

## WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 20 February 2017 in Westbury Parish Hall.

**PRESENT:** Councillors - P Brooke  
P Ensor  
C Evers – Chairman  
J Henry  
D Landon  
S Phelps – Vice-Chairman  
M Townsend  
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk  
District Councillor R Boyles (partial attendance)

Members of the Public: 8 (partial attendance)

**1 APOLOGIES:** Councillors Hill and Radley and County Councillor Robinson

**2 MINUTES OF MEETING:** Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16 January 2017 were agreed and signed.

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

### **4 PUBLIC COMMENT: Received**

The Chairman said he wanted to take a few moments to update the parishioners present about the situation regarding the extension of the Burial Ground and reported as follows:

The expansion of the burial ground will obviously reduce the size of Westbury School's present playing field. We understand that some parents are sorry to see this happen but the Parish Council really has little choice in the matter. He explained that the present burial ground has very little space left because the water table is so high in the lower-lying part that it is unsuitable for burials. Clearly people are going to continue to want to be buried in their home village/parish and the land which is currently the school playing field, which is owned by the Parish Council, has long been destined eventually for this purpose. Parish councillors have had meetings with the Headmaster, GCC staff, and members of the school's Governing Body, and a lot of time and effort has been put into trying to find a way of ensuring that enough burial spaces are provided, while at the same time ensuring that the children still have a suitable playing field and nature conservation/garden area readily accessible to them within the school boundary. Councillors, particularly Cllr Pat Brooke, have wrestled with this problem and the proposed plan seems to provide both the living and the dead with what they need. However, this will involve the Parish Council, and therefore local council tax payers, in extra fencing costs, a new gated entrance, legal fees and planning costs, and Chairman explained that ultimately these costs would be considerably greater if the expansion of burial ground was done in small phases. It is hoped that the extra land will give about another 50 years of burials based upon recent uptake and the parish's present population, but apparently there is an increasing serious shortage of burial spaces in the Forest area. So, although our burial charges are much higher for those from outside the parish, this may not deter an increase in demand for burials at Westbury of bodies from outside the parish. Asked if it might be possible for Westbury School to arrange leasing of a section of the Parish Council owned land to the south of the present playing field area, the Chairman did not rule out that possibility.

### **5 PLANNING MATTERS**

#### **a) Applications:**

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

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council **objects** to this application for the following reasons:

- 1 Proposed extension is disproportionate to the surrounding and adjoining cottage

- 2 Proposal does not conform with the Forest of Dean District Council Design Guidance
- 3 Contravention to the Right of Light due to the height and disproportionality of the proposed development
- 4 Biodiversity Check List is incorrect in relation to the 100 + year oak trees which are within 200 metres of the proposed extension
- 5 There are some inconsistencies on the submitted plans

**b) Decisions:**

**P0088/16/DISCON** Wyncolls Farm, Lumbars Lane, Elton: Discharged condition (06) drainage of P1015/15/FUL - **Granted**

**P1590/16/FUL** Underleaf, Northwood Green: Erection of a new dwelling and ancillary works – **Granted**

**P1718/16/FUL** The Nook, New Road, Popes Hill, Newnham: Erection of a two-storey front extension **Refused**

**P0019/17/FUL** The Paddock, Ampney Lane, Northwood Green: Erection of a single storey rear extension. Demolition of conservatory and single storey extension - **Granted**

**c) Site Inspections: None.**

**Appeals: Land Near, Cowles Farm, Elton Road, Elton:** Planning Inspectorate had reported dismissing the appeal.

**6 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

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

**b) Accounts for payment and receipts:**

Mrs F J Wallbank:

Salary – 1- 28 February '17	698.31		
Less NIC	2.78	695.53	Cheque No: 001727

Inland Revenue:

NIC FJW	2.78		
NIC PC	2.64	5.42	Cheque No: 001728

**Accounts for Payment** **£700.95**

**Receipts**

M S Watkins:

Burial fees in connection with the late David Harvey	135.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£135.00</b>

**7 GAPTC/NALC MATTERS:** Nothing specific to report.

**8 MATTERS ARISING:**

**a) Play Area:** Councillor Landon reported that the play area surface would benefit from a good rake over go get rid of all the old leaves and moss.

**b) Highway Matters:**

**Highways Spreadsheet:** Had been circulated to Councillors for them to update.

**Ditches Rodley Road:** Councillor Landon has informed the PHMC that it is their responsibility to clear the ditch outside the Hall. One of the members of the Committee wanted to know the legislation that this came under. The Chairman said he understood it to be a presumption in law. Clerk to write to Mr Grey.

**VASS Signs:** Mr Grey is in agreement for the PC to attach the VASS signs to exiting street furniture.

**Loose Manhole Cover in Westbury Village:** This has been done

**The Village:** The Chairman reported on a meeting that Cllr Phelps and he had attended with Mr Grey and other representatives from GCC and Amey earlier in the month. The County Council has realised that there is a speeding problem in the Village. The Chairman took the Councillors through plans by GCC to remove some white lines, reduce chevron numbers, install timber bollards, *etc*, all aimed at slowing A48 traffic speeds when entering and within the village. This work, subject to available resource is planned to be carried out in the next financial year.

**Provision of Pedestrian Crossing:** At the same meeting the position of a possible pedestrian had been

discussed. GCC feel the best place would be on the west side of the entrance to Westbury Court Gardens. The next step would be to carry out a survey which the Parish Council would have to pay for at a cost of £800. Before taking the matter any further, it was agreed to see how the proposed alterations to the lines, *etc*, in the Village have an impact on the speed of the traffic.

*District Councillor Boyles entered and gave the following report:*

- FODDC proposed Budget increase of 2% going to full Council on Wednesday 22.2.17
- FODDC website has been changed and is receiving good feedback
- Lydney train station carpark has been doubled in size
- Planning Inspectorate had dismissed the appeal at Cowles Elm Farm
- Cinderford Leisure Centre – plans to incorporate the gym in with the swimming pool. FODDC have set aside £120,000 with a repayment plan over 4 years
- Plans to bring back into use empty properties where Council Tax is not being paid as no one is claiming ownership.

*District Councillor Boyles left*

**c) Footpaths:** Councillor Townsend reported as follows:

- Stile by the weighbridge bus stop on the A48 not safe, and has been reported
- Ley Park - Waymarker signs have been put back on the bridlepath
- £280 grant funding is available from GCC to replace stiles with kissing gates along the river bank. Councillor Henry had spoken with the land owners concerned and they were considering this option.
- Been in touch with the footpaths officer again about the problems with the footpaths.

**d) Burial Ground – Consecration of additional land:** Councillor Brooke reported as follows:

- Been to FODDC and seen the planners for the second time.
- They need exact details re fencing and proposed gates.
- Spoken to Kieron Griffin who says he is happy to do the necessary legal works at an hourly rate of £225 plus VAT and £80 plus VAT to prepare and serve the notices.
- Had been in touch with Hayley Fearnside at GCC about the preparation of new leases, who confirmed she needed to take instructions from the School's Governing Body. Ms Fearnside had asked their Drawing Office to electronically plot the existing demise and calculate the area of land the Parish would like to take back to extend the Burial Ground

A discussion took place regarding suitable gates for the extension. The Chairman said he would pursue the matter.

Clerk to email Mr Griffin to ascertain how many hours he thought would be involved

**e) The Strand:** The Clerk had obtained a quotation from Severn Signs to produce a new sign. One sign would be £25 plus VAT and two signs would be £18 plus VAT each. It was agreed to purchase two signs and keep one as a "spare".

**f) Burial Ground – Septic tank and registration of land:** It was agreed to defer the matter of the septic tank until another meeting. It was agreed to look at the registration of all Parish Council owned land once the extension of the Burial Ground had been finalised.

## **9 CORRESPONDENCE: Any Other Correspondence:**

**FODDC – Electoral Review of the FODDC:** Invitation to PCs to attend a short briefing on the electoral review on 7 March at 7pm at the FODDC offices. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman said they would attend.

**Planting of Tree at Westbury Court Gardens – Wednesday 22 February:** Councillor Townsend said he would attend the morning session at 10.30am along with Councillor Brooke; and Councillor Phelps would attend the afternoon session at 1.30pm

## **10 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:**

**Bus Shelter Elton:** This has been burnt to the ground. Councillor Townsend had taken photographs which had been circulated to Councillors, and the Clerk confirmed that she had reported the matter to the police and was awaiting a crime number. Clerk to contact the Insurance Company. Councillor Henry thought it happened on Thursday evening around 10-11pm and said he would contact Coleford Police

Station.

**Closed Churchyard Path:** This was reported as being very slippery, and that a parishioner had fallen when attending a recent funeral. Councillor Phelps said that he would contact the Stone Masons at Gloucestershire Cathedral to ascertain the procedure they use to remove the algae from their paths.

**Refuse Collection:** It was felt that the refuse collectors could leave parishioner's refuse bins in a more orderly fashion after emptying. Councillor Phelps said he would take this matter up with FODDC.

**11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 20 March 2017 commencing at 7pm

The meeting finished at 9.45pm