

WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE BERRY HILL MEMORIAL INSTITUTE ON WEDNESDAY 28th April 2018

PRESENT:

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR: R Boyles

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: A Grant and C McFarling

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 8 members of the public were present.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

R Boyles provided a comprehensive report on County Council activities, including highways, apprenticeships, children's services and broadband availability. Parish Councils were urged to identify areas of youth provision which might benefit from county funding.

He advised that broadband coverage was considered good, and that members of the public could ascertain their level of coverage through the Fastershire web site.

C McFarling advised of the Forest Economic Partnership, created to exploit opportunities through the abolition of Severn Crossing tolls, digital enterprise, education & training and transport & infrastructure. Interested persons were invited to join.

He also advised of the introduction of pine martens, which might control the Forest grey squirrel population, and the abandonment of the plan to impose a public space protection order on dogs entering certain community spaces, which would be unenforceable.

L Teague, the manager of the Forest Citizens Advice Bureau, gave a presentation about the work her organisation does. This matter is considered at item 2.7 of the agenda.

Three candidates to be co-opted as councillors, K Symonds, C Smith and J Richmond gave brief presentations to introduce themselves. Their applications would be considered at item 2.1 below.

The Council meeting began at

COUNCIL MEETING

1. Procedural Business

1.1 Apologies: WDPC Councillors: P Hiett, L Elliott and M Costley

District Councillor: M Smart and R Leppington

1.2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None were offered

1.3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING on 28th March 2018

The minutes were approved.

2. Items for discussion and decision

2.1 COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

i) Council to consider co-option for the vacant Bream ward councillor position

It was decided that the position would be offered to C Smith

ii) Council to consider co-option for the vacant Berry Hill ward councillor position

It was decided that the position would be offered to J Richmond

iii) Council to consider a process for filling the vacant Ellwood & Sling ward councillor position. It was decided that the position would be filled by co-option at the May meeting, with appropriate publicity.

2.2 DEPUTY CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

It was reported that the Bream crossroads CCTV system has been replaced, and that anti-social behaviour had been reported. The local PCSO was aware and was taking action.

2.3 FINANCE & STAFFING

- i) The April 2018 schedule of payments was approved.
- ii) S Freeman and F McGuinness would provide electronic authorisation for April 2018 payments.
- iii) F McGuinness and C Smith would conduct the May 2018 Financial Inspection.
- iv) It was advised that the April 2018 Financial inspection had been satisfactorily conducted by S Freeman and L Elliott.
- v) In view of it being so early in the new financial year, no expenditure/income against budget report 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) A report on the end-of-year financial procedures was presented by the clerk.
- vii) It was agreed that temporary board damage repairs at Sling play park would be approved. A request to funding to protect the site in future would be submitted.

2.4 YOUTH PROVISION

S Freeman delivered a verbal report.

It was explained that the Council had funding of £18,000, accumulated over 2 years, for youth services. A meeting of Parish and Town Councils had highlighted this issue, and a recent meeting at FVAF of West Dean PC councillors and the Clerk with local experts had been held.

It was clear that further work must be done, which would involve looking at options and then drawing up a job description for the youth worker position.

A further meeting would be held, to which all interested councillors would be invited.

R Boyles advised that a Cotswold District Council project could provide a suitable model for adopted, and he would advise the Clerk appropriately.

2.5 PROVISION OF GRIT, RUBBISH AND DOG WASTE BINS

It was agreed that a working party including F McGuinness, S Crick and A Moore would be set up. The Clerk would seek information from County Council Highways on the existing disposition of GCC grit bins around the Parish.

2.6 YORKLEY COURT FARM

The minutes of the Parish Council Planning Committee held at Yorkley Community Centre to consider the retrospective application for the motocross courses was received. It was acknowledged that although the meeting had been unfortunately bad-tempered, the appropriate response in the form of observations on the application had been submitted to the District Council.

The deadline for observations to the District Council was reported as 4th May 2018, with the matter to be discussed at the District Council 8th May 2018.

2.7 CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

B Evans declared an interest as a volunteer consultant for CAB.

It was agreed that the Finance & Staffing Committee should consider whether Parish Council accommodation should be provided for CAB consultations. Consideration should be given to using other premises for consultations, including Bream Library and other community halls around the parish.

2.8 BOAR

After the confidence that something was going to be done after the meeting of parish and town councils with the Forestry Commission and the Member of Parliament at West Dean Parish Council on 5th January 2018, the Clerk reported his lack of success in getting any positive action from the Forestry Commission, Defra or the Member of Parliament. The Clerk was awaiting a response from the Member of Parliament asking for his advice on taking the matter forward. It was noted that Steve Knibbs of BBC Television Points West was prepared to take up the issue.

C MCFarling reported that he was preparing a community management plan, with costings, to be submitted to Defra.

He advised that it would not be feasible to impose a Public Space Protection order to deal with the situation.

Items for information:

3.1 District Councillors Reports

These reports had already been delivered in the Public Forum.

3.2 Five Acres Report

T Gwilliam reported that a Community Impact Assessment had identified that the Five Acres site had 1,500 users per week, in addition to the 500 runners on the park run. The big demand for the leisure facilities had therefore been identified.

It was clear from this that an interim solution to provide leisure facilities while the site was being redeveloped would be required.

The leisure survey would be presented in June.

Discussions with Homes England about the ownership of the Five Acres site were proceeding satisfactorily.

3.3 Pillowell Ward NDP

P Dunford reported that in view of the place name confusion and the dismemberment of the Parish and District wards of Pillowell, the area would be called Forest Edge (South). A well-attended meeting had been held at Parkend the previous Saturday to consider character assessments and the status of the Compulsory Purchase order on Sheward's shop. It was agreed that the Parish Council would get more involved in the processing of the Compulsory Purchase Order.

The Clerk would contact Claire Hughes, Legal Officer to the District Council.

3.4 Highways Issues

The report was not yet available as the meeting with GCC Highways had only just been held. It would be considered at the next meeting.

3.5 Planning Committee

The minutes of the meeting held 3rd April 2018 were received.

3.6 Lydney to Parkend Multi Use Track

It was reported that a meeting to discuss possible routes had been held the previous week, and 2 possible routes had emerged. Discussions would be necessary with local land owners in respect of land to the south of Whitecroft. Good support and advice had been received from Forestry Commission, and a full survey was required. Funding from West Dean Parish Council and Lydney Town Council for this purpose would be required.

The Clerk would write to Lydney Town Council to ascertain their intentions regarding their plans for future investment in the project.

3.7 Whitecroft Post Box

The Clerk reported that after that morning's press coverage, the post box which had been promised for a year had at last been commissioned.

3.8 Annual Parish Meeting

Arrangements for the annual parish meeting were noted.

3.9 Clerk's Report

- i) The insurance schedule and charges as presented were approved.
- ii) It was agreed that, in respect of the damage caused to the side panels at the Bream Bus shelter, the panels should be removed and made safe but not replaced.
- iii) It was agreed, in respect of a request for a bus shelter in Yorkley, advice in respect of feasibility and location should be sought from the area Highways Manager before the matter be considered any further.

It was also agreed that compensation should be sought for the cost of road signs that the Forestry Commission approved and then, after procurement, refused.

3.9 Deputy Clerk's Report

The report was presented.

4. MAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Tuesday 1st May 2018 5.30pm: Planning Committee, WDC

Tuesday 15th May 2018, 5.30pm: Planning Committee, WDC

Tuesday 15th May 2018, 7.00pm: Forest Edge (South) NDP, Yorkley Community Centre

Wednesday 16th April 2018, 6.30pm for 7.00pm: Annual Parish Assembly, WDC

Wednesday 30th May 2018, 7.00pm: WDPC Full Council, Yorkley Community Centre, Bailey Hill, Yorkley

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

CHAIRMANS SIGNATURE.....

DATE.....