

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 19 February 2024 held in Westbury Parish Hall

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

Members of the Public: 2 (partial attendance)

1 APOLOGIES and Emergency Procedure: County Councillor Robinson and Councillor Hill.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING: Minutes of the meeting held Monday 15 January 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 PUBLIC COMMENT: Victoria King from Northwood Green along with Pete Muldrew the following:

Lots of the parents in the village would love some communal play equipment in Northwood Green village green so that the children can play together. We suggest locating any equipment near the new bench. Ideally, we would have some physical play equipment as well as something that prompts imaginative play. We suggest wooden natural looking equipment that would work on the existing grass (maybe we would have to add playbark if it got muddy). If funding was required, then several parents in the village would be up for fundraising. Based on available funds, and any restrictions or requirements from the Parish Council we could then choose what equipment would be best.

Play equipment ideas:

Obstacle course. This can work for multiple age groups.

- The simplest version would be wooden stepping stones and balance beams
- If we made it even more exciting it would have a bridge, some monkey bars/ something to hang off, a slide.
- It could also have some kind of playhouse attached or underneath

Imagination play

- Some wooden ride on animals
- A wooden shape of a boat, a train - something for children to get inside. With a steering wheel
- Something to go inside, with windows, a counter- can be a house, shop

The ideas above would be our preference. We also suggest some other lower cost ideas.

Games Shed

- Add an outdoor storage small shed / trunk with combination lock that all parents or carers could use. We could provide communal balls, hula hoops and other such garden games to keep in that the children could get out to play with.

Natural Play

- These ideas could be very low cost.
- Add some tree stumps / logs to play with and climb on. I've got lots of wood at Sandalwood and I'm sure others have things.
- Build willow den using our own sourced willow.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the PCC to see if they were in agreement with play

equipment being sited on the field as they were the owners of the filed.

5 PLANNING MATTERS:

5.1) Applications:

P1696/23/FUL 6 The Crescent, NWG: Variation of condition 2 (approved plan) relating to P0225/21/FUL to enable external rendering to be added to two storey & single storey extensions, addition of ground floor window to side elevation & alterations to first floor window to front elevation.

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council has no objections to this application.

P0068/24/LBC Ardens Farm, The Village, WOS: LBC for the conversion of x2 barns in x2 holiday lets with associated parking, landscaping and works.

Comments to the Forest of Dean District Council:

The Parish Council has no objections to this application.

5.2) Decisions:

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 - **Granted**

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) - **Granted**.

P0139/24/AG Agriculture Barn, Frowens Farm, Frowens Lane, WOS: Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural storage building – Not required.

Appeals: 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 February Less Tax	988.65 <u>67.40</u> 921.25		Paid
2	Inland Revenue TAX FJW NIC	67.40 <u>31.83</u> 99.23		Paid
3	James Walkey Cox – January	389.68		Paid
4	GPFA – Annual renewal due 1 February	50.00		Paid
5	Robert King Contracting: Trimming hedge and brambles at Westbury Burial Ground	250.00 <u>VAT 50.00</u> 300.00		Paid
6	F J Cambridge – Memorial for the late Brian Mitchell		100.00	
7	GCC – Rent from the School for the period 1 April to 31 August		291.67	
	Totals:	£1760.16	£391.67	

It was agreed that the Clerk would email James Walkey Cox pointing out that his contract would end in March and that the payment for October 2023 was withheld due to him being off work with a bad back and no work was undertaken during that period in the Closed Churchyard.

7 MATTERS ARISING:

7.1 Highways Matters: The Chairman said would get a suitable date asap for Andrew Middlecote to have a tour of the parish to see the problems first hand.

Speeding Traffic A48: One of the parishioners from Jordan Hill (who attended the January meeting) had contacted the Chairman saying that Minsterworth had managed to have the speed limit reduced through Minsterworth from 50 to 40mph. The Chairman had contacted Roger Blowey at Minsterworth Parish Council and sadly this is not the case.

Network Rail: The Chairman has asked Network Rail for a definitive statement as to their intentions to rectify the situation at Jordan Hill Rail Bridge over the A48. At the site meeting held last year, it was understood by those present that Network Rail would undertake some scrub removal off the embankment on the southern side of the bridge to improve the line of vision of road users. As notice has been given of the intention to undertake works on the Gloucester-Chepstow line during March, the Chairman wanted confirmation that on this occasion, some definite action will be taken to improve safety provision for road users? Awaiting a response.

It was agreed that WoSPC should contact Mark Harper, GCC Highways, CC Philip Robinson, Gloucestershire Police and Network Rail and spell out our issues.

Dinney Hill: The Chairman reported that there is serious erosion by the bridge to Ley Brook. The Bank is collapsing on the land side and he had an on site meeting on Tuesday (20 February).

7.2 Burial Ground: Proposed extension: The Clerk reported she had been informed by the solicitor that GCC are now stating that the Secretary for State for Education has to approve the change of use.

7.3 Play Area: Councillor Townsend said that it would be good idea once the better weather arrives to jet wash the wetpour surface and Councillor Radley said he has happy to do that.

7.4 Footpaths: The Clerk circulated an update from Jeff Wheeler on jobs that had been competed in the Parish.

7.5 Climate Change: Councillor Landon reported as follows:

Government guidance requires parish councils to consider what can be done to conserve and enhance biodiversity in their area and I have been looking at what is needed. Fortunately, we are already following most of their suggestions in that our main land holding is the closed churchyard, which we are already caring for with biodiversity in mind, and we also encourage litter picking and collection of dog mess. The planting of native species of trees is suggested but we are not aware of any suitable space for this. We should also be encouraging biodiversity in our parish magazines so if anyone has any advice to offer on this subject please let me know.

The Forest of Dean District Council has been working on a scheme to ensure that our towns and parishes are preparing for the changes and risks that climate change may bring in the future. I'm afraid that my long-suffering fellow councillors then had to listen to me ranting about the length of the instructions, which ran to 73 pages! However, the advice is generally to use our local knowledge to.

7.6 Westbury Drs Surgery: Councillor Landon reported that she had received confirmation from Newnham Parish Council that they are not willing to make any financial contribution towards the cost of providing a separate electricity supply for the Drs Surgery. Councillor Hyett said that no progress had been made in the last month and the VH Committee are awaiting written confirmation whether a single phase or 3-phase electricity supply is required for the Drs Surgery..

7.7 Severn Trent Issues in the Parish: Stantway, NWG and Burial Ground: Severn Trent Water have agreed to attend the next Parish Council meeting on Monday, 18 March.

The Chairman reported that he had made some progress regarding ST, in that the FODDC CEO and the Chairman had an hour-long virtual meeting with two executives of ST last week. ST have now agreed to hold an information session with FoDD Councillors to outline ST's plans for the future.

From what was said at the session last week and from a comment in the newspaper, it would appear that

OFWAT are also failing in its duty in upholding regulations and pursuing falling standards within the water companies. However it is a large step forward in that ST have agreed to meet and talk to FODDC, something that FoDDC have been requesting for years.

7.8 Telephone Kiosk the Village: Councillor Townsend had been to the kiosk and the books are all damp and it would appear that it is not being used as a book exchange. **It was agreed that Councillor Townend would remove all the books.**

8 CORRESPONDENCE: Any Other Correspondence:

The Forest of Dean District Council is calling for sites within the district to potentially accommodate future housing and employment: It was agreed that the Clerk would submit the sites that the Parish Council submitted to Nigel Gibbons (FODDC) in September 2020.

The Chairman reported that Tewkesbury Borough Council has resurrected a possible large housing development (5,000-10,000 houses) straddling Churcham and Highnam

9 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

Litter Pick Around Rodley: Councillor Hewlett said that a litter pick had been carried out around Rodley with a lot of litter being generated from the Drs Surgery and Gatwick House.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, 18 March 2024 at 7pm

Meeting closed 9.10pm