

WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE WEST DEAN CENTRE, BREAM, ON WEDNESDAY 28th March 2018

PRESENT:

WDPC COUNCILLORS

P Hiett (Chairman)	S Crick
P Dunford	B Evans
S Freeman	B Freshwater
B Gayler	T Gwilliam
F McGuinness	A Moore (part meeting)
D Kent (Clerk) and Phil Jones (Deputy Clerk) were in attendance	

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: R Leppington

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were about 10 members of the public in attendance.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

The situation at Yorkley Court Farm was discussed, in the light of the continued use of the land as an area for motocross activities while enforcement action had been initiated. It was advised that it appeared that delaying tactics were being employed by the site occupiers as enforcement action could not be taken until the planning application for the change of access had been considered. It was also advised that major mine works had been identified at the site. The matter would be raised at the FODDC Cabinet.

The Yorkley Court Farm issue would continue to be a standing item on Council's agenda.

Concerns were expressed about anti-social behaviour in Bream. The Parish Council had allocated funding for the recruitment of a youth worker to address these problems. It was advised that all incidents should be reported to the police.

In response to a question from the public, P Jones advised that the Council was acquiring old disused BT telephone kiosks at a nominal price, and would be seeking ideas from the community as to possible uses.

A member of the public brought up the matter of traffic problems in Sling. The Clerk has reported these issues to the Highways Department at Gloucestershire County Council. B Gayler would provide a point of contact for Sling residents. In respect of dog fouling incidents, P Hiett would contact FODDC dog wardens. R Leppington advised that a fixed penalty had just been imposed on a resident for allowing dog fouling, and he would encourage everyone to spread the message that enforcement action would be taken.

R Leppington provided a District Council report. He advised of regeneration plans in respect of Lydney Harbour, Lawnstone House (Coleford), Five Acres and the Northern Quarter, as well as the proposed housing delivery agency. Work on the District Council plan to 2036 was in progress.

The Council meeting began at 7.35pm

COUNCIL MEETING

1. Procedural Business

1.1 Apologies: WDPC Councillors: M Costley and L Elliott

County Council Councillor: R Boyles

District Councillor: A Grant and M Smart

1.2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None were offered

1.3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING on 28th February 2018

The minutes were approved.

2. Items for discussion and decision.

2.1 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS (reverting to the published order of business)

2.1.1 The Chairman advised that he had held a meeting with the Citizens' Advice Bureau to consider the provision of consultation areas in Parish Council areas to avoid inconvenient travel by users to Coleford or Cinderford. This matter would be considered as an agenda item for the next Council meeting.

2.1.2 The resignation of Councillor Paul Screen was reported. The Clerk would report the vacancy to the District Council for necessary action.

2.1.3 The Sheep Liaison Group had apparently organised a meeting to consider sheep lifts without inviting West Dean Parish Council. The Chairman would investigate.

2.1.4 The Yorkley Court Farm report was provided by S Freeman. The planning applicant's access information was awaited. It was advised that a walk-through of the Yorkley Court Farm area was arranged for the last Sunday of each month at 11.00a.m. P Hiatt explained that his appeal for land for motocross use was not connected to the Yorkley Court Farm application but was intended to allow safe use of legal sites for motorcyclists.

At this point A Moore joined the meeting

2.2 FINANCE & STAFFING

- i) The March 2018 schedule of payments and credit card transactions was approved. The Deputy Clerk would seek competitive tenders from other suppliers for future tree surgery work.
- ii) S Freeman and F McGuinness (with P Hiatt as reserve) would authorise March 2018 payments. The Clerk would add A Moore, B Gayler and P Dunford to the schedule of authorised bank signatories.
- iii) B Evans and P Hiatt would conduct the April 2018 Financial Inspection.
- iv) It was advised that the March 2018 Financial inspection had been satisfactorily conducted by F McGuinness and M Costley.
- v) The provisional end-of-year expenditure/income against budget was presented. The Clerk explained the considerable underspend, which had been addressed by carrying forward certain underspent budgets into the following year, as agreed in the previous Council meeting.
- vi) It was agreed that the £1,000 award for the Cinderford to Lydney line soundscape project, made to the farOpen Arts Group could be diverted to £900.00 would be committed for essential tree repairs at Parkend closed churchyard.

2.3 YOUTH PROVISION

The reports from the working group were approved. The project should be professionally scoped and planned, before recruiting an experienced youth worker to carry out the implementation phase of the project. The minutes of the meeting held 13th February 2018 were received.

2.4 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS

It was agreed that the usual process of co-opting new councillors would be used. This involves public notices and invitation to applicants to submit CVs and to make a presentation at the following Council meeting, followed by a ballot of Councillors.

2.5 PROVISION OF SALT/GRIT, LITTER AND DOG WASTE BINS

It was agreed that good quality salt/grit bins were required. The Clerk had requested from the County Council a schedule of all their existing bins, which they are responsible for filling. Bins which are damaged or missing will be reported back to GCC with an expectation that they will be replaced. A Parish Council working group will be assembled to identify locations not already provided with a bin where supplies will be needed.

No consideration was given to dog waste or litter bins.

2.6 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY, 16th MAY 2016

It was agreed that the Assembly would follow the usual format, with guest speakers from the CAB, the Police, and a third for a speaker to present the case for the Forest to become an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

2.7 BOAR

It was reported that the Clerk was pursuing with the Forestry Commission the creation of a boar secretariat to address the boar issue.

It was agreed:

- i) The Forestry Commission to be contacted in respect of boar policy, as the previous policy expired in 2016 and no new policy had been developed
- ii) A further meeting of the Boar Group be held, to determine its future and any necessary action. WDPC to express at this meeting concerns that no developments had taken place since the meeting at West Dean Parish Council on 5th January 2018.
- iii) If no positive response had been received from the Forestry Commission at or following the next Boar Group meeting, the Clerk would write to the MP and Forestry Commission, with full media coverage, to seek a solution.
- iv) If this had no effect, then a delegation to Parliament would be arranged

2.8 COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

The Clerk reported that the existing web site was clumsy and difficult to populate. The Council would benefit from a presence on social media to communicate with residents, especially young people.

It was agreed that the Clerk should seek through a variety of contacts, including GAPTC, Michaela Lee at FODDC, FVAF and other sources, advice and quotations if appropriate. The Clerk would also request assistance in delivering Parish newsletters through village newsletter contacts.

2.9 PILLOWELL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

It was agreed that this issue was best addressed by Pillowell ward councillors acting independently from the Parish Council.

At this point, A Moore left the meeting

Items for information:

3.1 District Councillors Reports

These reports had already been delivered in the Public Forum and the Chairman's notes in 2.1 above.

3.2 Five Acres Report

T Gwilliam reported that FODDC would support the development of a Cultural Strategy to complement the Leisure Strategy. Funding would be found to enable the Leisure Centre at Five Acres to keep running until December 2018.

It was hoped that the development of a hotel could subsidise leisure and cultural amenities there. Congratulations were offered by Councillors to members of the FODDC Cabinet for their work in respect of the Five Acres project.

10.05pm At this point, in accordance with standing orders, Council agreed to extend the meeting by 15 minutes

3.3 Pillowell Ward NDP

It was reported that there was a good representation from the community at a meeting held the previous evening in Whitecroft. Documentation from that meeting would be circulated when available.

3.4 Highways Issues

The report was received. It was advised that all Councillors were invited to Council's monthly meeting with the local Highways Manager to consider local highways issues. All Councillors were invited to advise the Clerk of any minor highways or footpath defects in their area which could be addressed by the lengthsman minor works facility.

3.5 Planning

It was noted with disappointment that the appeal against the refusal by FODDC to allow the removal of access points to the footpath at Parkend Road, Bream from the road had been allowed.

3.6 Multi Use Track

The track had been walked by the project team, and a report would be presented to the next meeting.

3.7 Mud Deposits on Roads in Bream

There was some disappointment at the response by FODDC to this issue.

3.8 Replacement Post Box, Whitecroft

It was noted that this post box had been installed but not yet commissioned

3.9 Clerk's Report

The report was presented.

3.9 Deputy Clerk's Report

The report was presented.

4. APRIL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Tuesday 3rd April 2018 5.30pm: Planning Committee, WDC

Tuesday 17th April 2018, 5.30pm: Planning Committee, WDC

Wednesday 18th April 2018, 10.00am: Highways Issues, WDC

Wednesday 28th April 2018, 7.00pm: WDPC Full Council, Berry Hill Memorial Institute, Lakers Road, Berry Hill

The meeting closed at 10.20pm

CHAIRMANS SIGNATURE.....

DATE.....