

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20 January 2020 in Westbury Parish Hall.

PRESENT: Councillors - P Ensor
A Hyett
D Landon - Vice
S Phelps – Chairman
P Radley
M Townsend
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Members of the Public: 1

1 APOLOGIES: Councillors Woodman, Henry, Hill and CC Robinson

The Chairman went through the Emergency Procedure

The Chairman reported that very sadly Anna Tempest had passed away - she had been a dedicated member of the Parish Council and long-standing Chair. There was a minute's silence.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING: Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 16 December 2019 were agreed and signed.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 PUBLIC COMMENT: None

5 PLANNING MATTERS:

a) Applications:

P1900/19/FUL Barn at Bury Court Farm, Rodley: Extension to yard

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council **supports** this application

P1971/19/FUL Oaklands Farm, Northwood Green: Change of use and extension of existing equestrian building to facilities riding school and equestrian training with associated works

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council **supports** this application

b) Decisions:

P0235/19/FUL Land between The Lawns & The Hay Barn, Chaxhill: Approval of reserved matters for outline planning permission P0478/17/OUT for the erection of two detached dwellings with associated garages – Approval of reserved matters

P0845/19/LD1 The Annexe, Briardene, Wintles Hill, WOS: Application under section 191 to establish the use of building as a separate single dwelling house – Application withdrawn

Appeal Decisions: None

c) Site Inspection: None

d) Enforcement: Nothing further to report

6 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

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

b) Accounts for payment and receipts:

Mrs F J Wallbank:

Salary – 1- 31 January '20	752.72		
Less NIC	4.05		
Less Tax	<u>5.00</u>	743.67	Via Bank Transfer

Inland Revenue (paid by Clerk)			
Tax FJW	5.00		
NIC FJW	4.05		
NIC PC	<u>4.65</u>	13.70	Via Bank Transfer
Mrs Wallbank Expenses for Jan-Dec '19			
Photocopying	16.25		
Telephone, broadband Expenses			
Jan-Dec 19 set amount @ £5 per month	60.00		
Postage etc	9.32		
1/3 cost of 5 reams of paper	6.66		
1/3 cost of Office 365 Home renewal	26.66		
One year's room rental 1.05.19-31.4.20	100.00		
Quarter telephone rental	<u>56.97</u>	275.86	Via Bank Transfer
System Force – Hosting fee for Website	30.00		
	<u>VAT 6.00</u>	36.00	Via Bank Transfer
Accounts for Payment:		£1069.23	

Receipts:

Western Power Distribution – wayleave payment 49.37

Mr Beale – payment for rental of carpark 75.00

Total: £124.37

Upgrade to Windows 10: The Clerk said that Windows 7 is no longer supported, and the PC laptop needs to be upgraded to windows 10. The Clerk contacted Systemforce who has quoted providing Windows 10 Pro @ £149+vat with Prep @ £35+vat. Councillors agreed that this work should be done.

7 MATTERS ARISING:

a) Play Area – Report: Councillor Townsend has carried out the 3-month check.

b) Highways Matters: Various

- Councillor Townsend reported that Church Lane was in a dreadful condition and requested the Clerk to set up a meeting with Andrew Middlecote. The Chairman said he would like to be at the meeting.
- The repair works to Blaisdon Road have been postponed as Glos Highways are working on Flaxley Bridge
- Several Highway problems have occurred following Gigaclear works – culvert by the village hall has sunk
- Severn & Wye Smokery have arranged a litter pick on 16 February
- Salt bin at the top of Church Lane needs to be replaced. The Chairman will provide a tub to hold salt
- St John's point in a dreadful condition

c) Footpaths: Councillor Townsend reported that the footbridge in Ley Park wood has dry rot and has been reported. Councillor Radley reported that the steep steps still require attention.

d) Burial Ground: Proposed extension: The Chairman reported that he had met with the Head and 2 governors and after some deliberation they decided they would like the land to the right hand side of the bottom field. At the meeting the Parish Council were advised that they to speak to Hayley Fearnside (GCC) to negotiate a revised rent. Shire Hall pay the rent however the amount comes out of the School's budget.

The proposed allotments could cover half of the bottom field.

e) Road Milestones markers: There are possibly 6 milestones at the following locations:

1. Elton corner on the garage side
2. Police station wall
3. Top of Wintles Hill on the Old Road

4. Opposite Walmore House back towards Chaxhill
5. Butchers shop at the Flatt
6. Popes Hill turning

It was agreed Councillors would do further research and take photos and report back to the February meeting. Clerk to contact the Milestone Society to ascertain if there any grants available for revamping the milestones.

8 CORRESPONDENCE: Any Other Correspondence:

County Councillors report:

1 - County Council draft budget has been published and will be agreed in February. New budget provides additional funding of £12.9m for Children Services to cover additional demand and rising cost of care. Overall budget increases by £31m to £468m. Capital spend for roads will continue with a further £49m of road resurfacing projects planned as part of the £150m road investment plan. Council tax is expected to rise by 3.9% made up of 1.9% council tax rise and 2% levy on adult care. £1m has been earmarked to support climate change issues.

2 - District Council budget is likely to increase by £5 which is fractionally over 2% but within the limit imposed by government. The DC proposed budget currently has a £500k shortfall that will be made up from the future deficit reserve. This will however exhaust this reserve meaning that additional income or service cuts will be needed in 2021. In addition, car park charges will rise to 50p for two hours and green waste charges will also increase.

3 - Feedback into the consultation into the District Local Plan up to 2042 suggests broad support for the plan including a new settlement for up to 3000 homes rather than simply squeezing them into existing towns and large villages. Proposed site is south of Huntley but other sites might also be considered. The plan and feedback are public and available via the district council website. After considering the feedback councillors will be bringing forward a revised plan during 2020.

4 - The local transport plan refresh is now out for consultation on the county council website. A public event will be held in Newent Market Place on 23rd March.

DC Simon Phelps reported as follows:

- FODDC were planning to buy a retail site in Worcester however the Government has put up the PWLB borrowing rate by 1% and now the PWLB stipulate that any authority can only invest in properties in their own District..
- FODDC has been told by the Government that they must provide 8,000 new homes by 2040/50. 3,000 have already been allocated leaving 4,500-5,00 still to be allocated.
- Ridge Planning Consultants from Cheltenham have submitted a representation to the FODDC which relates to the promotion centred on a new railway station at Grange Court which is situated between A40 & A48 for the development of a new, self-contained Eco Village. Their vision is for a new settlement that could accommodate around 5,000 dwellings as well as employment provision. Plans to provide a park & ride facility at Grange Court are also included.
- The development would extend out to Huntley, Birdwood, Churcham, Minsterworth, Upper and Lower Ley.

Councillors were shocked at the suggestion of the size of the development and all agreed this is totally the wrong site for such a proposal for many reasons, namely flooding, environmental impact, proximity to Walmore Common, lack of infrastructure.

For many years the PC has said there is scope for some development at the top of Wintles Hill but the FODDC has always maintained that the site is outside the village settlement. There are 40 Parish Councils and the provision of the 5,000 should be distributed across the 40 PCs.

It was agreed to invite Nigel Gibbons to come along to the next PC meeting and talk to the Councillors about this third party proposal and to outline the process of the Local Plan review, talk about the various issues and how the decisions are likely to be made about its content.

9 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

Mobile Library: Councillor Townsend reported that on the second Thursday of the month the mobile

library will meet in Northwood Green social hall.

Grass Cutting Contractors: The Chairman and Councillor Landon to meet with the contractors.

Closed Churchyard Working Party: Recommencing on the second Saturday of the month.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 17 February 2020 commencing at 7pm.

Meeting closed 8.50pm