

WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE WEST DEAN CENTRE, BREAM ON WEDNESDAY 26th September 2018

PRESENT:

WDPC COUNCILLORS

P Hiett (Chairman)	S Crick
B Evans	S Freeman
B Freshwater	B Gayler
T Gwilliam	F McGuinness
A Moore	J Richmond
C Smith	

D Kent (Clerk) and P Jones (Deputy Clerk) were in attendance

COUNTY COUNCILLOR: R Boyles

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: A Grant

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: None present

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Councillor R Boyles provided a Gloucestershire County Council report. Matters included: Temporary repairs to the Lydbrook Wye bridge had been carried out, but a permanent solution was required; the new Gloucester College building at Cinderford was now operational; the reported reduction of hours in the opening times of the Forest recycling centre attracted some adverse comments. R Boyles advised that these proposals could be revisited, and he would take these concerns back to GCC; Council was requested to identify roads for resurfacing in 2019-20 and damaged/misplaced/unfilled grit bins; the parking restriction scheme at Parkend Station was being implemented; There was some discussion on the lack of a cattle grid at the development at the former Vencel Resil site at Whitecroft.

COUNCIL MEETING

1. Procedural Business

1.1 APOLOGIES

WDPC Councillors: M Costley, P Dunford and D Oliver

District Councillor: M Smart, R Leppington and C McFarling

1.2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

S Freeman in respect of associations with Yorkley Community Centre (Item 2.2 vi))

T Gwilliam and P Hiett as District Council Cabinet members which was in negotiations to take over land at the Five Acres site (agenda item 2.3)

1.3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING on 29th August 2018

The minutes were approved.

2. Items for discussion and decision

2.1 YORKLEY COURT FARM

Standing orders were suspended to allow District Councillor A Grant to deliver a report on enforcement at the Yorkley Court Farm site, prepared by enforcement officer R van der Hoven. The report explained that the race tracks had been removed, two enforcement notices had been served, and prosecution was being considered. It was noted with disappointment that the notices had been served later than had been promised.

2.2 FINANCE & STAFFING

- i) The September 2018 schedule of payments was approved.
- ii) B Gayler and S Freeman would provide electronic authorisation for September 2018 payments.
- iii) J Richmond and P Hiatt would conduct the October 2018 Financial Inspection.
- iv) It was advised that the September 2018 Financial inspection had been satisfactorily conducted.
- v) This item was withdrawn from the agenda.
- vi) It was agreed that an award of £3,235.20 should be made to Yorkley Community Centre for the installation of emergency CCTV equipment.

2.3 FIVE ACRES SITE

T Gwilliam reported that terms had been agreed for the transfer of the Five Acres College site (excluding the sports fields that West Dean Parish Council were negotiating to buy) were progressing well. A business plan for the site would be published in December 2018. Arrangements for the Parish Council to purchase at a nominal fee the Sports Fields attached to the site were close to completion. S Freeman would supply a model agreement for sports club users of the site.

2.4 FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE

Consideration of the 2019-20 budget would be referred to the Planning & Staffing Committee at its next meeting.

2.5 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

- i) Inclusive Play Equipment

It was agreed that C Smith would report back to the Council on costs, funding and possible sites for the equipment.

- ii) P Hiatt reported on a Community Safety Partnership/Parish & Town Council Forum meeting with Police Inspector A Hodgetts. Good relationships with the police in Bream were being cultivated. A specialist on ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) would be invited to address the Council on the subject.

Items for information:

3.1 Forest Edge (South) Neighbourhood Development Plan

It was agreed that a representative of the District Council should be invited to attend a meeting of the Group to explain planning policy and the powers of a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

It was resolved that the quotation of £125.00 from the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council to collate and standardise Character Assessments should be accepted and that £500 should be allocated to fund a project document manager.

3.2 Planning Committee

The minutes of the two meetings held in September were presented. The Clerk was requested to write a follow-up letter to remind the Member of Parliament to respond to a letter sent from Council about the Secretary of State's decision to allow the development at Lower Berry Hill to take place.

3.3 Multi Use Track, Parkend to Lydney

It was agreed that S Freeman and/or B Freshwater would represent the Council at a future meeting of Lydney Town Council to seek information on LTC's commitment to the project. This subject would continue to be a separate agenda item.

The Clerk would request information from the District Council as to whether a sum of £50,000 which had been previously allocated for the Multi Use Track was still available.

3.4 Forest of Dean Road Safety Group

The minutes were received.

3.5 Highways Issues Report

The report was presented. B Gayler expressed his appreciation for the good relationship between Council and Brian Watkins of GCC Highways.

3.6 GAPTC/FVAF Youth Provision

A report of a GAPTC/FVAF meeting attended by S Crick and the Clerk was received. Matters to be determined included the recruitment of a youth worker and the provision of youth shelters or internet cafes. It was noted that the cost of a youth shelter would be in the range £2,500 to £5,000.

3.7 The Clerk's Report was received.

It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange a private 'Being a Better Councillor' course for councillors at a convenient date on a Saturday later in the year.

3.8 The Deputy Clerk's Report was received.

The Deputy Clerk reported that a review of grit and waste bins throughout the parish was being conducted.

The 14 BT telephone kiosks offered to the Council had now been purchased, and BT funded electricity supply was provided for 7 years. The Deputy Clerk was conducting a survey of them, and had obtained signage for them. Members were requested to come up with ideas for their usage.

The meeting finished at 9.53pm