

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 16 October 2023 held in Westbury Parish Hall

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

Members of the Public: 1

1 APOLOGIES and Emergency Procedure: Councillor Stephens and CC Robinson.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING: Minutes of the meeting held Monday 18 September 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 PUBLIC COMMENT: Received regarding a burial plot in the burial ground.

5 PLANNING MATTERS:

5.1) Applications:

P1223/23/FUL The Barn, Adsett Lane, Adsett: Erection of a 2-bedroom holiday let (revision to approved scheme for conversion of barn) with extension to provide bat night roost (as previously approved) together with associated works.

Councillors agreed to have a site visit on Sunday, 22 October at 10.30am

5.2) Decisions:

P1034/23/FUL Land at Sunnybank, Elton Lane, Elton: Change of use of land to tourism use and erection of 2 glamping units, improved vehicular access, parking area and associated landscaping (resubmission) - **Granted.**

P0849/23/FUL Chapel House, Riverside Lane, Broadoak, Newnham: Erection of two storey rear extension and single storey front extension with associated works – **Granted.**

Appeals: None

Appeal Decisions: None

5.3) Site Inspection: Land at Sunnybank, Elton Lane, Elton: Change of use of land to tourism use and erection of 2 glamping units, improved vehicular access, parking area and associated landscaping (resubmission) Tuesday, 10.10.23 attended by Councillor Ensor

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 October Less Tax | 856.05 <u>25.40</u> 830.65 | | Paid |
| 2 | Inland Revenue: * Tax FJW NIC PC Refund due to Clerk | 25.40 <u>13.53</u> 38.93 | | Paid |
| 3 | James Walkey Cox – August | 389.68 | | Paid |
| 4 | AM Groundcare – 2 cuts for October | 1201.76 | | Paid |
| 5 | Chairman's half year allowance | 25.00 | | Paid |
| 6 | WoS PCC rental of Northwood Green Field | 10.00 | | Paid |
| 7 | Lydcare Donation | 200.00 | | Paid |
| 8 | Dennis Beale – quarter years rental of Severnbore carpark | | 75.00 | |
| | Totals: | £2696.02 | £75.00 | |

6.3 Budget for 2024/25: The Clerk asked the Councillors to consider if there were any projects that they wish to undertake and pointed out that it was the end of the 3 year grass cutting contract. The Chairman and Councillor Landon had concerns about how the Closed Churchyard was been maintained. Sadly, the contractor was experiencing health problems and was currently not able to work. The long areas of the Churchyard should have been cut and removed in September and still remain. **It was agreed that the Clerk would go to tender for another 3 years – 2024-2026 inc. The extra grass areas at the Burial Ground would need to be included. Regarding the Closed Churchyard. The job spec for the Closed Churchyard would need to be looked at as there needs to be less areas of wild flowers. Clerk to liaise with the Chairman and Councillor Landon.**

7 MATTERS ARISING:

7.1) Highways Matters: The Chairman said that apart from the usual Highways Matters that have been reported were there any other matters.

Hunthill: This is in a dreadful condition.

Footway through The Village: Glos Highways had been clearing the footway.

Drains at Rodley: Councillor Hewlett reported the drains from Rodley to Blue Boys had been jetted. It transpires that there is a telephone pole straight down through the drain at one point.

Verge cutting: It would appear that prior to this being carried out this time no litter pick was done.

Grit Bins: Councillors said that Glos Highways have been filling these up around the Parish. A grit bin needs to be placed by the footway at Rock Farm. **It was agreed that Councillor Radley would place on at this site.**

7.2) Burial Ground: Proposed extension: It was agreed that the Clerk would chase Langley Wellingtons. The Chairman had done the measurements for RG & RB Williams to product a red plan for lease purposes. **Clerk to send to Richard Williams.**

7.3) Play Area: Councillor Townsend reported that he is still in correspondence with STW regarding the sewer manhole cover that needs some attention. He also did some patching repairs of the wetpour.

7.4) Footpaths: The Clerk had received a complaint that the footpath from Broadoak to Elton EWS145, was very badly overgrown in places and had been reported to Jeff Wheeler. Councillor Radley advised that part of the footpath was blocked and an unofficial diversion to it. Councillor Townsend would speak to Jeff Wheeler and report it on the Gloucestershire Public Rights of Way system.

Councillor Townsend said that someone was removing way marker signs and posts in the Northwood Green area. Councillor Townsend would speak to Jeff Wheeler and report it on the Gloucestershire Public Rights of Way system The footpath EWS 73 at Adsett by the Chapel which goes to Severn & Wye Smokery, is blocked with gates chain locked Councillor Townsend would speak to Jeff Wheeler and report it on the Gloucestershire Public Rights of Way system.

Footpath EWS81 is still blocked. The Chairman said that there should be no exceptions as to whose land the footpath is on. **Councillor Townsend said he would take it up with Jeff Wheeler again and copy his boss, Nicola Chandler and Councillor Philip Robinson.**

7.5) Climate Change: Councillor Landon gave a short update.

7.6) Westbury Drs Surgery: Councillors Landon and Hyett reported that the Heads of Terms have been agreed however the contract has not been signed yet. Regarding the separate electricity supply that is required for the Drs Surgery the figure is around £8,000. Newnham Parish Council has not been approached yet for a donation. The Chairman suggested that this was done soon as Parish Councils were in currently looking at their budgets for 2024/25. **It was agreed that the Parish Council would make a provision of £2,000 in their budget.**

8 CORRESPONDENCE:

8.1 Local Boundary Commission for England – Noted

9 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

Northwood Green Bus: Councillor Townsend reported that the 781 bus did not turn up on the 11.10.23 and there were 6 ladies waiting to go shopping. He contacted CC Robinson. The 781 is a GCC contract service currently operated by Altonian Ltd who trade as Transpora. They did notify us that it did not operate that day stating the bus had been involved in an accident on its way to start service. As a result, they will be issued a fine for non-operation however this will be little consolation to those that were waiting for the service but will hopefully focus them to operate it correctly going forward.

Also, several times the bus has been late and GCC have tried to investigate the issue regarding late operation but the records we have access are unfortunately very limited. The contract for the 781 is due to change hands as a result of a competitive re-tender so from 24th January 2024 the service will be operated by Newent Dial a Ride. GCC is concerned that Altonian may have become complacent during the remaining weeks of the contract, so they have asked for the service to be monitored.

P1034/23/FUL Land at Sunnybank, Elton Lane, Elton: Change of use of land to tourism use and erection of 2 glamping units, improved vehicular access, parking area and associated landscaping (resubmission): The Chairman reported that he had been contacted by the Monitoring Officer as they had received a complaint that he had been biased on this application. The Councillors were in full agreement that at no time was the Chairman biased and confirmed that he never votes on planning applications.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, 20 November 2023 at 7pm

Meeting closed 8.37pm