

WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE WEST DEAN CENTRE, BREAM, ON WEDNESDAY 31st January 2018

PRESENT:

WDPC COUNCILLORS

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR: Richard Boyles

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS: R Leppington and A Grant

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Members of the Yorkley Community; members of the Bream Community; S Kear representing Severn Trent Water; M Hutchings, C Knibbs and K Chaplin

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Disorder at Bream: Members of the Bream Community, especially residents of Brockhollands Road, described a serious of distressing anti-social behaviour occurring in the village over the previous three years. It was believed that the youths responsible were from the High Anchorage, and it was believed that there was poor management and supervision of the residents there by the staff.

Members of the community were advised to keep records of all incidents and to inform the police using the 101 line or the 999 emergency line if there was immediate danger or distress.

Consideration would be given to reconvening the Bream Action Group. A further meeting with the Forest Police Inspector would be arranged.

GCC Councillor R Boyles suggested that High Anchorage could be challenged on child welfare or planning grounds.

Yorkley Court Farm: D Large gave thanks to the Council for arranging its planning meeting at the Yorkley Community Centre to consider the Yorkley Court Farm planning application. A Darke said that he expected the District Council to begin enforcement action immediately if the application was disallowed.

Water Supply Emergency procedures: S Kear of Severn Trent Water advised that his company had been considering contingency and emergency provisions in rural areas, and he provided some information leaflets.

Housing: K Chaplin (FODDC) advised that of the 4 possible rural exclusion sites identified in the Berry Hill, Christchurch and Edge End NDP, one was found acceptable and was being processed. A land deal had been agreed, and subject to parish council led public consultation, could go ahead. C Knibbs of Wydean Housing was working with the land owner. There were issues in respect of access and the mining heritage of the area, but data from the Parish Housing Needs Survey (HNS) had confirmed the need for housing and for specific sizes and tenures.

M Hutchings (GRCC), the sponsor of the HNS, explained the use of the data in this project. This could be the start of a bigger programme to supply housing to the area.

It was agreed by Council that in view of the importance of this issue, highlighted in the area NDP, that the public consultation should proceed.

District/County Councillor Reports:

A Grant advised that the Planning meeting to determine the Yorkley Court Farm Motocross planning application would probably be held in April.

R Boyles reported on the Forest Hospital Consultation. The results revealed that 46% of the respondents wanted to keep the existing two hospital structure, while 43% wanted change. It

appeared that older people were more likely to prefer the status quo.

There is to be a consultation in February 2018 on the A417 Air Balloon by pass. Two options have been prepared for a £500 million pound project. Members of the public are invited to have their say. 40 crews, and all lengthsman, are now on pot hole duty across the county because of the damage to the roads in the snow and ice.

The County Council asks all residents to report via the GCC pot hole on line system for repair. and they will be repaired. Residents are encouraged to report all issues and not to assume that someone else has done it.

The lengthsman scheme would continue in the 2018 budget, with an extra £500,000 invested for local parish works.

All parish clerks can contact highways Brian Watkins and the highways people will refill all salt bins and salt stocks. County recognise stocks are low and are addressing the shortfall as people tell them where the empty bins are. This is extra work as this is usually done only once a year but the need is recognised and the GCC cabinet lead member has authorised this work.

£150 million extra is being invested in roads over the next 5 years to improve the county network.

A new director of children's services has been recruited, to start on 6th March 2018. Having recovered 4 local councils in London following failed Ofsted inspections, the new director, originally from Gloucestershire, is returning to Cheltenham from London.

County council cabinet approved the 2018 budget on 31st January 2018. There is a 4.49% rise in council tax, 2% of the rise being the elderly care precept for the third year.

Children's and families' budget is now £73,696,000, a rise of 28.37%. (£16.5 million). There is a requirement to remodel Children's Services at GCC

COUNCIL MEETING

1. Procedural Business

1.1 Apologies: WDPC Councillors: None
FODDC Councillors: M Smart and C McFarling

1.2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

P Hiatt and T Gwilliam and in respect of item 2.7 as Forest of Dean District Councillors.

1.3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING on 29th November 2017

The minutes were approved.

2. Items for discussion and decision.

2.1 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

2.1.1 The Chairman advised that from the March Council meeting council meetings would be paperless, and Councillors would be expected to use their own computers or the tablets provided by the Council.

2.1.2 It was confirmed that Council would support a public consultation in respect of the Berry Hill development as outlined in the 'Public Forum' above.

2.1.3 The Chairman reminded councillors of the Councillor's Code of Conduct.

2.7 PILLOWELL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR (taken out of sequence)

Concern was expressed at the absence of the District Councillor for Pillowell from public affairs due to illness for over 2 years. There was a great deal of sympathy and good wishes offered to the Pillowell District Councillor, but the absence was putting great pressure on the other District Councillor at a time when there were many important issues to consider in the area.

It was believed that in 2016 the then leader of the District Council had asserted that the Pillowell Councillor would have returned to duty or have resigned by April 2017. As neither of these had

occurred, it was resolved that the Clerk be instructed to write to the leader of the Conservative group at the District Council to seek to resolve this matter.

T Gwilliam, P Hiett and A Moore abstained on this vote.

2.3 YORKLEY COURT FARM (taken out of sequence)

There was further discussion relating to the Yorkley Court Farm Motocross planning application to which the Council had submitted a response, and which had been discussed in the Public Forum above.

Various comments supporting the Council's objections to the application, in respect of noise, the lack of a District Council planning policy for such developments, possible mining outlet dangers, and inadequate scrutiny by the external planning officer used by the District Councillor. It was agreed that this item should be retained on the Council's agendas as a watching brief.

2.2 FINANCE & STAFFING (Back to advertised sequence)

i) The December 2017 schedule of payments was received.

ii) The January schedule of payments was approved

iii) S Freeman and B Evans (with P Hiett as reserve) would authorise January payments.

iv) L Elliott and A Moore would conduct the February Financial inspection.

v) It was advised that the December Financial inspection had been conducted by P Dunford and S McMillan and the January inspection by P Hiett and T Gwilliam. No issues arose.

vi) The minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee were presented. L Elliott explained that the criteria for grant awards would be reconsidered at a Committee meeting in January 2017.

The Committee would expect evidence of alternative grant bids from those organisations with a remit beyond the West Dean Parish Council area.

viii) The statement of income/expenditure against budget was received.

It was agreed that some action should be taken to promote youth provision as provided for in the 2017-18 budget. P Hiett and S Crick to lead.

viii) It was agreed, as recommended, that West Dean Parish Council should be the finance lead for the Creative Canopy, holding and using its funds until the organisation had set up its own banking arrangements

ix) It was agreed that now Sling Club has received its grant funding of £20,000 from Sport England, Council's grant award of £2,000 could now be released.

2.4 BOAR

A report on the Forest Boar Group meeting, attended by Mark Harper, MP and chaired by West Dean Parish Council, held at West Dean Parish Council on 5th January 2018, was presented. It was generally considered to have been a useful meeting.

Support of the Verderers would be sought.

With a more responsive Forestry Commission and the requested support from DEFRA, some positive outcomes might be expected.

It was announced that a District Council community strategy was being undertaken.

It was suggested that the sale of boar meat could make any strategy sustainable and also promote the Forest as a food destination.

2.5 BT TELEPHONE KIOSKS

It was agreed that Council would adopt all 13 kiosks presented in the schedule, with the additional kiosk at the Globe Berry Hill which had not been included. There was also a query about the kiosk at the Barracks, Moseley Green, the status of which would be investigated.

A working group to manage these kiosks was required, and interested members were requested to volunteer their services to the Parish office.

2.6 DISORDER AT PARKEND OVER CHRISTMAS

A report of a meeting involving the Chair, the Clerk and Inspector A Hodgetts had been held on 19th January 2018.

P Hiatt reported that he had attended another 3 meetings with the police in a District Council capacity.

It appeared that the situation as presented in the press and in social media had been exaggerated. Further meetings with the police would be arranged where necessary.

2.8 HOSPITAL PROVISION IN THE FOREST

It was made clear that the consultation was not a referendum, and that the hospital consultation was purely advisory.

Concern about decisions affecting the Forest being made in Cirencester and reducing the number of hospital beds in the Forest to 24 had been made, and it was believed that the relevant NHS trusts has taken these concerns on board. The Council would resist any proposal to site the hospital at the Five Acres College site.

Council would continue to monitor the number of beds proposed in any single-hospital outcome.

Items for information:

3.1 District Councillors Reports

P Hiatt gave a verbal report on 'Know Your Forest', presenting health and transport issues. West Dean Parish Council could assist in providing publicity.

A report on homelessness had been passed on to S Crick for consideration.

3.2 Berry Hill, Christchurch and Edge End Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

Publicity posters would be required for the referendum on 15th February, advertising the event and the date and venues.

3.3 Pillowell Ward NDP

P Dunford provided a report on progress. It was expected that field work on character assessments would begin in early spring after volunteers had been recruited. It was noted that the Parkend team doing much good work and were well prepared for the NDP groundwork.

3.4 Highways Issues

The report was received:

Item 224, in respect of repairs to Lydney Road, Yorkley – the white lining was not required

Item 094, in respect of Five Acres School, Berry Hill. This is now of great urgency, and forms part of the NDP plans.

3.5 Electoral Review

The report was received.

3.6 Planning

Minutes of meetings on 5th December 2017 and 9th, 17th, and 23rd January 2018 were received, with associated documents.

3.7 Multi Use Track

No January report

3.8 Severn Bridge Tolls

P Hiatt reported as a representative of the District Council on a cross-border meeting with the Secretary of State for Wales, held at the Celtic Manor Hotel, Newport. This was a high level

conference, with businesses and public organisations, considering M4 corridor interests (including the abolition of the Severn bridge tolls).

3.9 Forest Hospitals Update

Considered in Item 2.8 above.

3.10 Forestry Commission Winter Forum

It was agreed that S Freeman and S Crick would represent the Council at this event on 21st January 2018.

3.11 Broadband

The report was received

3.12 Clerk's Report

The report was presented. It was agreed that the merger of the A48 Committee and the Road Safety Group should be supported, and that S Crick should be invited to all meeting of the expanded group.

3.6 Deputy Clerk's Report

The report was presented.

It was agreed that an emergency provision of £500.00 should be made available for urgent brickwork repairs at a Berry Hill bus shelter.

4. FEBRUARY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

~~Tuesday 6th February – Planning Committee~~ **MEETING CANCELLED**

Tuesday 13th February 5.30pm: Finance & Staffing Committee, WDC

Thursday 15th February – NDP Referendum, Berry Hill, Christchurch and Edge End NDP

Tuesday 20th February 5.30pm: Planning Committee, WDC

Wednesday 21st February 10.00am: Highways Issues Review, WDC

Wednesday 28th February 7.00pm: Full Council Meeting

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

CHAIRMANS SIGNATURE.....

DATE.....