

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 24 April 2017 in Westbury Parish Hall.

PRESENT: Councillors - P Brooke
P Ensor
C Evers – Chairman
J Henry
D Landon
S Phelps – Vice-Chairman
P Radley
M Townsend
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Members of the Public: 6 (some partial attendance)

1 APOLOGIES: Councillor Hill, County Councillor Robinson and District Councillor Boyle

2 MINUTES OF MEETING: Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20 March 2017 were agreed and signed.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Councillor Phelps declared he was a Governor of Westbury School and a Church Warden of Westbury-on-Severn Church.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT: Received

Two members of the public raised their concerns about what they thought would be the loss of the playing field at Westbury Church of England Primary School and why couldn't some land somewhere else be purchased by the parish council if it intended to proceed with the proposed burial ground extension. Councillors answered several points that the parishioners had raised, and explained about land WoSPC owns adjacent to the school and the purpose for which it was acquired, and the proposals for ensuring that a large area of that land would be still be retained available for leasing as the school's playing field. The Chairman drew attention that burial ground extension progress was to be a later agenda item.

5 PLANNING MATTERS

a) Applications:

P0478/17/OUT Land Between The Lawns and The Hay Barn, Chaxhill: Outline application for the erection of two detached dwellings with associated garages

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council understands that this application has been requested to go to the Planning Committee considering some new information from the Conservation Officer. Until this information has been clarified the Parish Council does not feel able to comment on this application and looks forward to hearing from you with clarification.

P0225/17/FUL Yew Tree Farm, Upper Rodley Road, Rodley: Erection of a two-storey side extension, single storey rear extension and porch to front elevation (demolition of existing single storey rear extension). Erection of a detached car port.

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council has **no objections** to this application

P0011/17/DISCON Land Adjacent Bays Court Bungalow, Goose Lane, Bollow: Discharge of condition 03 (surface water drainage) of P1381/16/FUL

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council has **no objections** to this application

P0501/17/FUL The Nook, New Road, Popes Hill, Newnham: Erection of a two-storey side extension and single storey front extension (Revised scheme)

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council has **no objections** to this application

P0539/17/FUL Five Gables, Chaxhill: Removal of condition C (agricultural occupancy) of G487/L

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council **supports** this application

P0032/17/DISCON Leycott Farm, Lower Ley Lane, Minsterworth: Discharge of conditions 05 (drainage), 07 (foul & surface water drainage) & 10 (low carbon energy) of P1272/14/FUL

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council has **no objections** to this application

b) Decisions:

P0135/17/FUL Bobbles Cottage, Ampney Lane, NWG: Two storey and single storey extension to side of property – **Granted**

P1233/16/FUL Applegarth, Chaxhill: Erection of a replacement dwelling and double garage. Change of use of land to residential curtilage, creation of new vehicular access and driveway including improvements to boundary wall - **Granted**

6 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) Internal Audit Councillor Ensor agreed to carry out the internal audit.

b) Accounts for payment and receipts:

Severn Signs Ltd: 2 Diabond signs

For The Strand as per

quotation	36.00		
	<u>VAT 7.20</u>	43.20	Cheque No: 001737

GAPTC – Annual Membership Renewal due

1 April 2017		469.47	Cheque No: 001738
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Complete Landscape Gardeners:

Carry out the first and second cuts as per contract

During March	824.00		
During April	<u>824.00</u>	1648.00	Cheque No: 001739

Mrs F J Wallbank:

Salary – 1- 30 April '17	698.31		
Less NIC	2.20	696.11	Cheque No: 001740

Inland Revenue:

NIC FJW	2.20		
NIC PC	<u>2.53</u>		
Refund due to Clerk		4.73	Cheque No: 001741

Accounts for Payment: £2861.51

Receipts

M S Watkins: Burial Fees for the late:

Cela Pitt	135.00		
Susan Webb	135.00	270.00	

Ernest Heal: Additional inscription of a

Tablet of stone for the late Ella Kingzett	30.00		
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Total: £300.00

7 GAPTC/NALC MATTERS: Nothing to report. Clerk circulated draft proposition following last month's meeting. Councillors agreed that the proposition should be submitted to GAPTC as it stood.

8 MATTERS ARISING:

a) Play Area: Councillor Brooke reported that grass was pushing up some of the corners of the surfacing and felt that the grass needed to be pulled. It was agreed to hold a working party one evening before the Annual ROSPA Inspection is carried out which will be towards the end of May. The Councillors were happy to ask Mr Hicks to carry out the annual inspection. Good report received from the GPFA.

b) Highway Matters:

Bus Shelter Elton: Councillor Henry reported that he had not long displayed the notice produced by the Clerk, so it was decided to defer any further decisions until the May meeting. Confirmation received that all the debris from the burnt-out shelter had been removed.

VAS Signs: At last month's meeting CC Robinson had agreed to take the PC's concerns back to Mr Grey and the response received had been circulated to the Councillors for their information. The response stated that the 2-week time scale for moving the signs around the Parish would generally tie in with the battery in the sign needing changing. However, as the PC signs will be solar powered an 8-week time scale would be more appropriate. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond back to Amey to see whether the 2-week time frame can be extended. The Councillors agreed that this matter needed to move forward as time was running out to secure the grant funding from the Commissioner.

St Johns Point: Bad potholes.

Bridge Frewins Lane when travelling to St Johns Point: One side of the bridge has been demolished.

Footway from Wintles Hill: Complaints have been received about the condition of the surface of the footway down into Westbury. Clerk to report.

Rodley Road half way up the hill beyond Hayden Farm: A tow hitch from a trailer has gouged a channel along the road when it detached from the tractor pulling the trailer. Clerk to report.

A48 by the turning to Hunthill: There have been quite a few accidents involving vehicles waiting to turn right towards Hunthill. Cllr Brooke felt there is room there to create a right filter lane. Clerk to report.

Right turn to Stantway on Wintles Hill: Experience is that vehicles are very vulnerable when waiting to make a right turn into Stantway Lane by the bus shelter. To reduce risk, Councillors felt that the overtaking lane should stop before reaching the Stantway right turn.

A48 Meeting Wednesday 17 May. Councillor Ensor to raise the above two matters at the meeting. Councillor Phelps said he hoped to attend as well.

Railway Bridge at Grange Court: The road is sinking. There is also some Japanese Knotweed in the verge.

A48 near and adjacent to Chaxhill: There is a 2metre length of road surface just past the Tynnings towards Chaxhill that has sunk quite badly. It has been white lined for attention but the situation is rapidly worsening. By Chaxill Smokery previous road patching is again markedly deteriorating. Clerk to report.

c) Footpaths: Councillor Townsend reported as follows:

- Stile by the weighbridge has been repaired
- Has spoken with Mr Wheeler who informed him that when he took over the role as Footpath's Officer there were 400 matters reported and he has been able to reduce this to 200.
- Is due to meet up with the contractor in Ley Park as he is planning to hold some guided walks in May and some items in Ley Park require attention.
- Email from Mr Beale had been circulated to all Councillors. It was agreed to forward his email on for the attention of Mr Wheeler and Mr John Lane. He is also very disappointed how long it is taking to get footpath matters attended to and finds it frustrating.

Councillors were extremely grateful to Councillor Townsend for his continued efforts with his work on footpath matters and very grateful to Mr Beale for walking the footpaths and reporting any problems.

d) Burial Ground – Consecration of additional land: The Chairman reported that the PC had received a last-minute email from Hayley Fearnside containing proposals which the PC needs more time to consider. The Chairman went through the PC's proposals for the parishioners who had attended the

meeting. The PC's original proposal submitted to GCC was to commandeer half of the land that the school currently use for a playing field – the PC could not utilise the bottom portion because the water table is too high to be suitable for burials. The carpark arrangements would remain as at present.

The PC owns the field below the burial ground and for many years has been rented for summer grazing. The Tenant has indicated that he would be willing to release his tenancy for the land if it was to be rented for use by the school as a playing field. This would provide Westbury School with a larger playing field than is at present leased for their use by the PC. The PC would then take over the totality of the current playing field in one go. There is already a route for machinery to access the field for cutting, but the intention is that the children's access to the field would be via a fenced footpath down the side nearest the houses. The footpath and the new playing field area would both come within the boundary envelope of the school.

All the land was originally acquired by the PC for the use as a burial ground, however GCC approached the PC to ask if they could rent some of the land until it was needed to extend the burial ground. The Headmaster and GCC have been aware for several years now that the PC would have to look at extending the burial ground. The PC has no direct involvement with the happenings at the school and deal with GCC re the leasing arrangements. GCC then negotiate with the school. However, there have been quite a few meetings with the Head to ensure that the school was fully aware of the situation together with discussions that have involved the PC with the Governing Body Chairman, the Headmaster and GCC.

The PC will take on board everyone's views but must do everything possible to enable parishioners, should, they wish, to be buried in the parish and currently, if the PC does not do something soon, that will become a non-option. The Councillors endorsed the Chairman's statement, and agreed that making additional burial space was an urgent matter that had to be resolved.

e) The Strand: Councillor Henry has collected the sign. Clerk to liaise with Councillor Brooke re sending a letter to the adjacent residents and once this has been done the sign can be erected.

Any other Matters:

9 CORRESPONDENCE: None

10 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

Electoral Review: Put on the agenda for the May meeting.

Request for Street light by the Bus Shelter at Stantway: The Clerk reported that she had received a request from a parishioner for a street light by the bus shelter for the "green" area in front of the houses to be lit as it is quite dark. The Councillors noted the request.

Walmore Hill Telephone Box: Councillor Townsend is trying to contact to see whether they are in a position to take on the work to this telephone box.

Request for Headstone and Vase: A request had been received for a vase 18" x 18" – whilst the Councillors felt this was quite large there are currently no restrictions on the size of vases for the Burial Ground. In this case, the Councillors granted permission for the vase to be fixed to the grave.

Closed Churchyard Wall: This needs some attention. Needs to be inspected.

Closed Churchyard: Councillor Phelps reported that he had met with the Chairman along with representatives from the Dean Meadows Group with the objection of aiding the PCC with grant funding for the spire project by adopting a Caring for Gods Acre grounds management style. The representatives confirmed that there were several species of wild flowers that need to be preserved. The next step is to draw up a management plan along with specialists from the Meadows Group and submit it to English Heritage. There will then have to be an amendment to the cutting schedule in the Churchyard. Historic England are very keen to promote Westbury Churchyard and the spire as a national monument.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, 15 May 2017 commencing at 6.30pm for the Annual Parish Meeting which will be followed by the Annual Council Meeting.

The meeting was closed to the public to consider a matter "off camera".

The meeting finished at 9.15pm