

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15 February 2021 via Zoom

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

Members of the Public joined the meeting: 1 (partial attendance)

1 APOLOGIES: Councillor Woodman

2 MINUTES OF MEETING: Minutes of the virtual meeting held on Monday, 18 January 2021 were agreed and signed by the Clerk

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 PUBLIC COMMENT: Received

5 PLANNING MATTERS:

a) Applications:

Application considered prior to the meeting via zoom:

P0065/21/AG Joes Wood, Blaisdon: Application for the determination as to whether prior approval is required for further details for the prior notification for the erection of a forestry building.

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish has no objections to this application

P0083/21/FUL Perrick Farm, Church Lane, Northwood Green: Erection of two storey extension with associated works

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council supports this application

b) Decisions:

P0065/21/AG Joes Wood, Blaisdon: Application for the determination as to whether prior approval is required for further details for the prior notification for the erection of a forestry building - **Approved**

P1556/20/FUL Sunnyside, Broadoak: Change of use of residential dwelling to mixed use of residential dwelling and daytime child minding **Refused**

P1785/20/FUL Bosley House, Blaisdon Road, WoS: Change of use of agricultural land to an enlarged residential curtilage and the siting of a log cabin (falling within the statutory definition of a caravan) to be used as additional accommodation incidental to the use of Bosley House as a single-family dwelling house – **Granted**

P1987/20/FUL Ridgeway, Stantway Lane, WoS: An application to vary the approved plans relating to P0362/20/FUL (ie single storey extension) – **Granted**

P1389/20/OUT Moys Hill Farm, Strand Lane, WOS: Outline application for the erection of a rural agricultural managers dwelling (some matters reserved) (Revised Scheme) - **Refused**

P1739/20/FUL Brick House Farm, Northwood Green: Erection of a detached annexe accommodation for a dependent relative - **Granted**

Appeals: None

Appeal Decisions: None

c) Site Inspection: None

d) Proposed development at Churcham: The Chairman reported that the public consultation had now

closed. There was a public petition currently with 6,500 signatures
12 April is the full Council meeting.

e) Ley Park – Enforcement: The following points were raised:

- A few parishioners have expressed their concern about several small buildings that are being erected in Ley Woods.
- The Parish Council were uncertain as to the planning regulations that would apply in this situation so the Chairman spoke with the planning enforcement officer, who has now been to have a look round and will send the PC his advice.
- As the buildings are generally temporary structures it is likely that most of them will be permissible.
- Residents have been used to walking and jogging in these woods for many years and there are numerous public footpaths and bridleways through the woods which can still be used. However, the owners of these parcels of land are often keen to keep their land private, and so there is the potential for a clash of interest.
- The Parish Council hopes that everyone who gets enjoyment from this beautiful area will be tolerant of the needs of those who may wish to enjoy it in a different way.

County Councillor Robinson reported:

- The County Council’s recent budget meeting decided that an increase of 1.99% on Council Tax is necessary together with an extra 2.76% on the social care levy. This is largely due to the ageing population and the fact that around 800 of the county’s children are in care.
- Children’s Services are still inadequate, as they were when inspected by Ofsted four years ago, but a more recent Ofsted report describes them as “still on the road to recovery, with continued weaknesses in some areas.” It also shows that staff turnover has fallen, as has the local authority’s reliance on agency staff.

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- 28 February ‘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

Donation to Lydcare		200.00	Via Bank Transfer
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GPFA – renewal of annual subscription		50.00	Via Bank Transfer
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Total:		£1018.43	
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Receipts:

F J Cambridge		85.00	
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Western Power wayleave payment		49.37	
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Total:		£134.37	
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7 MATTERS ARISING:

a) Highways Matters: The Chairman reported:

- He was meeting with Nathan from Gloucestershire Highways to tour the Parish and look at the numerous troublesome areas flooding being the main issue. Councillors reported several issues and the Chairman said he would add these to his list.
- The drains in Goose Lane had been rodded and the Internal Drainage Board had cleared the ditch, although John Henry reported that there was still one drain not flowing out into the ditch.
- He is also meeting with Severn Trent as the main sewers are just not coping, especially after heavy rain. This affects Stantway, Northwood Green and the fields below Colchester Close

b) Burial Ground: Proposed extension: The Chairman reported:

- Met with Mr Worlock regarding using his ditch and under field pipe to carry ground water away. He pointed out the location of the pipe and mentioned that he would be prepared to meet some of the cost of the ditching.
- Met with Clive Spencer of Smith's, to look at the possibility of using the old drain which runs under the proposed playing field extension, this originally drained the old workhouse/ institution site (Colchester Close), although water is running through it still, he did not think there would be sufficient depth. He thought to relevel Mr Worlock's ditch, and his pipe would be more successful and a cheaper alternative.
- A very rough estimate of cost of the drainage works would be more than £10,000.
- Smiths would be prepared to level the field and reseed it, to meet playing field standards.
- The Clerk had supplied a couple of names of other drainage specialists and one quoted over £35,000

Councillor Townsend reported that the Clerk had ordered the trees and that he would collect them when in at Nature First. The Chairman said he would supply two stakes for the trees.

The Chairman along with Mike Matthews, Councillor Ensor cleared back the brambles from behind the cremation plaques and he and Councillor Ensor cleared a large amount of ivy from the gates/

c) Play Area: Will arrange a working party in March in the warmer weather and hopefully Covid restrictions will allow.

d) Footpaths: Councillor Townsend reported as follows:

- One of the footpaths in Ley Woods has been washed away in the recent bad weather and the footpath
- Footpath from A48 at Hartland Hill over to Walmore Common is still blocked

The Chairman thanked CC Robinson for his assistance with the works that have been carried along the riverbank – a great improvement.

e) 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:

Closed Churchyard: The Chairman and Councillor Landon met with James Walkey-Cox at the weekend and had a particularly good meeting. It was agreed to spread his cost over 12 months and any additional costs could be invoiced separately. James Walkey-Cox is very keen to start a bird list with the area over by the Old People's Home to be very much an area left to attract the wildlife. It was agreed to purchase 5 bird boxes at a cost of £12 each. The Chairman said the PCC plan to create some interpretations boards listing all the plants and bird life in the Churchyard too.

Dog Waste Bins: Letter received from Merlin Waste who have been in operation since 2003 offering their services to empty any bins in the Parish. Currently the Parish does not have any bins however after a short discussion it was felt that a bin in the area around the Closed Churchyard would be a good idea. Clerk to ascertain costs involved for next month's meeting. Clerk to generate some A5 posters for Councillor Townsend to put up in Northwood Green.

9 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

Litter Picking: The Chairman had received expressions of interest from parishioners in conducting a litter collection around the Parish, he had followed it up with FoDDC who can provide some equipment. The PC would have to do a health and safety risk assessment and provide a first aid kit. Perhaps advertising this in the Wosp and the Church magazine to measure what level of interest there was in the Parish. It would be acceptable to litter pick in a 30mph area and rural roads however no litter picks on the A roads. Obviously depends on the Covid restrictions,

The Smokery tried to arrange a litter pick last year however due to the pandemic this had to be postponed. Perhaps see if they would be interested again?

Queens 70 Year Accession to the throne: Does the Parish wish to recognise this? It was agreed that Councillor Landon would raise this at the next Parish Hall meeting.

Emergency Plan: It was agreed that Councillors Landon, Henry and Hill would revisit the plan. Clerk to circulate.

Digibus: It was agreed that there probably not be a huge need for this Bus to stop in Westbury.

Severn Trent: Still to meet with representatives from Severn Trent to discuss the major problem with the mains sewers cannot cope of the volume that pass through them. Overflowing manhole cover at Stantway, Northwood Green and fields below Colchester Close.

Manhole Covers in The Village: Glos Highways should be able to identify which utility company is responsible and chase them up - request to copy in the PC.

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

Meeting closed 21.00pm