

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 17 February 2014 in Westbury Parish Hall.

PRESENT: Councillors - P Brooke
P Ensor
C Evers – Chairman
D Landon
S Phelps – Vice Chairman
P Radley
N Stephens
M Townsend
District Councillor Edwards
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Members of the Public: 2 (partial attendance)

1 APOLOGIES: Councillor Green. Councillor Stephens would be late.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING: Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 20 January 2014 were agreed and signed.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 PUBLIC COMMENT: The Vicar reported that he had arranged for the school bus to be re-routed due to the flooding in Adsett.

5 PLANNING MATTERS

a) Applications:

P0115/14/FUL Westbrook House, The Village, WOS: Erection of an agricultural livestock & general purpose building.

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council **supports** this application.

P0200/14/LB Northwood House, Northwood Green: LBC for rough cast lime render to part of south elevation.

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council **supports** this application.

P0190/14/FUL Chaxhill Barn, Chaxhill: Conversion of existing open fronted car port (with large loft above) to form annexe accommodation.

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

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

P0170/14/FUL Newland House, Northwood Green: Single storey rear and first floor side alterations and extension to dwelling.

To was agreed to have a site inspection on Saturday, 22 February at 10am.

b) Decisions & Appeals: None

Decisions: None

Appeals: None

c) Site Inspections: None

d) Premises Application Apple Orchard Caravan and Campsite, Adsett: The Chairman reported that he and Councillor Phelps had attended the hearing on 28 January. The applicants were granted the licence with the following conditions:

- A CCTV system must be installed
- If spirits are to be sold they must be displayed behind the counter
- Proof of age scheme such as “Challenge 25”

6 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) **Internal Audit** – Councillor Stephens 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 2014	682.50		
Less tax for February	0.60		
Less NIC	<u>4.38</u>	677.52	Cheque No: 001558

Inland Revenue payments due for February

NI for PC	5.73		
NI for FJW	4.38		
Tax FJW	<u>0.60</u>	10.71	Cheque No: 001559

GPFA: Annual subscription due 1.2.14	50.00		Cheque No: 001560
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Hale & Co cost of 1 bag of sand and 100

Hessian sand bags – refund due to Clerk as

Needed payment on receipt of order	79.00		
	<u>VAT 15.80</u>	94.80	Cheque No: 001561

Accounts for Payment		£833.03	
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Receipts

F J Cambridge & Co Ltd – fees in connection

With a headstone for the late Bertie Davies	80.00		
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M S Watkins: Fees in connection with the

Interment of ashes plus for the late

Dennis Reade (£80 x 3)	240.00		
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Additional inscription	25.00		
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As above for the late

Sylvia Cottrell (£80 x 3)	240.00		
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Additional inscription	<u>25.00</u>		
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530.00

Less credit for M S Watkins	220.00	310.00	
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Total Receipts		£390.00	
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7 GAPTC/NALC MATTERS: The Chairman said he had nothing to report. The Clerk reported that the PC had been informed via GAPTC that the European Commission was undertaking a consultation on VAT rules which could affect local Councils ability to reclaim VAT with a consequent increase in the cost of community projects. The consultation period expires on 25 April 2014. It was agreed that the Chairman would draft a response to this consultation for the Clerk to send stating that this would have a major detrimental effect on local Councils.

8 MATTERS ARISING:

a) **Flooding January/February 2014 – Effects on the Parish:** The Chairman wanted to raise a personal thank you to the two Councillors who were involved in filling and distributing the sandbags and also thanked Luke Sterry for his help.

The Clerk said that following David Cameron's statement that "*Councils in flood-hit areas must not charge for sandbags and to local councils the Government will reimburse 100% of the money Councils spend. So if there are sandbags needed, if the military is needed, if people need emergency service responses - all of those things will be paid for and it's very important people understand that.*" The Chairman had asked the Clerk to email Peter Hibberd to ask what the

FODDC will do to change its policy to align with the PMs wishes? Mr Hibberd informed the Clerk that the Government's announcement did not require them to change their policy and their policy encouraged all Town and Parish Councils with known flood risks to hold their own supply of sand and bags and if the need arose they could call on the military support that was now available locally.

The Clerk said that Hales could deliver another bag of sand for the sum of £39 plus Vat to enable the last 49 bags to be filled. It was agreed that the Clerk should order the sand and arrange for it to be delivered to the Coalyard again.

The Chairman reported that following the last heavy rain he had toured the Parish and said that the water had nearly overtopped at The Strand and appeared to have breached the defences towards The Mill.

Councillors Stephens said that during last Wednesday storms (9-12noon) The Strand had flooded for 3 hours and then the water disappeared, and other areas were flooded which had not previously been flooded.

The Chairman had produced some notes following the meeting on the 4 February with Gloucestershire Highways, Lower Severn Drainage Board, Councillors and Residents. It was felt a useful meeting. And the following actions points were agreed - all were considered high priority.

1. **Gloucestershire Highways** to investigate what can be done to the culverted drain on the right hand side of the road from Moys Hill Lane towards The Strand.
2. **Gloucestershire Highways** to carry out a general inspection of the culverts and gullies along Strand Land with the objective of having them cleaned out.
3. **LSIDB** to investigate with the riparian landowner (Mr Watkins) what can be done to the old culvert bridge in the main drain (rhyne) by the sewage treatment facility (Water Works), with the objective of increasing the drain's water carrying throughput.
4. **LSIDB** to investigate with the riparian landowner improving the flow/water carrying capacity of the two short lengths of drain between the IDB maintained main drain (rhyne) and Strand Lane and the same IDB maintained main drain (rhyne) and Rodley Road, with the aim of diverting water from the lanes to the main drain.

Not known at the 4th February meeting it would appear that the old culvert bridge, the subject of the first action against the LSIDB, forms part of Public Right of Way EWS/157/1. A proposal at the meeting to remove the culvert bridge will not be possible unless any replacement structure has greater water flow through capacity while retaining the ability to act as a bridge.

b) Play Area: Councillor Brooke reported there was some wear on the climbing net. It is beneath one of the plastic sheaths at the top of the net. The rope wires are intact and undamaged but the plastic covering to the rope has worn – Councillors agreed to monitor. Rust stain showing through on multiplay unit – Councillor Green to paint in the better weather.

c) Highway Matters: Jordan's Hill Bridge/Railway: Councillor Phelps said that he had spoken with Steve Nibbs who had suggested that he found out how many accidents had occurred at this point. Cllr Phelps is trying to get these figures from the police. He had also spoken with Mr Watkins who said that they were still trying to contact Mr Mountjoy.

A48 ponding by Chaxhill Hill Farm: Nothing to report

Flooding Strand Lane: Another lengthy discussion took place, but nothing new emerged.

Flooding outside The Glen, Adsett Lane: Councillor Phelps said that after the meeting at Strand Lane he and Councillor Stephens had gone with Brian Watkins to discuss this issue. This was causing a major problem for some residents in getting their children to school so much so that the school bus has had to be re-routed down Adsett Lane and then turns around in Church Lane. It would appear that the problem was caused by the ditch being full of rubble. Mr Watkins said that he would get the offending material removed.

Broad oak – The Gables: Flooding in the lane at the side of The Gables was caused by a tyre stuck in the drain. This has been removed.

St John's Point: Nothing further to report.

Grange Court Road from the Junction Pub to the Top of the Hill: Nothing further to report.

Grange Court Road/PSW Metals Ltd: It would seem that the number of vehicles that park in the

lay-by has increased, with some vehicles being left there causing double-parking to occur. This would cause a problem if Network Rail/their contractors would want to bring heavy plant in as they would be unable to access the emergency entrance to the railway. It was also understood that on a number of occasions large “foreign” lorries had arrived in the late afternoon and had used the lay-by as an overnight stop. Due to the amount of vehicles using the lay-by the road surface is being broken at the verge and the verge is becoming churned up as drivers mount it in order to reverse, and the continuous wet weather does not help. Clerk to raise this with PSW.

Chaxhill Bus Stop: The Clerk reported on behalf of Councillor Green that he had received complaints from parents that cars were parking behind the bus stop make it very difficult for parents to drop off their children for the school bus. Councillor Brooke said that she understood that some residents from Northwood Green leave their cars at this point and then catch the bus into Gloucester. It was also thought that some of the cars parked could be from the garage. It was agreed to monitor this problem for a month.

d) Footpaths: Councillor Townsend reported:

- Will attend the meeting at Shire Hall on 25 February at 2pm to meet with the new contractors Amey.
- No updates on other footpath issues.
- Hundreds of trees blown down in Ley Park – these have been reported to Till Hill and Peter Maunder PROW officer. The footpaths in the wood that are affected are to be taped off with a safety notice advising of the dangers.

Councillor Brooke said that the footpath EWS/68/1 from Grange Court Road had been ploughed. The Clerk reported that she had emailed Mr Maunder stating that if an extinguishment order had not been applied for in relation to EWS81/1 then the blockage should be removed and the footpath should be walkable.

e) Emergency Planning: Councillor Brooke reported the following:

- Working on the emergency numbers for contact list.
- Trying to fix up a meeting between the people who have expressed an interest in becoming co-coordinators.

Councillor Radley said that he had attended a day’s seminar held by Western Power at Cheltenham Racecourse which he said was well worth attending. At the seminar Western Power said that if there was a loss of power supply residents should ring Western Power rather than their provider. This could be done by phoning **0800 328 1111 or from mobiles 0330 1235008**

g) Autograss: The Clerk confirmed she had been informed that the dates for 2014 are 30 March, 27 April, 11 May, 1 & 29 June, 20 July, 21 September and 5 October – only 6 of these would run a meeting. The Clerk had advertised these dates on the WoSPC website.

i) Telephone Kiosk – Chaxhill: Remedial repair works to can take place in the better weather.

9 CORRESPONDENCE:

a) Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy Consultation: Email had been circulated to Councillors for their information – the Strategy sets out the EA’s intention to continue to maintain and repair the tidal defence (wall and adjacent bank) and then in future to raise this to keep pace with climate change. They will be looking in greater detail at raising the defence in the next 10 years. The EA inspected the defence following the New Year high tides and have no concerns relating to its structural integrity however they have observed a few non-structural cracks in the wall which they are aiming to repair in the summer. The EA recognised the PCs concerns about the flooding from Westbury Brook and was aware the National Trust was currently considering works to reduce flooding from the brook, utilising the land recently acquired by them. The EA will work with them with the aim of securing additional flood risk and environmental benefits for the area. It was noted that no attention appeared to have paid to recent overtopping of the river defences at The Flatt.

Any Other Correspondence:

NHS England: Application to meet an identified current need by Aseef Healthcare Ltd in Yorkley: The proposal was to open a pharmacy. Councillors agreed to note the contents.

Hands off Our Forest (HOOF): Councillor Evers declared an interest on this agenda item. The Government was currently working on new legislation to form a new organisation to own and manage the English Public Forest Estate (including the Forest of Dean). The Steering Group of HOOF, which was formed in late 2010 to campaign against the disposal and privatisation of the Forest of Dean, has remained active and has been engaged in discussions with the Government during the past three years. HOOF was seeking support from Parish and Town Councils and was offering to come and talk to Parish and Town Councils. Councillors felt that they did not need a presentation and they were fully supportive of all the work that “HOOF” did. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write an email of support.

Advertising of Net Limitation Orders (lave and draft nets) on the Severn Estuary in England: These have now been published. On the Westbury stretch of the river there is currently one licence for draft netting for duration of 5 years covered by the Order, however if this licence became defunct then the EA would not issue a new licence. Of the 27 current licences for lave netting, these would be dropped to 15.

10 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

Tree Down Closed Churchyard: The Chairman reported that there was a conifer tree down near the bonfire site. This had fallen on some tomb stones but it was unknown what damage had occurred. It was agreed that Councillor Townsend would speak to Russell Hayward to see if he was willing to remove the tree in return for the wood.

Westbury Court Gardens: Meeting with Mike Beeston was held on Friday, 14 February – in attendance were 3 representatives from the National Trust, Jerry Green, Councillors Phelps, Stephens, Brooke and the Chairman. It was a good meeting with the NT outlining their plans – they intend to upgrade the house that Mr Green lived in and utilise it for volunteers and visitors however the building does need some renovation work.

In 2011, the Trust was given the opportunity to purchase Ardens Farm which surrounds the gardens on three sides. It is hoped that the land could be used to hold floodwater and avoid it getting into the gardens. Following talks with the Environment Agency, the Trust appointed external consultants to survey and model flood management options which NT plan to discuss with the Parish Council in the next few months. With changes in the flow behaviour of the Westbury Brook, and in response to rising sea levels affecting the River Severn, the challenge is whether the Garden can be adequately protected from flooding while at the same time provide wider wildlife and environmental gains. The consultants have carried out the land survey work and started the flood modelling exercise to look at what happens at different water levels. This modelling work will be complete later in the spring, when the NT will share the results with the local community and discuss the options identified. The objective is to develop a plan to reduce the flood risk both the the Water Gardens and the local community.

Mr Beeston thanked the Parish Council for taking action to prevent lorries parking in front of the Water Gardens. Councillor Stephens said that these were temporary and would be replaced with nicer ones.

PSW Metals Ltd: Councillor Stephens said that he had called at PSW on several occasions to speak with Mr Watkins but he had not been there. He would continue his attempts to speak with Mr Watkins.

Exposed Cable on Grange Court Road: Councillor Brooke circulated the photograph she had taken of the exposed cable. Councillor Stephens said he had seen a British Telecom Open Reach van at the site but Councillor Brooke said she had shown the photo to an Open Reach engineer and he had said it was not a BT cable. Councillor Brooke agreed to contact Open Reach.

Doctors Surgery: The Clerk had sent a “thank you” email to those parties who had helped to get the Surgery open. She had heard from Nikki Holmes stating that it was disappointing that the Surgery had again had to close due to the recent problems with the telephones, and that the practice was hoping to resolve the problems very quickly.

Community Transport Partnership: Councillor Landon said that she had met with Anne Marie Hitchings who had been able to inform her that there are had been 70 return journeys last year by

Lydcare. She had been informed if any residents in Westbury required a wheelchair ramp then the services of Newent or Lydney Dial-a-Ride could be called upon. One of the objects of the Community Transport Partnership was to extend the services to cover for young people. There will be four partners working together – Lydney and Newent Dial-a-Ride, Lydcare and Bream Voluntary Service. It was agreed that as people are using this service it was important that Lydcare should still receive funding, so it was agreed to send the £200 allocated in the budget.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, 17 March 2014.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm.