

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18 January 2021 via Zoom

PRESENT: Councillors - P Ensor

J Henry

A Hyett

D Landon - Vice

S Phelps – Chairman

M Townsend

F Wallbank

Members of the Public joined the meeting: 0

1 APOLOGIES: Councillors Hill, Radley and Woodman

2 MINUTES OF MEETING: Minutes of the virtual meeting held on Monday, 21 December were agreed and signed by the Clerk

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 PUBLIC COMMENT: None

5 PLANNING MATTERS:

a) Applications:

P2179/20/FUL Brook Farm, Brook Lane, Adsett: Erection of a portal frame building to provide cattle housing

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council supports this application.

P2078/20/FUL Rose House, Bury Court Road, Rodley: Erection of a two-storey rear extension with Juliet balcony & associated works.

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council has no objections to this application.

P1475/20/FUL Gordenville, Northwood Green: Erection of a single storey rear extension. Conversion of outbuilding to ancillary living accommodation

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council has no objections to this application.

b) Decisions:

P1915/20/FUL Severn & Wye Smokery Ltd, Chaxhill: Extension of existing B2 use building to accommodate two bio-mass boilers, workshop and staff welfare facilities – Granted

20/0051/FDMAJW Land adjacent to existing sewage pumping station which includes the construction of an underground storage chamber, above ground GRP technology etc - Granted

Appeals: None

Appeal Decisions: None

c) Site Inspection: None

Moys Hill Farm going to Planning Committee Tuesday 19 January – The Chairman would speak at the meeting.

d) Proposed development at Churcham: The Chairman reported as follows:

- David Crofts has produced a report and is extremely critical of the FODDC's recommendation for this development the appalling weather conditions on the 23 December has highlighted how unwise this proposal is
- Chairman of MPC has pointed out that all the proposed development area will drain into the Long Brooke at Minsterworth which enters the Severn near Dunn Farm and a large volume of that water will drain into that stream will only exacerbate the existing flooding situation that occurs from time to time

If a high tide the water will not be able to enter the Severn causing water to be across the A48 and all houses opposite the Severn will become flooded out.

- 6 Parish Councils are most unhappy with FoDDC recommendation and “endorse” David Crofts report.
- 29 January is the end of consultation period. All representations will be considered by the FODDC Forward Planning Group. It is especially useful that a strong representation has been made and most unusual that six parish councils have joined together to create such a report. Also, unique that the proposed development covers two authorities
- The inclusion of transport and rail hub that has been talked about by the FODDC transpires that Network Rail will be an extremely costly exercise which they will not be interested in. Network Rail are already committed to spending a huge amount of money on the railway in Gloucester.
- Enlarged housing policy has been challenge by MP'S and there has been a revision of the figures downwards virtually withdrawn inflated housing expectation furthermore office of stats has produced a report population 1.3-1.5m a lot due to Eastern European have seen fit to depart now as England is in the EU and birth rate has fallen considerably.
- Six parishes are drafting a letter to Mark Harper to challenge the Government’s housing figures.
- Maybe discussed again at the FODDC by the end of March.

6 FINANCIAL

a) Internal Audit Councillors agreed the payments and Clerk signed financial sheets

b) Accounts for payment and receipts:

Mrs F J Wallbank:

Salary – 1- 31 January ‘21	764.01		
Less NIC	0.00		
Less Tax	3.60	760.41	Via Bank Transfer

Inland Revenue			
Tax FJW	4.42		
NIC FJW	0.00		
NIC PC	<u>3.60</u>	8.02	Via Bank Transfer

System Force Ltd: Annual subscription for			
Hosting website	30.00		
	<u>VAT 6.00</u>	36.00	Via Bank Transfer

1/6 contribution for Consultant Report for			
Representations on FOD Local Plan Review			
Report cost £ 1,826.00 / 6	=	304.33	Via Bank Transfer
Total:		£1108.76	

Receipts:

M S Watkins FD: Fees in connection with the late		
Doris Jean Parker		240.00

Dennis Beale rent for carpark at Severn Bore	75.00
Total:	£315.00

c) Grass Cutting Contract: The grass cutting contract were consider in full and it was agreed to award to separate 1-year contracts subject to a further 2 years. The contract for the Closed Churchyard to James Walkey-Cox who is very keen to work with the school children and the local parishioners to enhance the management of the Churchyard. The contract for the Play Area, Northwood Green field, the verges throughout Westbury and the Burial Ground was awarded to A M Services – the Councillors are looking forward to working with both these contractors

d) Precept for 2021/22 – Consider draft budget: After a discussion it was agreed that the precept request for 2021/22 would be £26,000.

7 MATTERS ARISING:

a) Highways Matters:

The Chairman had arranged a tour of the problems in the parish with Nathan Choat, the Highways Officer, the following day. He had a list of twenty issues that require attention, including three landslips, serious erosion outside Elton Farm and beneath Bosley Bridge and numerous potholes and sites where considerable flooding and damage has occurred. Councillor Henry reported that there had been water all over the road down Goose Lane in Bollow for ten days following the heavy rain, and he could see that all the drains were blocked. [Since the meeting all the drains in Goose Lane had been cleared the following day.]

b) Flooding in the Parish – 23 December 2020: On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman expressed his gratitude to all those who did so much to help the people who were stranded on the A48. The Lyon, Severn and Wye Smokery and the Severn Bore gave shelter to many, and numerous drivers of tractors and 4x4s helped people get home or to safety. The Chairman also reported that the water level in the Longhope/Westbury Brook had risen so much that the flooding in the road was 4 ft deep in places. The sewers had been unable to handle the volume of water and this had led to fountains appearing at Stantway and in Northwood Green. Some properties came close to being flooded and it was agreed that we need at least one base in the parish where people can collect sand and bags in future. In the meantime, the Chairman has collected bags and has sand so, if needed, please let the PC know.

Councillors agreed to review the emergency plan at next month's meeting, especially in the light of the lockdown situation.

c) Burial Ground: Proposed extension: The Chairman reported he and Rob Worlock were meeting drainage engineers this week and hope to have a better idea of the costs involved once the companies had submitted their quotes.

It was agreed to purchase two crab trees to replace the dead trees at the Burial Ground. Suggestion of Malus x robusta 'Red Sentinel'. Clerk to order and Councillor Townsend agreed to collect the trees and plant them. It agreed to order the 2-2.5m high bare root at a cost of £22 plus VAT each. The Chairman will supply two stakes for the trees.

d) Play Area: The Clerk had spoken to Greenfields and they suggested jet washing the play area and will supply a quote. Councillor Henry said he had a generator and jet washer. It was agreed to have a working party at the Play Area to jet wash the wetpour, remove the dead leaves and paint the equipment that needs painting. Clerk to order replacement swing seats from Wicksteed

Councillor Henry has research funding for improving the Play Area – only two are the Big Lottery awards and Tesco Bags for help. GPFA have some money but are aimed at children over 8 years. County Council has £1000 allocated for Play Area and perhaps this should be discussed with CC Robinson. Currently it was agreed to keep it tidy and clean.

e) Milestones: Defer

f) Telephone Kiosks: Councillor Henry still waiting for a grant to become available for a defibrillator for the kiosk at Stantway.

g) Footpaths: Councillor Townsend reported as follows:

- Report received of a blocked footpath between Frewins Lane – Ampney Lane EWS40, he had spoken to PROW Officer and landowners who will investigate to have it cleared.
- Bridge in a state of disrepair EWS38 plank with a rotten rail – budget for bridges so hopefully this will be replaced in a couple of months
- Northwood Green to Ley Park EWS 41 – EWS 519 bridge has a considerable amount of rot and needs some work or replace.
- Met with Mr Harvey, Frewins Court Farm, land owner who would like a kissing gate installed on the end of footpath EWS38, at the top of Junction Hill and a stile installed at EWS38 end at Frewins Lane, so he has passed information onto Jeff Wheeler.

The Chairman said he had walked along the riverbank and was most impressed with the work that has been done. He also reported that he had asked Enforcement to investigate Ley Park as a 7' + high deer fence has been erected around one of the woodland plots in the Park however one side is only cattle

fence. He has also had complaints that shooting is taking place in the woods which is obviously a safety issue and Blaisdon is pursuing this matter too.

h) Climate Change: Councillor Landon reported that there will be another Zoom meeting and until that has taken place not a lot more to report. Been in touch with the organisation mentioned last time for more details. Thinks it would be worth getting the schools and community involved.

8 CORRESPONDENCE:

Burial Ground/Garden Remembrance: The Clerk reported that Mike Matthews had circulated some photos regarding the overhanging vegetation at the Garden of Remembrance. The Chairman said he would go down and cut back some of the vegetation. The Chairman and Councillor Radley were going to cut this back last year however the wet weather had delayed the works.

Ash dieback Project: Too soon to get trees to be planted in the extension to the Burial Ground. Councillors were asked to keep sites in mind.

9 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

Covid Helpline: Councillor Landon said they the Helpline was open again if anyone needed it.

Travellers Site, at the junction of Crowgate Lane and A48: The Chairman has received reports of fencing being undertaken on GCC verge and has passed information on to GCC Highways and FoDDC Enforcement Department. Some site clearance has also taken place.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 15 February 2021 commencing at 7pm.

Meeting closed 20.48pm