

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 21 November 2022 held in Westbury Parish Hall

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

Members of the Public: 1 (partial attendance)

1 APOLOGIES and Emergency Procedure: Councillor Hyett

2 MINUTES OF MEETING: Minutes of the meeting held 17 October 2022 were agreed and signed by the Chairman

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 PUBLIC COMMENT: Representation received regarding P1467/22/FUL

County Councillor Robinson reported:

- A School Transport bus service commenced today to replace the Stagecoach 748 service
- Reported Stagecoach to the Traffic Commissioner due to the failure of running 22% (July) and 25% (August) of their registered journeys
- Gloucestershire has been hit by Stagecoach's withdrawal of 12 subsidised routes (6 of them in FoD) with a loss of 500,000 customer journeys however 350,000 have been saved by the County Council stepping in to procure other operators
- The new on-demand Robin bus service is becoming very popular in the Forest
- Confirmed that the four care homes had been handed back to GCC. They are currently installing security measures at all the sites. Re the future of the Westbury site, they are sharing its availability with 'One Gloucestershire' partners and internal services departments to determine whether there is an opportunity to reuse the site. GCC will also be looking at alternative developments or disposal opportunities should there not be any interest
- Severn Edge STEP Bid - Despite being shortlisted as one of the last five sites being considered to be home to the £220 million programme and receiving positive feedback in assessments, the government announced that STEP will be developed at the West Burton A site in Nottinghamshire
- GCC are now in the running to host Rolls Royce small modular reactors at Oldbury and Berkeley which could potentially provide many of the 40,000 jobs the programme will provide nationwide

5 PLANNING MATTERS:

5.1) Applications:

P1364/22/LBC Northwood House, Northwood Green: Replacement of garage door within west elevation of side annex with a framed glazed double door set. Replacement of the left-hand external window on the south elevation of rear C20th extension with a glazed double door set to match adjacent. Internal

alts to lower the floor level of one of the mezzanine rooms within the later C20th extension existing door into this space will be blocked up and the wall off the lounge within the original farmhouse building will be opened up in order to access the new lower space (Retrospective)

Comments to Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council **object** to this application as the works that have been undertaken have failed to preserve the special character of this listed building. The Parish Council is also in full agreement with all the comments made by the Conservation Officer

P1431/22/LD1 The Gardens, Elton Lane, Elton: Application under Section 191 to establish whether the use of “annexe” as a separate dwelling is lawful (Resubmission)

Comments to Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council **supports** this application

P1215/22/FUL The Lecture Hall, The Village, WOS: Variation of condition 2 (in accordance with approved plans) & condition 6 (surface water drainage scheme). Removal of condition 4 (electric vehicle charging point) re P0397/21/FUL

It was agreed to have a site meeting on Saturday, 26 November.

P1424/22/FUL 9 Stantway Lane, WOS: Erection of two storey rear extension and installation of new cavity walls to PRC dwelling

Comments to Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council has **no objections** to this application

P1534/22/TCA Westbury Court Gardens: Tree works

Comments to Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council **supports** this application

P1562/22/FUL Cleeve Holme, Cleeve, WOS: Erection of porch and erection of single storey & first floor extensions with associated internal alterations & landscaping works

Comments to Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council **supports** this application

P1467/22/FUL Chapel House, Riverside Lane, Broadoak: Erection of a two-storey rear extension with associated works. Demolition of existing glazed outhouse

It was agreed to have a site meeting on Saturday, 26 November. **Clerk to contact FODDC.**

5.2) Decisions: None

Appeals: None

Appeal Decisions: None

5.3) Site Inspection: P1005/22/FUL Land adjacent to Pound Farm

6 FINANCIAL

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

6.2) Accounts for payment and receipts:

	Item	Expenditure	Income	Comment
1	Clerk's Salary -November Less Tax	770.12 <u>20.60</u> 749.52		Paid
2	Inland Revenue: Tax FJW NIC PC	20.60 <u>1.67</u> 22.27		Paid
3	James Walkey Cox – October	389.68		Paid
4	AM Groundcare – November	1090.00		Paid
5	WOS Parish Hall: Hire of hall for 11 Meetings	210.43		Paid
6	PWLB payment due 7.12.22	554.15		Direct Debit
7	D Beale – Severn Bore Carpark rental		75.00	
	Totals:	£3016.05	£75.00	

6.3) Clerk Salary: Nalc has agreed with the unions a pay increase for the year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. Councillors agreed to go along with the Nalc guidelines for a pay increase. Currently the Clerk is paid £11.85 per hour which falls between spinal point 11 and 12 however Councillors agreed to put the Clerk on spinal point 13 which is £13.17 per hour and agreed to review the spinal point each year. Increase to be back dated to 1 April 2022.

6.4) Precept for the financial year 2023/24: As agreed at the September meeting the precept would remain at £32,000 for 2023/24. **Clerk to request email FODDC.**

7 MATTERS ARISING:

7.1) Highways Matters:

The Councillors reported various problems to the Chairman who said he would take them up with Gloucestershire Highways. He felt it was time for another tour of the Parish and include looking at the vegetation overhanging the bus shelter on the corner of Ley Lane.

Vegetation at The Dinney: Councillor Radley reported that Richard Hewlett had cut back the overhanging vegetation on the footway and wanted it recorded in the minutes that he is very grateful as he has tried for the last 2 years to get this done by GCC Highways.

Drainage gratings: These are all silted up through the Village.

7.2) Burial Ground: Proposed extension: The Clerk reported as follows:

- Received a reply from Hayley Fearnside stating that they had passed on the PC's solicitors to their solicitors
- They feel a rental of £5,000 is excessive and a comparison for rental of a playing field in Chalford Hill is £3,000

Following the valuation, the Councillors requested the higher rental figure of £5,000 pa due to the enormous costs involved with the project. These costs have been borne by the Parishioners so as a Public Body they were trying to claw back some income to lessen the burden on the electorate. Councillors are also fully aware of the economic climate we are in currently, both for Parishioners and Schools, so on that basis the Councillors are willing to meet half-way between £3,000 and £5,000 and request a rental figure of £4,000 per annum. **Clerk to email Hayley Fearnside.**

Request to Site a Bench: The Chairman had met with the person who has requested the seat and agreed that it will be placed at the bottom of the Burial Ground and it is their responsibility to secure the seat to the ground.

7.3) Play Area: Councillor Townsend said that he would do the wetpour work once there was a break in the weather, and he would have another look at the swing seat. It was agreed once all the leaves were down there would be a working party to clear the leaves.

The Chairman said he had visited other play areas with his grandchildren and felt that the Westbury play area is of a high standard.

7.4) Footpaths: Jeff Wheeler had sent an update of the repairs that they have undertaken to the various paths which is extensive. The Councillors were grateful for the works he has done. Councillor Radley asked if Councillor Townsend could investigate the footpath from Broadoak to Elton EWS145 as the footbridge on the path has a large hole in it which is dangerous. **Councillor Townsend to investigate.**

7.5) Climate Change: Councillor Landon gave a report on the Aurora project. This Forest Energy Community Initiative involves people working together to generate and use energy differently. Opportunities exist for solar panels to be installed on a public or community building so that the reduced energy costs help keep the buildings viable as an asset in the long term. The solar installation itself will be owned by everyone who purchases a share through a community shares offer. Further details can be found www.aurora-h2020.eu/fod-home/

7.6) Westbury Drs Surgery: Councillor Landon reported there was still no real progress with process of establishing ownership of the building etc.

7.7) Telephone Kiosk Westbury: The Chairman had received complaints that the telephone kiosk in the Village was not being utilised. It was agreed that a bookstore would be a popular asset as the Northwood Green one is extremely well used. **Councillor Landon would put a request for help in getting it up and running and Councillor Townsend would speak with Severn Valley Woodworks to see if they could assist with some shelving.**

8 CORRESPONDENCE:

Alvington Parish Council: The Chairman said he had received a letter requesting the support of Westbury Parish Council with their campaign for a zebra crossing. The plan is on Monday, 20 February 2023 people would cross the road in numbers at 11am Woolaston, 12 noon Alvington, 1pm Aylburton, 2pm Westbury. **Councillors agreed that they are in full support of this.**

9 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

Waste Recycling: Councillor Townsend said that the service that is being provided is very poor indeed. Several Councillors have witnessed the recycling falling out of the vehicle as it drives off and being left on the road. He reported this to the FODDC. The Chairman said he would raise the matter again at a FODDC meeting when rubbish collection was discussed.

It would also appear that the carers who are visiting a resident in NWG seem to be leaving their masks and gloves behind and therefore not disposing them in the correct manner. Councillor Townsend said he would try and establish who are the carers.

Damage Court: There is a lot of speculation of what is happening with hedges being ripped out and it is under a higher stewardship scheme. The Conservation Officer has investigated the situation and has said that the hedgerow has been rather brutally coppiced however the root network is still there.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 12 December 2022 at 7pm

Meeting closed 21.42pm