

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 17 July 2023 held in Westbury Parish Hall

PRESENT: Councillors - P Ensor
D Landon – Vice
D Hill
R Hewlett
A Hyett
P Radley
S Phelps – Chairman
B Stephens
M Townsend
CC P Robinson (Partial Attendance)
F Wallbank

Members of the Public: 0

1 APOLOGIES and Emergency Procedure: The Chairman welcomed Richard Hewlett to the meeting. Richard Hewlett signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form

2 MINUTES OF MEETING: Minutes of the meeting held Monday 19 June 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 PUBLIC COMMENT: None

County Councillor Robinson reported as follows:

- **Adult Education:** A recent Ofsted inspection was carried out and the system was rated as Good. This was the first inspection since 2014. Hopefully by the time the next one is due in 2028 it will be rated as Outstanding. The scheme is aimed at the low skilled and economically disadvantaged and reaches 6,000 per year
- A bid has been made for £16.5M to build a new special school by 2026 to create spaces for 200 primary and secondary age children which will be built on land owned by GCC at Abbeydale, Glos. If children have to be placed in special schools out of County it costs £50,000 per annum per child as per £23,000 in County. A second school is needed to cater for another 200 kids.
- Managed to intervene with negotiations with GCC with regards to the rent for the new playing field. He managed to get this agreed at £4,000 per annum. The Chairman and Clerk expressed their sincere thanks to him for managing to bring the matter to a conclusion
- Glos Highways are rolling out a new scheme “find and fix” with regards to potholes – 8 more gangs will be out and about and each gang will be able to fix 100 potholes a day.

Councillor Landon asked if there was any funding available from GCC to help fund the separate supply to the Drs Surgery. He said he would chase.

5 PLANNING MATTERS:

5.1) Applications:

P0661/23/FUL Leycott Farm, Lower Ley Lane, Minsterworth: Change of use of disused farm building to workshops (B1/E).

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

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

P0941/23/TCA The Limes, The Village, WOS: Tree works to lime trees

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council **supports** to this application

5.2) Decisions:

P0599/23/FUL Thistle Moor, Church Lane, NWG: Change of use & conversion of existing garage to provide a mixed-use holiday let/annexe with associated façade works & new dormer windows to roof -
Granted

Appeals: None

Appeal Decisions: None

5.3) Site Inspection: None

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 July Less Tax	856.05 <u>15.20</u> 840.85		Paid
2	Inland Revenue:* Tax FJW NIC PC Refund due to Clerk	15.20 <u>13.53</u> 28.73		Paid
3	James Walkey Cox – June	389.68		Paid
4	AM Groundcare – 2 cuts for July	1201.76		Paid
5	FODDC: Recharge of election costs	211.80		Paid
6	Epson Black ink cartridge (refund due to Clerk)	18.42 <u>VAT 3.68</u> 22.10		
7	Smiths: Fencing works at the Burial Ground as per Quotation	32766.08 <u>VAT 6553.22</u> 39319.30		Paid
8	Cost of materials for maintenance jobs for the Community Payback Team	65.35		
8	PWLB Loan		24975.00	
9	Philip Blatchly & Sons: Burial fees in connection with the late Kelvin Michael Potter		1320.00	
10	VAT refund		6625.75	
	Totals:	£42079.57	£32920.75	

7 MATTERS ARISING:

7.1) Highways Matters: The Chairman reported as follows:

- Severn Trent Manholes Covers in the Village: He threatened escalating the matter to Ofwat and Mark Harper MP. STW have said they will fix both covers by the 24 July and will look at replacing with a higher grade cover
- The Crescent, NWG: This is an issue was reported some time ago, it is the pavement running along in front of The Crescent houses and is pursuing this with Two Rivers as the maintenance of the

pavement lies with them. The resident at number 8 has lowered their drive level and therefore left a severed pavement step down to the level of the new driveway

Councillors reported various Highways matters and the Chairman said he would raise these with Highways.

Councillor Hill said there was a lot of loose gravel on Ampney Lane and knew that it had undergone a trial surfacing treatment. The Chairman said that Ampney Lane was holding up the best out of all the trial sites.

A4151 hedge belonging to the property Tudor Times has not been cut for many years and needs cutting back. Councillor Radley said he would speak to the owners.

Footway Broadoak right hand side: The path is overshadowed by the hedge and needs cutting back.

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

- The loan from the PWLB had been received and the VAT return money should be received.
- Confirmed as reported by CC Robinson the rent had been agreed at £4,000 per annum for the new playing field.
- Scott Morris at Langley Wellington had commenced the works on drafting a new lease.

It was agreed the Chairman would purchase several padlocks with keys so that a set can be given to the school and the PC retain a set.

7.3) Play Area: Councillor Townsend reported as follows:

- Still liaising with Severn Trent about the defective manhole
- The picnic table has been vandalised so he spoke to Simon Brown at Severn Valley Woodworks who said sent a couple of men down to have a look at the table. The table is beyond repair and Simon Brown has kindly offered to donate a replacement. The vandalism has been reported to the police.
- He has been in touch with the Probation Services Community Payback team who have agreed to help with repainting the memorial seat, black seat and blow and clean the wetpour.
- The bin is always overflowing. The Chairman said he would speak to the FODDC to see if Ubico could empty it.

7.4) Footpaths: Councillor Townsend said one of the footpaths at the bottom of Hunthill has a locked gate installed which has been done to prevent fly tipping. There should really be a stile if the gate is locked.

Councillor Radley said the footbridge on the footpath from Elton to Broadoak has been repaired.

7.5) Climate Change: Councillor Landon reported that progress is being made with the Aurora Project. In the Forest of Dean, the project has been progressing plans for the community solar PV installation at Freedom Leisure Lydney and The Dean Academy. Approximately 200 kWp of roof top solar panels will provide cheaper electricity, reducing carbon emissions and cutting costs. Draft site designs and legal documents have been produced and the next step is for detailed building and electrical surveys.

7.6) Westbury Drs Surgery: Councillors Landon and Hyett reported on the situation with regards to the Drs Surgery. No real progress has been made and no updated figure for the provision of a separate electricity supply for the building. The Committee has not approached Newnham Parish Council yet until a firm quotation has been received. The Parish Hall have also been informed that they have to pay to insure the building. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council would have a power to make a donation under Local Government Act 1972 s133 towards the cost of providing an electricity supply.

7.7) Provision of a defibrillator for the Elton Area: It was agreed that the Parish Council would make a £50 donation.

8 CORRESPONDENCE: None

9 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

Lydcare: Councillor Landon reported that the new driver had been helping for 3 months and has done 3 runs in June and 3 in July. **It was agreed that the Parish Council would make their usual donation towards the services provided by Lydcare at the September meeting. It was also agreed that until such time as Newnham Parish Council make a financial contribution to the Lydcare services the driver should only take Westbury parishioners.**

Westbury Care Home: The building has been put on the market for the sum of £600,000 and with Alderking.

Bus Shelters: The Clerk had asked Mr King to quote for the works required to the other shelters and was awaiting for his reply.

Telephone Kiosk NWG: The Community Payback people had agreed to carry out some refurbishing works.

Borough Councillor Report:

The FODDC only has a 3.8 year land supply instead of a 5 year supply.

The FODDC had invested some of their money in oil companies which pay good dividends however the new “green” thinking is to sell these and invest in green initiatives companies which could potentially lead to a financial loss to the Council.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, 18 September 2023 at 7pm

Meeting closed 8.50pm