Silverwood House Main Road Woolaston Gloucestershire GL15 6PJ (fdean.gov.uk)- refused 13.6.24

b. P1525/23/FUL | Erection of 2no. three bedroom dwellings with associated parking, landscaping, cycle storage and work. | Netherend Inn Netherend Woolaston Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6NN (fdean.gov.uk) – consent 14.6.24

c. P1330/23/FUL | Change of use of former Methodist Church into a single residential dwelling. Erection of first floor extension, demolition and erection of replacement single storey rear extension and erection of garage and associated landscaping works. | Woolaston Methodist Church Woolaston Common Woolaston Gloucestershire GL15 6NZ (fdean.gov.uk)- consent 7.6.24

The council noted the above planning decisions.

93/24 **To note/discuss Planning Correspondence/Other issues**

a. Draft Local Plan 2021 -2041 Consultation period 8 Jul – 13 Aug 24. There are drop in sessions which residents are encouraged to attend to obtain further information. Residents are also encouraged to get involved and submit comments by either weblink, email or face to face. The Chairman asked councillors to attend one of the drop in session and suggested councillors get together after the drop in session to discuss a response, to include details of all proposed planning in the parish. Full details are on the parish council website and will be added to Facebook.
Action: Clerk

b. To note FODDC Planning Committee decision: P1715/22/OUT | Outline application for the erection of No. 11 dwellings with improvements to existing vehicular access, provision of access way and associated parking, landscaping and works. (All matters reserved) | Alans Cottage Netherend Woolaston Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6NN (fdean.gov.uk)
There was no further information or update on the FODDC planning portal, so this item was deferred to the next meeting.

Cllr Brown handed the meeting back to the Parish Council Chairman

94/24 **To consider the following matters:**

a. Policing Issues.
i. The council noted that the crime statistics can be accessed by the following link (*Lydney | Police.uk (www.police.uk).* Council noted that DCllr J Lane has reported incidents evidence of drug use in one of the wooden dugouts over on Woolaston football pitch. The PCSO Gazzard responded – they that the name of the of the people using drugs and will be spoken to in the coming weeks. He said that he would also patrol the area as a deterrent, and search individuals if required.

b. Highways and Footpaths Issues – Actions of reported defects/new defects.
i. A resident reported overgrown vegetation from the Swan House Carpark towards the Restricted Byway at Cone Valley and the footpath from Cone Valley to the playing field and asked whose responsibility it is. The clerk will investigate. **Action: Clerk**
ii. A resident asked requested an update at the on the status of the missing road/hamlet sign at Brookend. The website showed that action was completed, however he has not received an outcome. CCllr McFarling agreed to discuss with N Choat of Gloucestershire County Council Highways and take this further.

c. Maintenance. The council received reports of the grass not being collected and removed from the playing field which caused excessive gras to be taken into the hall during the Carnival and Motor Show. On more than one

occasion, the area around the electrical box has not been cut. The clerk has contacted Monmouthshire County Council.

POST MEETING MINUTE: The clerk has been informed that the mower had broken down, therefore the grass was cut by hand.

d. Churchyard and Cemetery.
   i. P Blatchly will carry out the work to remedy the gravestones next month.
   ii. The Chairman and Vice Chairman checked the footpath in the churchyard (following a report that ait footpath had been damaged as a result of the tree felling. There were no issues.

e. Review of Governance Documents – Financial Regulations.
Councillors reviewed the draft regulations and accompanying notes. Council resolved to approve and adopt the policy as drafted. **Action: Clerk**

95/24 **Financial Matters**
Financial documents had been circulated to councillors before the meeting.
a. Council resolved to approve the Financial Report as at 30 Jun 24. The bank reconciliation was not signed as it contained anomalies. The clerk will meet with the Vice Chairman to approve and sign at a later date.
b. Council resolved to approve the payment of accounts for Jul 24 and noted receipts and payments since the last meeting.
c. Council resolved to note the Budget Monitoring Statement for quarter ending 30 June 2024.
d. Council resolved to approve virement of funds (£7,275) from the Reserves (Account to the Current account to meet payments of £2,375 (tree removal), £4,900 towards the repair of gravestones.
e. Council noted that the AGAR had been forwarded to the external auditor PKF Littlejohn.

96/24 **Correspondence**
The list of correspondence circulated to councillors before the meeting was noted. There were no further comments or questions. The following items were highlighted for discussion / resolution.
a. Email from resident to Environmental Health (cc PC) regarding burning of commercial waste. The council noted the email and will await comments from Environmental health.

b. Email from WMH Committee – requesting confirmation of hall bookings for Harvest Festival and VE Day 2025.
The Harvest Festival booking is no longer required. The VE day picnic is booked for 10 May, the clerk will contact the committee to check whether 8 May 2025 is a bank holiday. A meeting will be held in Sep 24 to start planning.

97/24 **To Consider Other Matters**
a. Rising Sun Public House– consideration to be an Asset of Community Value (ACV). Following discussion, it was resolved that the parish council would not make an application for the Rising Sun Public House to be considered as an ACV. If there is no change of use, then there would not be an issue.

98/24 **To note Risk Register and consider changes and/or amendments.**
The Risk assessment was amended following the previous meeting. There are no further changes to be noted following this meeting.

99/24 **To receive councillors' local reports and note matters for the agenda for the next meeting.**
a. FODDC Planning Committee decision for Alan's Cottage.

100/24 **Dates of Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 8pm on Thursday 12 September 2024.
The Chairman closed the meeting at 2105.

Signed: …….. Date: …….

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