

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 16 September 2019 in Westbury Parish Hall.

PRESENT: Councillors - P Ensor
J Henry
A Hyett
D Landon - Vice
S Phelps – Chairman
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Members of the Public: 1 (partial attendance)

1 APOLOGIES: Councillors Hill, Radley, Townsend and Woodman
The Chairman went through the Emergency Procedure

2 MINUTES OF MEETING: Minutes of the meetings held on Monday, 15 July & Monday, 19 August 2019 were agreed and signed.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Councillor Ensor P1192/19/FUL

4 PUBLIC COMMENT: Received concerning the cancellation of another Autograss meeting without any notification – that is the last 2. Clerk to email the Secretary.

5 PLANNING MATTERS:

a) Applications:

P1378/19/LD1 Severn & Wye Smokery, Chaxhill: Application under section 191 to establish whether the installation of ground source heat pipes in association with B2 use at smokery is lawful

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council has no objections to this application

P1192/19/FUL Grove Farm, Flaxley: Installation of 210kw biomass boiler (retrospective)

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council supports this application

P1231/19/FUL Ninnage Lodge, Crowgate Lane, WOS: Installation of 60kw ground source heat pump and associated ground collector

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council supports this application

b) Decisions:

P0844/19/FUL Moys Hill Barn, Strand Lane, WOS: Proposed single storey extension (revised scheme) - **Granted**

P0070/19/DISCON Camaroy, Broadoak: Discharge of conditions 07 (access): **Granted**

P0070/19/DISCON Camaroy, Broadoak: 08 (parking & turning) of planning permission P1140/08/COU - **Refused**

P0972/19/FUL Higher Ground, Northwood Green: Erection of a single storey extension & timber framed car port with associated works. Demolition of existing garage and sunroom: **Granted**

P0791/19/FUL Otters Pocket, Ampney Lane, Northwood Green: Erection of a two-storey extension: **Granted**

P1265/19/AG Froe Wood, Blaisdon Lane, Blaisdon: Prior notification for the erection of timber store, welfare unit, store, toilet and construction of hardstanding and x 3 forestry tracks: **Granted**

P1121/19/FUL Elmfield Court, Church Lane, Adsett: Erection of a timber framed building for the storage of agricultural machinery: **Granted**

Appeal Decisions: None

c) Site Inspection: None

d) Enforcement: No further updates

6 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

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

b) Accounts for payment and receipts:

Mrs F J Wallbank:

Salary – 1- 30 September '19	752.72		
Less NIC	4.05		
Less Tax	<u>4.80</u>	743.87	Via Bank Transfer

Inland Revenue (paid by Clerk)

Tax FJW	4.80		
NIC FJW	4.05		
NIC PC	<u>4.65</u>	13.50	Via Bank Transfer

Complete Garden Maintenance: Carrying

Out 2 cuts during September		824.00	Via Bank Transfer
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Mr M Townsend – cost of storage box for

Parts for Defib – Refund due to Clerk		6.00	Via Bank Transfer
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PKF Littlejohn: Professional services in

Connection with the external audit of the accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2019

	200.00		
	<u>VAT 40.00</u>	240.00	Via Bank Transfer

Accounts for Payment:

£1827.37

Receipts:

M S Watkins – funeral fees	250.00
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Total:	£250.00
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7 MATTERS ARISING:

a) Play Area: Advice will be sought from the Playing Fields Association as to whether we should have a sign saying that children should be supervised by an adult while using the play area. A new No Dogs sign is also needed.

b) Highway Matters:

Bus Stop opposite the Severn Bore Pub: The Chairman had received further complaints that this area had not been reinstated satisfactorily following the completion of the works by Complete Utilities. Clerk to report.

Tour of the Parish: The Chairman was meeting with Andrew Middlecote to tour the Parish and highlight all the problems. Andrew Middlecote had updated the PCs highways spreadsheet, and this had been sent to the Councillors for their information.

Blaisdon Village: Although this is not in our parish the Chairman would raise this at the meeting with Andrew Middlecote

Road Safety Liaison Meeting: The Chairman reported he had attended this and raised matters regarding Road Safety on Jordans Hill and Broadoak. The scrub needs to be cleared on the right-hand side as you approach Jordans Hill. He also said that it cost the public purse approx. £16,000 for a slight road accident, approx. £213,000 for a serious accident and over £1M for a fatality.

c) Footpaths: The Clerk reported that there had been a complaint about EWS81 as it was still obstructed. Councillor Townsend had contacted Jeff Wheeler who had tried to contact the landowner without success however he would be sending a letter via recorded delivery advising them that they have two weeks to contact him. If no reply is received GCC will take enforcement action and reopen the path with any costs incurred being sought from the landowner.

Footpaths along the Riverbank: Councillor Henry reported that he had met with the PROW Officer who said that the stiles along the riverbank were OK.

d) Burial Ground: The Chairman reported that there was a productive meeting with the School Governors and the PC are now waiting for them to come back to the PC with whether they want to rent the whole field or part of the field. If the School Governors do not want the whole of the field the PC would have to consider other purposes for the field eg possibly provision of allotments

Following complaints about the state of the burial ground, The Councillors had been to have a look at the problems. The hedge growing out over the cremation stones, ivy covering the headstones nearest the field and anthills dislodging some of the stones seem to be the main problems. Similar problems keep cropping up in the closed churchyard as well. It is clear that the growing season is getting longer and the amount of mowing needed to keep the grass under control is greater. This will mean that extra time, and therefore money, will have to be spent in order to keep it up to the standard that is expected. The Parish Councillors will be having a working party soon to tidy the burial ground up as much as possible, but realise that family members often move away, leaving no-one to care for some of the graves. The Councillors would remind relatives that the care of individual graves is the responsibility of the family.

CC Robinson entered and reported the following:

1. Currently GCC's focus is on climate change and there was a recent meeting to report progress in reducing the carbon footprint which has been reduced by 60% which is 2 years early. The main factors are led street lighting, solar panels on Shire Hall and the purchase of electric vehicles as pool cars.
2. In July 2019 the incinerator is taking all the black bin waste which in turn is generating electricity and stopping the waste going to landfill
3. At the Road Safety Liaison meeting it was felt that the VAS signs are having an effect in the Villages – recently there was a speed camera van in Westbury, and they did not catch any drivers when normally they catch around 50-60 drivers. Also, there have been no fatal accidents in the FOD for the last year which is indeed progress
4. He asked if the Parish Council could obtain a quote for cutting down the vegetation in the field on the right hand side before you reach the bridge he would see with GCC Highways would pick up this cost and then the PC could look at keeping the vegetation manageable. The Chairman said he would obtain a quote.

Councillor Henry asked CC Robinson if he could chase up the school flashing warning signs that have been decommissioned at Minsterworth School as these could be used for Walmore Hill School.

It was agreed that the VAS bend warning sign could be removed, and the Parish Council will use the post to mount their own VAS unit on as it would cost £20,000 for a new one.

The Chairman said that he had spoken with the Street Warden on two occasions regarding roadside fly tipping about materials left in connection with cannabis growing.

CC Robinson left

e) Closed Churchyard:

The following was agreed:

1. For 2020 the contract needed to be fine tuned with the areas and management of hights detailed. The Chairman said he would contact English Heritage for some guidelines. The terms of the grant say that this must be done forever not just for a certain number of years.
2. The path up to the Church needed to be kept short, from the gate to the main road middle length and the long area to be around the back of the church.
3. A sign to be erected explaining to people visiting the Churchyard why these areas are being left etc. The Chairman said he would make some enquiries about a suitable sign.
4. The PC would pay the sum of £206 to the contractors to take the long grass from site as it would be impossible to compost such a large amount.
5. To pay for an additional cut of all areas – total 17 cuts.

f) First Aid Courses: Defer to next month

g) Post Office/Lecture Hall: a public meeting had been held on the 11 September to discuss the future

of the Post Office. This was well attended and Mrs Larkham (owner of the Lecture Hall) had kindly been in attendance. It was agreed at the meeting that if the PC rescinded their request to the FOD for the Lecture Hall to be listed as a Community Asset, Mrs Larkham would agree to extend Sarah and Matthew's tenancy so there would not be a break in their service contract whilst arrangements were made to set up the Post Office facility in a portacabin at the Village Hall. There were a couple of other conditions that Mrs Larkham requested however these were between her and the tenants. She had sent an email to the PC confirming what was agreed at the meeting. The Councillors unanimously agreed that the Community Asset on the Lecture Hall should be lifted straight away and that the Clerk email Mike Butler at the FODDC with the request. A sub-committee had been set up at the Public Meeting to raise the £10,000 cost to move the post office equipment from the current location to the portacabin and they had already had their first meeting.

h) Bus Shelter: The Clerk had contacted 3 contractors and asked them to quote for the necessary repairs to the bus shelter at the bottom of Wintles Hill. One contractor had declined to quote. The Councillors considered both quotations and it was agreed to accept Mr Kibble's quote. Clerk to instruct him to go ahead with the repairs.

8 CORRESPONDENCE:

a) GAPTC – Election of 2 members for the Executive Committee: It was agreed that WoSPC would nominate Councillor Nick Penny and Councillor Roger Beard.

9 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

BT Telephone Kiosks: The Clerk confirmed that she had emailed the FODDC to inform them that the Parish Council would like to adopt the kiosks in The Village and Stantway Lane. A parishioner who lives near the Stantway kiosk would like to create an art project involving the children around the area and another local parishioners local to The Village kiosk has offered to carry out any necessary works and to keep it clean and tidy – this one will be used as an information point.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 21 October 2019 commencing at 7pm.

Meeting closed 9.15pm