

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 16 February 2015 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
County Councillor B Robinson (partial attendance)

Members of the Public: 4 (some partial attendance)

1 APOLOGIES: District Councillor Edwards.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING: Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19 January 2015 were agreed and signed.

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

5 PUBLIC COMMENT: None received

6 PLANNING MATTERS

a) Applications:

P1710/14/FUL Bell House, Lumbars Lane, Newnham: Change of use of domestic pool to be used as a business & change of use of agricultural land to a car park – Application withdrawn

P1891/14/FUL Westbury Cottage, The Village, WOS: Proposed first floor extension:

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

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

P0011/15/DISCON Severn and Wye Smokery Ltd, Chaxhill, Westbury-on-Severn: Discharge of conditions (03) materials and (12) low carbon energy scheme relating to P1416/14/FUL.

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

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

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.

It was agreed to make a site visit on Saturday, 21 February at 10am.

b) Decisions:

Appeals: None

c) Site Inspections: None

Any Other Planning Matters:

Severn and Wye Smokery: The Chairman and Vice-Chairman met with Mr Martin Hillier to discuss the Parish Council's concerns re the new access and apparent ambiguities over the intended treated effluent discharge arrangements. Mr Hillier said he would look into these matters further.

Mrs Hogben's field: The Chairman reported that an email had been sent to Suzanne King-Davies at the EA seeking her assistance in trying to establish what the foul smelling water logged area of ground in Mrs Hogben's field was. The Chairman said he had been advised that the only pipe known to be in her field was a discharge link from the A48 kerbside drainage in the Chaxhill area away towards the River Severn, so he had advised that she contacted Gloucester Highways. Mrs Hogben has now excavated the

relevant area in her field to expose what is thought to be the pipe. It is breached and she has taken samples of both the liquid and solids present within the breached portion of the pipe. The nature of these does not appear to align with that normally expected to be present in a pipe that should simply be carrying kerbside collected surface water and a limited amount of solids in the form of biodegraded vegetation and “track dirt”. The debris findings appear to tie in with those of Amey (on behalf of Gloucestershire Highways) when they attempted to jet clean their system. FODDC are also investigating this matter.

7 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) Internal Audit – Councillor Radley 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- 28 February 689.33

Less tax for February 5.40

Less NIC - 3.16

No payment will need to be paid for sometime

To Inland Revenue as Clerk has overpaid

Tax over several years to the sum of £62.24

Therefore the Parish Council NI

Contributions will be paid to Clerk until

The credit has been used up.

Plus PC NI payment 3.63 692.96 Cheque No: 001610

GPFA – Membership renewal due February 2015 50.00 Cheque No: 001611

Accounts for Payment **£742.96**

Receipts

Total: £0.00

d) Appointment of Internal Auditor: The Clerk reported that to date no applications had been received for the post of Internal Auditor. It was agreed that if there was no response from anyone, the Parish Council would appoint via GAPTC’s new internal auditors scheme.

8 GAPTC/NALC MATTERS: Councillor Evers reported that Councils were entering the “purdah period” on the run up to the May elections and he had been asked to remind councillors that nothing should be raised of a party political or politically contentious nature after the 23 March. The new Chief Executive would like to meet with all Parish Councils in due course.

9 MATTERS ARISING:

a) Play Area: Nothing to report

b) Highway Matters:

GCC Councillor Robinson was involved as relevant to the discussion.

Pedestrian Crossing Westbury Village: The Clerk had circulated Sue Debois’ email requesting a pedestrian crossing in the Village as many villagers complain that they cannot safely cross the road. Ms Debois had noted that Blakeney and Newnham both have a zebra crossing, and that many Newnham residents use the Stagecoach bus to get to Westbury surgery, dentists, school, post office, church and care home. Councillor Hill confirmed that it was a major worry at school times getting the children across the road. It was agreed that this matter would be raised at the next A48 meeting. Also Councillor Hill said that she would be happy to get a petition supported by parents at the school and the Summer Show would be a good place to get a petition signed. Clerk to write to Gloucestershire Highways (Mr Brian Watkins).

Flaxley Road Flooding: Work is on-going in Flaxley Lane 400 yards from the main road. Objective is to raise road to change the camber to alleviate the hanging water.

Resurfacing of road through Northwood Green: Scheduled for the near future with works planned for Church Lane as it is in such bad condition. Councillors were in full agreement that it would not be a

good idea for the road to be resurfaced and then for BT to come along and dig it up to put in the high-speed fibre optic.

Sign in Church Lane is definitely in the wrong place to stop large vehicles going along and getting stuck. Better signage is required with the weight restriction.

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. Councillor Brooke suggested that the Parish Council should write a code of conduct and agreed to draft something.

30mph sign in Ampney Lane completely broken needs replacing.

Bridge over Brook in Flaxley still not repaired.

Turning into Stantway Lane from Wintles Hill: Complaint received re how dangerous this manoeuvre is. Clerk to write to Mr Brian Watkins requesting a right turning arrow.

Flooding Rodley: The Clerk had made a formal complaint regarding the lack of action taken by Gloucestershire Highways regarding the flooding situation around the Rodley area. A comprehensive reply has been received by Mr Brian Watkins pointing out that several visits had been made to Boxbush Farm and Cowley Farm with work involved in cleaning the gullies at both locations plus the cleaning out of the grips by the pond below Cowley Farm. The visit on the 9 February to clear the drainage pipe revealed that the cause of the restriction was tree roots that had severely reduced the capacity of the pipe. These roots were removed and the pipe was now discharging at close to its optimum. The contractor also carried out a CCTV survey of the pipe to enable the condition of the pipe to be assessed in detail and he would review the results as to see if further works may or may not be necessary.

Cllr Robinson explained that during December and early January there were some issues with the contractor revisiting the Cowley Farm site rather than the Boxbush site, which he apologises for.

He confirmed that the gullies in the vicinity of Gatwick House, Boxbush Farm and Cowley Farm have been cleaned and tested. With regards to the ditches, although GCC will assist wherever it can, the clearance of ditches generally comes under the responsibility of the adjacent landowners. The Manager of Gatwick House has been contacted and made aware of the debris in the ditch and the surrounding overgrowth adjacent to their property. GCC has also put together some proposals for new gullies below Gatwick House to facilitate the drainage and minimise the potential for surface water flooding at this low point in the highway.

Regarding the water seeping up through the carriageway and the verge at the T junction at Gatwick House, Severn Trent have been involved in the investigation work and have stated that it is not a mains water leak. GCC had undertaken some trial holes to locate and intercept the source of water, unfortunately this has proven to be ineffective in stopping the water seeping through the carriageway. The rate of flow has not subsided and given that it has been a relatively dry period this would indicate that the problem is not due to the highway drainage but either a leakage from an unknown private water supply or ground water/a spring. Further investigation works are required at the junction which will require a road closure.

It was agreed that for the time a public meeting re the flooding situation in Rodley would be deferred and that it would be more beneficial to have a tour of the Parish with Mr Watkins, Councillors Robinson, Phelps, and the Chairman. Councillor Robinson said would ensure the Parish Council had access to the programme of works for the Parish and how much money is available.

Hole in Footway near Westbury Court Gardens: Been reported to Gloucestershire Highways – there seems to be a void under the path and could get bigger. Mr Green has put a rock in the hole to stop anyone's foot going down it. Mr Brian Watkins has said he would investigate and action repair.

c) Footpaths: Councillor Townsend reported Mr and Mrs Humphries had walked the footpaths at Adsett and Chaxhill and produced a useful and comprehensive report. Councillor Townsend asked Councillor Robinson if he could help in getting Peter Maunder to action some of the works required to several of the footpaths in the Parish. Councillor Robinson said he would see what he could do.

EWS164 has been reported as very difficult to negotiate and requires new stiles. Clerk to report.

d) Emergency Planning: Councillor Brooke said she had not heard back from FODDC.

e) 100 years since the outbreak of the Great War: Councillor Landon said that two leaflets had now gone out and had received very favourable comments. The Clerk is to put them on the website.

f) The Strand: The Clerk had circulated Mr Larkham's letter following the meeting held on the 17 January with Councillors Evers, Phelps and Brooke. Mr Larkham requested a response by the 20 February but the Chairman stated that legally the Parish Council did not need to comply with that date. Mr Larkham stated in the letter that the PC is no longer complying with the terms of the licence granted in respect of parking on his land at the Strand. Also that there is unauthorised parking of a recovery truck on said land. For his consideration, Mr Larkham has asked the PC to write to him with details of the PC's proposals in respect of any future licensing arrangement.

Councillor Brooke visited the Strand on the 10 February and confirmed that the large vehicle was still there, as was the Strand Autos vehicle. On the plus side the Parish Council has more scope because the vehicle is not roadworthy. There is no provision in the agreement for the owner to store.

It was agreed that Councillor Radley would ask Mr Gibson who owned the Stand Auto Vehicle to move it, and the PC should write to Mr Larkham to remind him that at the meeting on 10 February he said he was going to move his vehicle away later that day.

g) Superfast Broadband: Councillor Brooke reported that the works in Northwood Green to renew the telephone cables and install superfast broadband will give the area the best internet speed in the Parish. Residents need to be aware that when British Telecom start the work there will be interruptions and it may take longer to get in and out of Northwood Green. It is recommended that residents do not change internet providers during the time the work is being done and also residents should be aware that there will be major interruptions to their service. Hopefully the works will commence in the Spring.

h) Closed Churchyard – Irish Yew Tree: The Landlord of the Red Lion had approached Councillor Phelps requesting that the tree in the top corner of the closed churchyard be felled as it is obscuring the vision for his pub when motorists are approaching the village. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not consider felling the tree but would consider trimming it. The Vicar had also spoken with the Landlord and he had investigated the matter with Church House. As it is a Closed Churchyard the Parish Council is responsible for the upkeep and there would not be a problem with the Church granting permission for minor trimming, and it might be that the PCC would contribute to any trimming works on this tree and possibly some of the others along the front. It was agreed that Councillors Evers, Phelps and the Vicar (Steven Taylor) would liaise and speak with the Landlord of the Red Lion.

10 CORRESPONDENCE:

Any Other Correspondence:

Transport Plan: Available on line for people to give their views. Have your say from the 16 February to the 27 March www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/tp3

11 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION: None

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, 16 March 2015 commencing at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.57 pm