

## WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11 April 2022 held in Westbury Parish Hall

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

Members of the Public: 2 (partial attendance)

**1 APOLOGIES and Emergency Procedure:** Councillors Hill and Hyett

**2 MINUTES OF MEETING:** Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 14 March 2022 were agreed and signed by the Chairman

**3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None**

**4 PUBLIC COMMENT:** A parishioner living on Jordan Hill raised concern about the speed of traffic following numerous RTC's and within 2 weeks on 2 separate incidents cars have ended up in their garage. The Chairman said that the Parish Councils have for many years been campaigning for the 30mph speed limit to be extended through the Village starting at Wintles Hill to Jordans Hill. It was agreed the Chairman would arrange a site meeting with Gloucestershire Highways, CC Robinson and the Parish Council. **Chairman to action.**

### **5 PLANNING MATTERS:**

#### **a) Applications:**

**P0433/22/PIP** Land between The Pastrol & Whitegates, Wintles Hill, WOS: PIP for 3 dwellings & associated works

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council's original concerns to the applicant's previous application (P1402/17/OUT) remain but in view of the shortfall for land for housing development the Parish Council has **no objections.**

**P0372/22/PQ3PA** Barn off Goose Lane, Bollow: Prior approval for the change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house & for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council **objects** to this application on the grounds that it is inappropriate development in the open countryside

#### **b) Decisions:**

**P0026/22/LD1** Pound Farm, Elton: Application under section 191 to establish whether the residential use for Severn View Cottage and the adjoining Barn Cottage is lawful – **Application withdrawn**

**P1023/21/FUL** The Old Fruit Stall, Hartland Hill, Minsterworth: Temporary stationing of a retail pizza outlet – **Granted**

**P0066/22/FUL** 8 The Crescent, Northwood Green: Erection of a first floor side extension and single storey rear extensions & porch extension & alterations – **Granted**

**P0082/22/FUL** Bojean, Grange Court Road, Adsett: Erection of a two-storey rear extension and single storey side and rear extension -**Granted**

**P0218/22/FUL & P0219/22/LBC** Wintles Hill House, Wintles Hill, WOS:

**Appeals: None**

**Appeal Decisions: None**

c) **Site Inspection:** None

d) **Proposed development Plans:** The Chairman said that talks were underway about Lydney accommodating a larger share of new housing – there is a meeting in 2 weeks.

## 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 –April Less Tax	770.12 <u>32.80</u> 737.32		Paid
2	Inland Revenue: Tax FJW NIC PC	32.80 <u>1.82</u> 34.62		Paid
3	James Walkey Cox – March	389.68		Paid
4	GDPR/Data Protection fee renewal due 8.5.22	40.00		Paid to Clerk
5	GAPTC annual subscription	478.43		Paid
	<b>Totals:</b>	<b>£1458.52</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	

c) **Burial Ground Charges:** The Clerk had circulated a revision of the Burial Ground Fees prior to the meeting and the alterations were agreed however it was decided that in future No Walled Graves would be allowed and this to be added to the Burial Ground Regulations. **Clerk to action.**

d) **Year end accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2022:** It was agreed that the Parish Council would ask Shirley Fowler to carry out the external internal audit. **Clerk to action.**

## 7 MATTERS ARISING:

a) **Highways Matters:** Following the Chairman's tour of the Parish with Nathan looking at all the Highway problems in the Parish. It was a very useful meeting as follows:

- Started outside the Parish Hall, along with Dave D'Ambrogio, where he was able to point out the problems
- Moved on to Rodley Road between Riverside Farm and Beechwood House, where there are extensive potholes
- On to Bollow along by John's where Nathan is still not entirely satisfied with the drainage
- On to The Denny, where Nathan noted the elongated potholes along the A48 and the state of the hedge and trees on both sides of the road, he also intends to get the footway surface cleared along that stretch.
- Returned to Gatwick, where he hopes to get that length of road completely resurfaced and the roadside/ ditch bank consolidated. From there to Hunthill/A48 junction where the whole junction should be resurfaced and the drains down the hill marked with bollards.
- More investigative works are to be conducted outside The Glen and Whitehouse Farm at Adsett.
- At the top of the Junction Hill, travelling towards Broken Cross some work is to be undertaken to get the water off the road.
- At the top of Poulton hill towards Northwood Green, the work that has been done is to be revisited, the ditch level to be lowered to carry the water away more effectively.
- Boseley Bridge where the Northwood Green Road crosses the Longhope Brook, Nathan understood there is a considerable problem with flooding at times of heavy rain and the threat of severe erosion taking place. Finally, he is to request the roadside drains are cleared between The Weighbridge and Court Farm along the A48 and the road edges swept through Westbury.

Church Lane will be completed resurfaced this financial year.

Patching has been carried out at Rodley Road

Roads to be tarred and chipped, from Flaxley, Blaisdon, Northwood Green and down to Westbury, centred on the Boseley area.

**b) Burial Ground: Proposed extension:** The Chairman reported as follows:

- You will all recall that we discovered that the high voltage power line was not laid according to the Wayleave agreement and that Western Power accepted responsibility and agreed to reroute it correctly. Unfortunately, the civil engineers (Keir Group) damaged the sewer pipe, leading to blocked drains on Colchester Close. On the 31 May the Clerk was contacted by Martyn Gardner about the issue.
- He investigated the situation then next morning - he visited the field and found a representative of Keir on-site, who informed him they accept full responsibility and are to rectify the situation immediately.
- He then visited both Mr Gardner and Mr Morris to explain what is to happen
- Been informed by Clive Spencer that the fencing contractor had notified them of a price increase of £1315 plus VAT. Councillors were disappointed about the increase but have to accept.
- The discharge of conditions was proving to be a difficult task so it was agreed that professional would be sought to assist in this matter.

The Clerk reported that she had received a follow-up email from Mr Gardener who suggested that in view of climate change the PC should seriously consider using the agricultural land for tree planting with government grants being available.

**c) Play Area:** Councillor Townsend said he had would carry out the patching of the wetpour now there is unlikely to be any further frosts. There has been some ASB at the Play Area, so the Chairman has asked the Police to carry out monitoring of the Play Area.

**d) Footpaths:** Councillor Townsend said that there were reports of trees down on the bridleway on the edge of Ley Park he reported them to the landowner and the next day the trees had been removed. The two new kissing gates had been installed on the Severn Way.

**e) Climate Change:** Nothing further to report.

**f) Platinum Jubilee of the Queen:** Following the last meeting the Clerk had circulated some options for a water bottle. It was agreed to proceed with the aluminium water bottle at a cost of £3.56 plus VAT per bottle. The Chairman would get the children numbers for Westbury School and Councillor Henry would get the numbers for Walmore Hill.

Councillor Landon said that the Parish Hall are continuing with their plan for the celebrations over the weekend of the 3-5 June. Councillor Townsend said that Northwood Green are organising a street party with games etc.

**h) Westbury Court Care Home:** The Chairman reported the following:

There is a discussion document going before Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet within the next two weeks. The subject of the discussion is to close Westbury Court, along with three other Care Homes in the County.

There appears to be some confusion for the reasons of closure, one claim states there is large over capacity within the care home system in the County, with this over capacity currently running at 1000 surplus places, throughout the total care home provision within Gloucestershire. This includes both the private and public sectors.

There is a second report apparently which states that under the Elderly Care Home Provision Act 2014, all Care Homes must provide En-Suite Facilities for every resident in care. This being the case, Westbury would have to undergo a large-scale refit, which would considerably reduce the number of rooms available, thus making the Home unsustainable.

It is claimed by GCC, they have been reviewing the current demand for care home places within the county for the last five years and see a falling demand occurring. This apparently is partly because the elderly wish to remain in their own homes for as long as possible and are only willing to be taken into care as a last resort. To the best of my belief and understanding, this has always been the case, it is a

very difficult decision for any family to have to accept that an elderly relative can no longer enjoy their own home.

GCC also state, they have a duty to protect the Private Care Home sector, from an over provision of elderly care places, thereby destabilising the private sector and viability.

A Public Meeting was held in the Parish Hall organised by relatives and friends of residents of the Care Home which he and Councillor Landon attended.

The Parish Council will be a consultee.

## **8 CORRESPONDENCE: None**

## **9 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:**

**Annual Parish Meeting** Clerk to invite the PCSO to the

**Drs Surgery Newnham:** Closed on the 1 April. The parishioners of Newnham are pressing for a replacement to be opened.

The portacabin at Westbury is continuing to run as a Drs Surgery.

**10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Annual Parish Meeting Monday, 16 May 2022 commencing at 6.30pm followed by the Annual Council Meeting.

Meeting closed 20.51 pm