**MINUTES of the WONSTON PARISH ASSEMBLY**

**Held at the VICTORIA HALL, SUTTON SCOTNEY**

**At 7.30pm on Thursday 10th May 2018**

**PRESENT**

Parish Councillors: Lucy Dowson (Chairman), Clive Cook, Judith Polak, Pauline Maunder.

Residents: Jackie Qualmann, Phil Dowson, Neil Soutar, Josie Palmer, John Polak, Alistair Black, Chris, George Brewer, Stephen Godfrey, J Taylor and approximately 11 others.

Special Guests : Jackie Porter of The Watercress Way charity.

Apologies: WCCllr Caroline Horrill

Minutes Jocelyn Jenkins (PC Clerk).

**1 CHAIRMAN** Lucy Dowson, as Chairman of the Parish Council, formally opened the meeting by welcoming residents and visitors.

In a brief report the Chairman outlined the Parish Council’s activities during the past year. Grants, for the benefit of residents, have been made to the following groups and organisations:

Gratton Trust, Victoria Hall, Holy Trinity Wonston and Stoke Charity with Hunton Churches, The Watercress Way, Scots Tots, Bullington Lunch Club, Stoke Charity Neighbourhood Watch, Citizens Advice, Victim Support, Olive Branch Counselling Service and the Poppy Appeal.

The Parish Council have supported the construction of affordable housing for locals at Buddlesgate and in the development at Old Station Yard. Further suitable sites for affordable housing continue to be sought in the Parish.

Infrastructure money received from the development at Old Station Yard is being used for a crossing point at the Texaco garage and the Parish Council have asked Winchester City Council to review the signage on the approaches to the crossing.

The two play areas operated by the Parish Council are regularly inspected and repairs are carried out as required. The leak from the soakaway at Pigeon House Yard is now close to being resolved and it is likely that the soakaway will be moved to a larger site.

The War Memorial now has listed status and the Chairman thanked Neil Soutar for voluntarily carrying out checks and routine maintenance at the War Memorial.

Two new parish noticeboards have been installed this year, the seat around the tree at Stoke Charity has been repaired and some new benches are to be placed in the Parish. The allotments are all now in use and a waiting list is operating.

The Parish Emergency Plan has been updated but a ‘Team Leader’ is still sought and any interested parties are asked to contact the Clerk. There are also vacancies for up to three further parish councillors and some additional litter pickers more, information can be obtained from the Clerk or by attending a meeting. The Clerk can be contacted via [wonstonpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wonstonpc@hotmail.co.uk)

The Chairman concluded her report by thanking the Parish Councillors, City Councillors, Hampshire County Councillor and the Clerk.

**2 MINUTES** The Minutes of the Parish Assembly of 12th May 2017 were **agreed** and signed.

**3 PARISH REPORTS** Parish Reports were made available again this year as a written handout for attendees at the Parish Assembly and will also be post*e*d on the village website.

**4 PRESENTATION – THE WATERCRESS WAY** Jackie Porter and Clive Cook, representing The Watercress Way, explained that the registered charity was set up in 2016 to create a 26 mile circular trail along old railway lines and droves. Many sections are accessible to cyclists and horse riders.

An interesting short film was shown which can be viewed at [www.thewatercressway.org.uk](http://www.thewatercressway.org.uk)

Anyone interested in contacting the Trustees, volunteering or donating to the charity can contact: [info@thewatercressway.org.uk](mailto:info@thewatercressway.org.uk)

The Chairman thanked Jackie and Clive for the presentation.

Refreshments and informal conversation followed and the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

1. Chairman’s signature at WPC meeting …….……………………………. Date ……………………
2. Chairman’s signature at 2019 Parish Assembly ………………………………. Date …………………..