

# WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 21 September 2015 in Westbury Parish Hall.

**PRESENT:** Councillors - P Ensor  
C Evers – Chairman  
J Henry  
D Hill  
D Landon  
S Phelps – Vice Chairman  
P Radley  
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk  
District Councillor R Boyles

Members of the Public: 2 (some partial attendance)

**1 APOLOGIES:** Councillors Brooke and Townsend. County Councillor Robinson had to attend Longhope Parish Council meeting.

**2 MINUTES OF MEETING:** Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20 July 2015 were agreed and signed.

**3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** Councillor Radley on planning application P1348/15/FUL as he had a pecuniary interest.

**4 PUBLIC COMMENT: Comments received**

## **5 PLANNING MATTERS**

### **a)Applications:**

**P0556/15/FUL** Fountain Cottage, Rock and Fountain Lane, WOS: Alterations and extension; demolition of existing storage building and sheds to provide replacement garage/outbuilding. Following the site meeting the Parish Council objected to the application on various reasons which can be viewed on the FODDC website.

Considered prior to the meeting:

**P1237/15/TCA** Closed Churchyard, WOS: Crown raise two yew trees to 3.5m and remove holly from yew trees in the churchyard bordering the A48:

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council feel that as it is the applicant they are not in a position to comment on this application.

**P1015/15/FUL** Wyncolls Farm, Elton: Erection of a workers dwelling ancillary to equestrian use and additional internal stabling

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

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

**P1107/15/FUL** 7 The Crescent, Northwood Green: Proposed new outbuilding at front of house

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

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

Councillor Radley left the room whilst this application was being discussed.

**P1348/15/FUL** Elton Farm, Littledean Road, Elton: Change of use of land for an Adventure Golf Course (mini golf) and associated works:

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council **supports** this application.

**b) Decisions:**

**P0941/15/LBC** Bay Tree Farm, 6 Bays Court, Goose Lane, Bollow: Internal alterations to re-model ground floor layout and installation of a new kitchen – **Granted**

**P0905/15/PJ14PA** Severn Valley Woodworks: Installation of 384 REC solar panels with a total capacity of approx. 100kw located on 3 separate buildings - **Granted**

**P0976/15/FUL** Brook Farm, Brook Lane, Adsett: Erection of an agricultural building to house young livestock - **Granted**

**P1009/15/AG** Rodley Court, Rodley Court Road, Rodley: Erection of an agricultural building – **Not required**

**P0763/15/FUL** The Old Fruit Stall, Hartland Hill, Minsterworth: Removal of condition (03) relating to P0598/COU to allow for the existing holiday cottage to be used as a single residential dwelling – **Granted**

**P0459/15/FUL** Bransdon, Upper Rodley Road, Bollow: Proposed replacement dwelling and garage - **Granted**

**P0407/15/FUL** Frowens Farm, Frowens Lane, WOS: Proposed erection of an agricultural building for weighing/storing & veterinary purposes - **Granted**

**P1237/15/TCA** Closed Churchyard, WOS: Crown raise two yew trees to 3.5m and remove holly from yew trees in the churchyard bordering the A48 - **Granted**

**Appeals: None**

**c) Site Inspections : None**

**Any Other Planning Matters:**

**Cowles Elm Farm:** The Clerk reported that she had received an email notification that there had been a revision to the application and a hardcopy of the revision would be received. No revision was received so the Clerk had telephoned the Planning Officer and left a message but had heard nothing further. Councillors felt that was unsatisfactory and asked the Clerk to send an email.

**6 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

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

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

Mrs F J Wallbank:

Salary – 1- 30 September	694.84		
Less tax for September	12.00		
Less NIC	<u>2.74</u>	680.10	Cheque No: 001641

Inland Revenue:

Tax FJW	12.00		
NIC FJW	2.74		
NIC PC	<u>2.60</u>	17.34	Cheque No: 001642

Complete Garden Landscapes:

1 Cut completed 28 July (cut no 9)	412.00		Cheque No: 001643
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Complete Garden Landscapes:

12 & 13 cuts	824.00		Cheque No: 001644
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FODDC: Recharge of uncontested parish

Election costs	143.33		Cheque No: 001645
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Chairman's Allowance

25.00		Cheque No: 001646
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Northwood Green Playing Field rent

10.00		Cheque No: 001647
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Grant Thornton: Fees in respect of the 2015

Annual Return 100.00

VAT 20.00

120.00

Cheque No: 001648

**Accounts for Payment**

**£2231.77**

### **Receipts**

F J Cambridge memorial for the

The late Gilbert and Rose Stait

80.00

M S Watkins: Fees in connection with the late

Geoffrey Sterry

300.00

**Total:**

**£380.00**

**c) Completion of Audit for the financial year 2014/15:** The Clerk reported that external auditors had completed the audit without any comments. The audit completion notices had been put on the noticeboards.

**7 GAPTC/NALC MATTERS:** The Chairman reported that he had attended the first meeting of the new Committee and most of the time was taken up with procedural matters. Cllr Stephen Hirst is the new Elected Chairman and Cllr Liz Hodges is the Vice. The NALC representative is Cllr Deryck Nash. He gave a short report covering training, County devolution, and the asylum crisis.

### **8 MATTERS ARISING:**

**a) Play Area:** The Clerk reported that John Hicks said he preferred grass since it is free, self-renewing and sustainable while requiring some maintenance. 'Grassmat' is a perforated plastic cover that allows grass to grow through it and so is durable and invisible. The Clerk said that she would contact other Parish/Town Councils in the area and ask what type of surfacing they have in their play areas. Councillor Radley said that he had visited a Play Area in Corsham and was impressed with the surfacing.

#### **b) Highways:**

A site meeting took place with Mr Brian Watkins and several Councillors and the following matters were discussed and looked at:

**Possible Pedestrian Crossing Westbury Village:** It was felt that the best location for a possible pedestrian crossing would be by the Coal Yard. The cost to provide a crossing would be around £40,000 and if it had traffic lights it would cost around £80,000. Unfortunately there has not been enough recorded accidents in the Village, so Mr Watkins was not hopeful that he could obtain any funding for the scheme. It would help if the Parish Council could provide match funding. Councillor Hill agreed to discuss the matter with the school. There was also discussion about holding a referendum.

**Church Lane:** Mr Watkins left agreeing to have a look at the condition of the lane

**Layby by Water Gardens:** Vehicles are driving around the bollards. Mr Watkins said he would erect another upstand to prevent this happening. Clerk to send him a reminder.

**Jordans Hill:** Extreme concerns on both sides that soon there will be a serious accident under the bridge, and that still the vegetation on the right hand side when travelling towards Gloucester has not been cut back.

**Signs** The 30 mph sign on Ampney Lane, is still not repaired, nor the sign posts on top of the Junction Hill. Clerk to chase Mr Watkins.

**Bridge Junction Hill** in a poor state of repair. Councillor Townsend had reported he had contacted Highways and taken some photos. Glos Highways were not sure if it was their responsibility or Network Rail, so someone would look into this and inform Network Rail, if it was not their responsibility. Incident No 11068971. Councillor Hill said she would also take some photographs and forward these to the Clerk.

**A4151 Elton Road Verges:** The Clerk said she had received an email from Mr Horsley pointing out that the verges on his side of the road had not been cut but they had on the opposite side. Clerk had emailed Mr Watkins to request that both sides are cut especially as there is no footway and it is very dangerous

for people who are walking up to the garage.

**Broadway Lane:** Dip in the road has occurred again and mud is seeping out of the cracks.

**c) Footpaths:** In the absence of Councillor Townsend the Clerk reported as followed:

- He had met Mike Barton, line manager from the PROW, on Wednesday 05 August 2015. They walked the Adsett and Gatwick Farm footpaths and inspected the bridge near the Strand. A new PROW officer for our area will be announced shortly, interviews are in process at present. In the meantime all the problems were noted, and a list of footpaths reported by Mr Adams a resident from the Parish will be dealt with when the new person is on board.
- The bridge near the Strand, will be replaced ASAP. Mike Barton has contacted the landowner and the contractor requesting a quote for this to be carried out.
- He has asked for some hardcore/gravel to be put down on the bridlepath on the Ampney Lane side. The PROW team have cleared the undergrowth from Ampney Lane through to St John's Point. He and Robert Watkins have removed some trees that were blocking some of the route. At the St Johns Point end the path slightly deviates from the route, because of trees growing up through it and it is very wet. He has spoken to Tillhill the agents of the wood and they are happy for him to way-mark it through where it deviates, which he has done.
- A way-marker post and signs have been replaced on EWS/19/3, Ley Park Woods.
- He has informed Mike Barton of the various landowners involved relating to the Footpaths that require attention.

**d) The Strand:** Councillor Henry said he would speak with Mr Lanciano.

**e) Closed Churchyard – Irish Yew Trees:** The Clerk reported that since FODDC had granted permission for the works to the trees in the Closed Churchyard as per Matt Hale's quotation, she had instructed Matt Hale and was waiting to hear back from him.

**Tombstones:** The Clerk agreed to look in the file to see if there was a copy of a schedule agreement which would have been signed when the Churchyard was closed.

**f) Defibrillator – Westbury Parish Hall:** Councillor Landon reported that she would be attending the Information evening on Community Defibrillation and Emergency Planning on Monday, 28 September at the FODDC Offices along with Stuart Hawke. The fund raising event at the Hall has been postponed as the organiser has broken his arm. New date to be confirmed.

**g) Memorial for the late Norman Stephens:** The Chairman said that he has spoken with Mrs Helen Hogben about the Parish Councils thoughts on this matter. She said that she would speak with her brother and her niece. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to all three parties setting out the Parish Council's thoughts.

**Any Other Matters:**

**Hedge Clippings Northwood Green:** Following later month's meeting Councillor Townsend had spoken with Mr Keen re the hedge cuttings being left on the playing field. Mr Keen advised that it is a boundary hedge which he cuts on the PC's side as a favour, but is not willing to pick up the cuttings. Councillor Radley said that he would collect the clippings.

## **9 CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Any Other Correspondence:**

**Abbotsfield Funeral Directors:** The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Abbotsfield Funeral Directors dealing with the internment of ashes for the late Donald Grey querying treble fees for non-parishioners. Apparently Mr Grey was born and lived in Crowgate Lane and then moved to Rodley for 40 years until 15-20 years ago when he moved to Redmarley. The Councillors were in agreement that he had been a non-parishioners for quite a number of years so the non-parishioner status stands.

**FOD Allocations Plan Examination:** Brendan Lyons is the Inspector to conduct the independent examination to consider the soundness of the plan. It was agreed that WoSPC would not speak.

**Better4Buses:** Email had been circulated to all Councillors for their information. Councillor Henry said he could collate a response prior to the October meeting.

**GCC Devolution:** The Chairman reported that GCC had submitted a "Gloucestershire Devolution Statement of Intent" dated July 2015. This statement of intent sets out the devolution vision for Gloucestershire and has been put together by the county council, six district councils, the NHS Clinical

Commissioning Group, the Local Economic Partnership (LEP), the Gloucestershire Constabulary and the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner. The bill of devolution is an opportunity for Gloucestershire to take greater control for its public services based on what people need and want. The county would have more responsibility over social care and health spending, local transport networks, business rates and education and infrastructure. The Chairman pointed out that the document largely disregards the first level of local Government namely Town and Parish Councils and GAPTC has written to GCC to ask why, and who wrote the document.

**10 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION: None**

**11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 19 October 2015 commencing at 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.03pm