

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 16 March 2015 in Westbury Parish Hall.

PRESENT: Councillors - P Ensor
C Evers – Chairman (partial attendance)
J Henry
D Hill
D Landon
S Phelps – Vice Chairman
P Radley
M Townsend
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk
County Councillor B Robinson (partial attendance)

Members of the Public: 0

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Phelps, Vice-Chairman chaired the meeting

1 APOLOGIES: Councillor Brooke District Councillor Edwards. Councillor Evers would be late.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING: Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19 February 2015 were agreed and signed after the addition of Councillor Hill's attendance at the meeting.

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

5 PUBLIC COMMENT: None received

6 PLANNING MATTERS

a) Applications:

P0249/15/FUL Land at Gatwick Close, WOS: Proposed erection of 4 dwellings and associated hard and soft landscaping. Demolition of existing garages

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council objects to this application until the following points have been addressed:

- 1 Detailed information on how the foul sewage will be dealt. Currently on the application form the applicant has ticked the unknown box which is unacceptable.
- 2 The roads serving the site are substandard and unsuitable to cater for the proposed development by reason of their restricted width, poor alignment, lack of footways, lack of passing bays and substandard junctions contrary to national, regional and local policy guidance, District Local Plan Review Policy (R)FT.2 and Gloucestershire Structure Plan Second Review Policies T1 and T2.
- 3 The applicant has stated that they will end each of the tenancies and it will be the responsibility of the individual garage owners to remove the garages themselves thus permitting the development to take place. This is unacceptable.
- 4 Loss of valuable car parking spaces - currently there are 17 spaces and the applicant is proposing to only provide 11 spaces

In principle the Parish Council would like to see additional housing but in a properly considered scheme.

P0290/15/FUL Westbury Court Gardens, Court Gardens, WOS: Proposed ground works to provide 8 parking spaces with associate hard standing.

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council has no objections to this application

Following a site inspection the following comments were sent to the FODDC:

P0227/15/TCA Westbury Court Gardens, WOS: Removal of x 1 wild cherry tree, x 1 medlar tree, x 1 crab apple tree and x 1 black poplar tree, crown reduction of x 1 holm oak tree by 20% and crown reduction of x 1 horse chestnut tree by 20% on its western side at Westbury Court Gardens.

Ref: P0227/15/TCA//DF252

Westbury Court Gardens, Westbury-on-Severn, Gloucestershire GL14 1PA:

Removal of x1 Wild Cherry, x1 Medlar, x1 Crab Apple tree and x1 Black Poplar, crown reduction of x1 Holm Oak tree by 20% and crown reduction of x1 Horse Chestnut tree by 20% on its western side at Westbury Court Gardens.

Following a visit to the Gardens to see the relevant trees Westbury-on-Severn Parish Council has the following observations and recommendations.

Black Poplar: We appreciate the National Trust's concerns over the potential risk to the public walking the footpath adjacent to the affected Black Poplar tree should a branch fall off or the tree topple due to its deteriorating condition. Black Poplars are rare in England and we are dismayed to see any proposal intending to fell one. However, Westbury Court Gardens is fortunate in that it has several examples which have been planted since the water gardens were resurrected and refurbished 50 years ago. On balance, therefore we do not object to this diseased specimen being felled subject to a condition that at the earliest practical opportunity it be replaced with a clean new specimen.

Horse Chestnut: We have no objection to this tree being reduced by 20% on its western side.

Holm Oak: Many hundreds of years old, this tree is one of the key features of the gardens. Over the years various means have been instituted to ensure its current/future well being and prolong its life. We understand that the current proposal is another attempt aimed at that objective. That being so, we have no objection to what is proposed.

Medlar, Crab Apple and Wild Cherry: It has been explained to us that all these trees are healthy, but that they are in the path of the bund that it is planned to construct in an attempt to prevent the Westbury Brook overflowing into the water garden proper, rather than onto the adjacent field(s) to the east. It would however appear that along the relevant length of the Westbury Brook in the vicinity of the relevant trees the proposed bund will only be a relatively low, less than half a metre high, earth mound. We have been led to understand that in the garden's listed setting the Wild Cherry has outgrown its place and is nearing the end of its life; so reluctantly, we do not object to it being felled. However that is not our stance in the case of the Medlar and Crab Apple. For them our preference would be to construct the bund around them and then observe them to see how they fair, and only if in the future they do show signs of failure should any proposal be considered to fell them.

b) Decisions and Appeals: None

c) Site Inspections: P0249/15/FUL Land at Gatwick Close, WOS: Proposed erection of 4 dwellings and associated hard and soft landscaping. Demolition of existing garages – Tuesday, 17 March – Councillor Phelps said he would attend.

7 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

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

b) Accounts for payment and receipts: The Councillors agreed the following payments:

Mrs F J Wallbank:

Salary – 1- 31 March	689.33		
Less tax for March	5.40		
Less NIC	<u>3.16</u>	680.77	Cheque No: 001612

Inland Revenue:

Tax FJW	5.40		
NIC FJW	3.16		
NIC PC	<u>3.63</u>	12.19	Cheque No: 001613

FODDC – Renewal of garden waste

Licence for Burial Ground	28.00		Cheque No: 001614
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GAPTC – Being a Better Councillor Training

Attended by Councillor Henry and Hill on

19.2.15	150.00		Cheque No: 001615
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Northwood Green playing field rent for period 1 October 2014 – 31 March 2015	10.00	Cheque No: 001616
Chairman's Expenses for period 1 October 2014 To 31 March 2015	25.00	Cheque No: 001617
Accounts for Payment	£905.96	

Receipts

Total: £0.00

c) Appointment of Internal Auditor: The Clerk reported that she had received an application for the post of Internal Auditor from Shirley Fowler and her CV and covering letter had been circulated to all the Councillors for their information. It was agreed to appoint Shirley Fowler to carry out the Internal Audit for the current financial year.

8 GAPTC/NALC MATTERS: Councillor Evers not present at this point of the meeting.

9 MATTERS ARISING:

a) Play Area: Wooden bench requires attention – end of one of the planks has been chopped. Councillor Radley agreed to sand it.

Northwood Green Playing Field: There are some broken branches to the trees by the side of the road. It was agreed that Councillor Townsend would liaise with NWG Social Committee and if there were no problems he would cut off the broken branches.

b) Highway Matters:

Pedestrian Crossing Westbury Village: Councillor Ensor said that she had asked for this to put on the agenda for the next A48 meeting in May. Councillor Hill said she had spoken to quite a number of parents at the school and 50% were in favour and 50% were not. The main concern would be where the pedestrian crossing would be sited – some parents felt it would be better outside the school and some felt it would be better outside Sterrys. Some parents thought that even if there was a pedestrian crossing they would not feel happy using it to cross the road.

When the Clerk raised this with Mr Watkins he was not aware that this had been raised before but agreed to look at the site and report back.

Mud on the road: Complaints about the mud on the road around Rodley. It would appear that roads are now too small for the size of the large tractors and it is the responsibility of the farmers to clear the roads of mud

30mph sign in Ampney Lane: Mr Watkins had passed this matter onto Amey to inspect the site and arrange for the necessary repairs to be carried out.

Bridge over Brook in Flaxley to be repaired in July. Councillor Ensor ask the Clerk to thank Gloucestershire Highways for scheduling these works.

Road in bad state of disrepair: in Upper Ley on the other side of Upper Leyfold Farm on the Huntley Road. Clerk to report to Gloucestershire Highways.

Turning into Stantway Lane from Wintles Hill: Mr Watkins understand the residents' concerns and has agreed to have a look to see what additional markings may be provided however his initial reaction would be that the markings and signs currently in place are the only ones that would be permitted and are consistent with other similar right turn junctions along the A48.

Flooding Rodley: This is still an ongoing problem but not quite as bad as there had been little rainfall. The problem of the grass verges being eroded away by wide farm machinery and lorries was discussed.

Bollards around Preaching Cross Westbury Village: Some of the cast iron bollards are in a state of disarray. Clerk to report to Brian Watkins. Also there is an advertising hoarding from the pub attached to a bollard that needs removing.

Heavy Lorries crossing the Railway in Church Lane Simon Brown, Managing Director of Severn Valley Woodworks had suggested that a sign showing the weight limit at the bottom of the lane or an additional sign, should say 'No Access to Severn Valley Woodworks' . Clerk to pass onto Gloucestershire Highways.

Blocked Ditch by Oaklands, Northwood Green: Clerk to report

c) Footpaths: Councillor Townsend reported:

- Met with the agent from Ley Park and the contractor to clear the fallen trees. A digger had been brought in and they have laid a drain pipe to help with the drainage over a footpath and cleared and levelled EWS/6/4.
- Mr and Mrs Humphries had been unable to walk any footpaths recently due to illness.
- Spoken to Peter Maunder regarding Chaxhill/Adsett and he has agreed for his contractor to do some clearance work and to repair the stiles etc.
- Mr D'ambrogio had reported that the way marker post had been taken down by BT on the corner of Rodley Road and the A48, EWS/118/1, leading to the National Trust land. Peter Maunder has been informed and will arrange for it to be put back up again.

d) Emergency Planning: Nothing to report as Councillor Brooke not present.

e) The Strand: Councillor Radley reported that he had spoken with Mr Gibson who had removed his vehicle. The Clerk confirmed that she had written to Mr Larkham and asked him to remove the crane too but to date this was still in position.

f) Superfast Broadband: Nothing to report as Councillor Brooke not present.

g) Closed Churchyard – Irish Yew Tree: Councillors Phelps and Evers met with Steve Taylor and the Landlord of the Red Lion. Everyone was in full agreement that something needs to be done to the tree on the corner by The Red Lion. It may be that the PCC will be willing to contribute towards the cost of the works required. After the meeting the Chairman and Councillor Phelps had a walk around the Churchyard and agreed that the yew tree by the kissing gate needs attention along with the Cedar Tree. The Clerk had asked Ilex Gardening Services to speak with the Chairman re quoting for the required works and Councillors Phelps and Landon have names of tree surgeons that they would recommend.

10 CORRESPONDENCE:

WOSPHall: Letter of thanks re donation – Clerk read out the letter from the PHMC.

Any Other Correspondence:

Bus Survey – Councillor Landon said that this was very complicated.

Councillor Evers entered

GAPTC report:

- Had attended a GAPTC meeting where the new Chief Officer gave a comprehensive report.
- Local Council Award Scheme – the idea is to raise the standing of Town and Parish Councils in the “eyes” in Westminster and to give NALC additional support.
- GAPTC AGM will be held on Saturday 18 July – David Drew will be the guest speaker and in the afternoon there will be 4 workshops.
- There will be one more meeting in June with the first County Meeting in September 2015. New nominations will take place after the elections.

Councillor Brian Robinson entered

He reported as follows:

- Report distributed to all Councillors
- Not received the spreadsheet from Brian Watkins in respect of the Highways issues for Westbury.
- Re meeting with Brian Watkins, Councillors and himself he would come back to Clerk with some dates that he and Brian Watkins could make.
- Agreed to look into how much money was left for Westbury Parish out of the County Councillors budget for last year and this year. The Chairman said that he was unaware that any money had been spent.

Councillors were pleased to see that Hunthill was being resurfaced.

11 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION: None

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, 20 April 2015 commencing at 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.48 pm