

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 17 January 2022 held in Westbury Parish Hall

PRESENT: Councillors - P Ensor
D Hill
J Henry
A Hyett
D Landon – Vice
S Phelps – Chairman
P Radley
M Townsend
P Woodman
CC B Robinson (partial attendance)
F Wallbank

Members of the Public: 1

1 APOLOGIES and Emergency Procedure: None

2 MINUTES OF MEETING: Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 14 December 2021 were agreed and signed by the Chairman

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: The Chairman declared an interest in P2102/21/AG

4 PUBLIC COMMENT: Comments were received from the parishioner when the agenda item 7b) was discussed

CC Robinson entered and reported as follows:

- The Cabinet has agreed a proposed budget of £520M and is open for public consultation until the 21.1.22. Included is an increase of £100M for roads, £150M for new school buildings, £30,000 for each County Councillor to spend on Highways in their division, £330,000 community speed watch safety fund to work with Town and Parish Councils and residents to identify communities where speed awareness activity like a '20 is plenty' campaign would make a difference to community safety.
- The increase represents a 1.99% increase on the Council Tax plus 1% on Social Care which equates to £3.50 on a band D property.
- GCC is the third lowest Council Tax in England
- Meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner on Tuesday, 18 January – Hartpury Village Hall
- Build Back Better Fund money still available for Community Initiatives
- Freed up £600 to get EWS 20/22 up and running
- Hedge cutting at The Dinney – asked if this had been done?

One of the Councillors said that the speed activated signs along the A48 have been out of use for many years as Glos Highways said it was too expensive to repair. CC Robinson asked for this to be put in an email and he would take it up with Highways.

CC Robinson left:

5 PLANNING MATTERS:

a) Applications:

The Chairman left the room whilst this application was discussed

P2102/21/AG Bossley Court, Blaisdon Road, WOS: Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural storage building

Comment to the Forest of Dean District Council:

Westbury-on-Severn Parish Council objects to this application for the following reason:

- Believe the building will be used for industrial purposes not just for agricultural purposes

b) Decisions:

P1850/21/PQ3PA Barn Off Goose Lane, Bollow: Prior approval for the change of use of Agricultural Building to dwelling house (Class C3) and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion - **Refused**

Appeals: None

Appeal Decisions: None

c) Site Inspection: None

d) Proposed development Plans: the Chairman reported that there had been an article in the Sunday Telegraph from Michael Gove, Housing Minister who is not in favour of the type of housing development that has been suggested for Churcham. He feels that large developments of this nature are harmful to the surrounding countryside wildlife and can cause flooding problems in other areas and it is a loss of green belt around cities.

e) Enforcement: Nothing to report.

6 FINANCIAL

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

b) Accounts for payment and receipts:

	Item	Expenditure	Income	Comment
1	Clerk's Salary – January Less Tax	770.12 <u>17.60</u> 752.52		Paid
2	Inland Revenue Tax FJW NIC PC	17.60 <u>4.57</u> 22.17		Paid
3	James Walkey Cox – January	378.33		Paid
4	Wicksteed: Cost of repairs to springboard	32.95 <u>VAT 6.59</u> 39.54		Paid
5	RBL Poppy Appeal: Cost of wreath for war memorial (Refund due to Clerk)	20.00		Paid
6	System Force Ltd: Renewal of website hosting	30.00 <u>VAT 6.00</u> 36.00		Paid
7	Dennis Beale: Rental of Severn Bore Carpark		75.00	Received
8	F J Cambridge: Memorial tablet for the late Stanley Harris		65.00	Received
	Totals:	£1212.56	£140.00	

c) Proposed budget 2022/23: The Clerk had circulated a second draft budget prior to the meeting and took the Councillors through it in detail. It was unanimously agreed that a precept of £32,000 for 2022/23 would be requested. This represents an £8.55 per annum per household increase on a band D property. **Clerk to email FODDC.**

7 MATTERS ARISING:

a) Highways Matters:

Mirrors: A resident on the A48 has installed some mirrors as they are extremely concerned about the dangers of exiting their property due to the speed of traffic on the A48. Whilst these mirrors should not be attached to existing Gloucestershire Highways street furniture the PC can sympathise with the

residents concerns. The Chairman said he would raise with Gloucestershire Highways again about extending the 30mph speed limit to halfway up Wintles Hill one way and to the corner by the Worlock's property the other.

Potholes: Hunthill/ A48 junction, Grange Court railway bridge, Goose Lane and Rodley Road, Stantway/Gatwick road are also in the very poor state of repair - Severn Trent have now completed their works.

Councillors are very concerned about the bridge over the railway bridge at Junction Inn

b) Burial Ground: Proposed extension: The Clerk reported that emails had been received from 3 parishioners who expressed their dissatisfaction with the way this matter had been handled by the PC. A long discussion took place with Mr Morris (Member of Public) who was very disappointed that the PC had not consulted with the parishioners about the planned works and costs to extend the Burial Ground. The Chairman reported:

- local undertakers had been informed that Yew Tree Brake could take no further burials and they should look elsewhere to bury their dead.
- Newnham Parish Council had looked at providing further Burial Ground space and a landowner had offered land at £10,000 per acre however permission has to be applied for change of use of the land for the use as a Burial Ground/development and then the landowner wants £100,000 per acre.
- Parish Councils raise their precept in accordance to those issues which lie within their responsibilities. The issue of whether they have done so for the management of Burial Grounds would rest on whether or not they are also the local Burial Authority, however this is not the case for every Parish Council.
- The Parish Council has a mandate to conduct government within the Parish and manage Parish affairs as they deem best policy.
- With reference to increasing the Parish Precept, this decision was not taken lightly, in fact this whole issue has involved many, many hours of discussion and deliberations.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would not consult or inform parishioners about the rise in precept which has to be raised by £8.55 for 2022/23 per band D property. This is to help towards the costs involved in extending the Burial Ground.

c) Play Area: Councillor Townsend reported that is in dialogue with a firm who will repair the climbing net however he will have to remove this and take it to them. Costs will be approximately £150 compared to those quoted by Wicksteed of £600. The Clerk thank Councillor Townsend for actioning this repair.

d) Footpaths: The Clerk reported that Jeff Wheeler was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to prior commitments. Regarding EWS 81 he pointed out that due to the Covid pandemic issues with this path had been put 'on hold' as the PROW team were requested not to hold face to face meetings with landowners. His own health has been a concern also. Recently he has once again written to the landowners requesting that they contact him within the next week, to discuss how this can be resolved. If this is not complied with then I will advise them that enforcement action will be my only course of action left.

e) Climate Change: Councillor Landon reported:

- FODDC are looking at putting an information library together to help people understand possible costings of loft installation and other items as currently there are too many scams operating on these topics
- Kempley Parish Council are sponsoring a briefing evening in the village hall during January 2022 on the topic of heat pumps to support a new Government Grant Scheme expected to commence in April 2022;
- West Dean Parish Council are holding a Climate Action Day on 5 March to discuss what climate issues are workable

- The FODDC has been chosen to run an Aurora Project to help tackle a climate emergency at a local level. Aim to develop an app to reduce carbon footprint and how people can work together to save money. This is EU funded. The FODDC is the only Council chosen to do this in the UK

f) Woodland Management: Councillor Ensor would like to see a plaque erected marking who originally donated the wood to the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

Councillor Townsend mentioned that one of the landowners in Joes Wood was very grateful to the PC for their support.

g) Platinum Jubilee of the Queen: The Chairman reported that this would be a historic event and one likely not to be experienced for a long time – the reigning of one monarch as Queen for 70 years. The FODDC are encouraging Town and Parish Councils to enter into the spirit of the occasion. Westbury Church will be holding a Thanksgiving Service. The Bank Holiday dates are 2 & 3 June (replaces the late May Bank Holiday). Therefore, celebrations to mark this occasion will be over the period 2-5 June. The FODDC are planning to plant seven different species of trees in the arboretum at the Speech House. Councillor Landon reported that plans are already in place with the Parish Hall Committee – Friday children’s tea party and picnic + Pig roast and live music, Saturday “posh” BBQ with live streaming of the concert from Buckingham Palace, Sunday roast lunch with a bring your own pudding competition. Councillors were in agreement to progress the suggestion of erecting boundary gates at either end of Westbury Village. The Parish Hall Committee is looking at placing flower planters at the same location.

8 CORRESPONDENCE:

Any Other Correspondence:

FODDC – Register of Members Interests: All Parish and Town Councils have been informed by the FODDC that it is mandatory for Councillors Register of Members Interests to be accessed via the PC website. Clerk has actioned this.

9 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION: None

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, 21 February 2022 commencing at 7pm.

Meeting closed 8.54pm