

WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE WEST DEAN CENTRE, BREAM ON WEDNESDAY 30th JANUARY 2019

PRESENT:

WDPC COUNCILLORS P Hiatt (Chairman)

M Costley	P Dunford
B Evans	S Freeman
B Freshwater	B Gayler
A Moore	D Oliver
J Pemberthy	S Crick

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR: R Boyles

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: A Grant

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 3 present

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr B Otto of the Forest of Dean spoke in support of the Forest of Dean Allotments Association's bid for emergency funding of £500 to provide safe car parking and turning circle groundwork at its Whitecroft Allotments

Councillor R Boyles (Gloucestershire County Council) gave a report on GCC activities and projects, including the newly opened Gloucestershire Heritage Hub, the request for members of the public to register their electrical goods with the Fire Service (to enable faulty equipment to be identified and recalled – to be publicised in the West Dean Parish Council Newsletter), the allocation of most of GCC's increased budget to children's services, the action on repairing road verges destroyed by feral boar, the low emissions target, road safety and road works, and social work management. He would seek information on means to support the Multi Use Parkend to Lydney Track, and offered a meeting between the Parish Council and the Gloucestershire County Council cabinet member for Highways, Councillor Vernon Smith.

Councillor A Grant (Forest of Dean District Council) advised that work had commenced on the play park at the old Vencel Resil site in Whitecroft, funded by the Section 106 money from the site development. The funds for the play park construction and maintenance would be managed by FODDC. He provided an update on enforcement developments at Yorkley Court Farm, and advised that the double yellow lines at Parkend on New Road by the Railway Station had been installed.

1: Council formal business

1.1 Apologies – C Smith, F McGuinness, C Smith and J Richmond

1.2 Declarations of Interest: P Hiatt item 2.3 as Forest of Dean District (FoDDC) Councillor and Cabinet Member.

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (28th November 2018) – The minutes were approved.

Three agenda items were brought forward

2.2 vi) Allotments Association

It was resolved that an award of £500 should be made to the Forest of Dean Allotments Association for repairs to the car park and turning area at the Whitecroft Allotments.

2.8 Multi Use Track

It was agreed that the project should be revived, taking advantage of the offer to resume discussions made by Dean Forest Railway. It was believed that a partnership between WDPC and Dean Forest Railway would provide benefits to both parties.

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Prospective partners will include, as well as Dean Forest Railway, Boundless (Whitemead Park), Lydney Town Council, the Forestry Commission, and local businesses, especially in Parkend. It was noted that the track should be available not only to cyclists and walkers, although not horses or motorised transport. James Greenwood, who had been an important contributor to the project so far, would be invited to all future meetings. It was hoped that Andy Lewis, the paralympian, would become a champion of the project. It was agreed that without a full partnership with Lydney Town Council, West Dean Parish Council's priority would be to develop a track from Parkend as far as Norchard Station.

3.4 Youth Provision

S Freeman reported on the recent well-attended Youth Association Provision meeting at the West Dean Centre, and the close involvement of West Dean Parish Council in the project. It was noted with some disappointment that many town and parish councils had not pledged a contribution to the project.

It had been agreed that a Forest of Dean Youth Association would be set up, which would recruit a Youth Project Manager, for which position a job description had been prepared.

P Hiett explained the Forest of Dean District Council's role in setting up an early meeting involving Forest of Dean District Councillors and Officers as well as Parish and Town Councillors. A meeting of the new association would be called, with parish and town councils invited to pledge 5% of their precept. It was noted that West Dean Parish Council had budget provision for such a contribution.

It was agreed that there was a pressing need for youth services, and it was noted how important the invitation to young people to attend a Bream Action Group meeting was in terms of the positive outcome.

It was agreed that West Dean Parish Council's representatives on the Association's steering committee would be S Freeman, S Crick and D Kent, with P Hiett representing the District Council. The Clerk would advise Bob Rhodes of the Association accordingly.

At this point the meeting reverted to its published agenda item order.

2: Items for discussion and decision

2.1 Yorkley Court Farm

This matter had been reported in District Councillor A Grant's presentation during the Public Forum.

2.2 Finance and Staffing

i) The December 2018 payments, authorised under delegated powers, and credit card transactions were received.

ii) The January 2019 payments were approved.

iii) It was agreed that P Hiett and B Gayler would authorise January payments.

iv) The February Financial Inspection would be conducted by D Oliver and M Costley.

v) The monthly payment of £114.00 for the West Dean Centre keyholder, in conformance with the national living wage, was confirmed. It was agreed that a copy of the employment contract awarded the West Dean Centre postholder would be presented to the next meeting of the Finance & Staffing Committee.

vi) It was agreed that an emergency award of £500 should be made to the Forest of Dean Allotments Association, as requested in a document presented to Council and a presentation made during the Public Forum of this meeting.

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vii) It was agreed that £75 should be allocated for the distribution of Parish Council newsletters in the Yorkley area.

viii) It was agreed that a bench would be provided at the Bowson Road bus shelter at a cost of £350.00. Parish Council area residents would be invited to sponsor benches around the Parish in funding and providing commemorative plaques.

It was announced that a meeting of the Finance and Staffing Committee would be held on 12th February with an agenda as provided. Members would be asked to confirm that the proposed date and time proposed for the meeting were convenient for them.

2.3 Five Acres

The Clerk's brief report on the status of the land transfer from Homes England to West Dean Parish Council was received. The Land Transfer documents had been signed by 2 Councillors and the Clerk, and were awaiting countersigning by Homes England. It was reported that a meeting would be held with the Football Association to discuss funding for the provision of an all-weather football pitch.

2.4 Amenities Committee Recommendations

i) The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 15th January were received.

ii) The Grasscutting tender and associated documents were approved for circulation to prospective contractors.

iii) It was agreed that a survey of former BT telephone kiosks, at a cost of £770, would be commissioned, to be conducted by Simon Moore.

iv) It was agreed that the recommendations on play park safety measures, as provided by RoSPA, would be implemented.

2.5 Creative Canopy

The Clerk provided a brief report.

2.6 Speed Camera Evaluation Project (SCEP)

It was agreed in principle that the three items proposed in the document provided by J Richmond would be supported.

These items were the survey of other County wide Parish & Town Councils, the seeking of external funding and the conducting of further trials and evaluations.

This was subject to the provision of preliminary information on speeding in the parish area which could be supplied by equipment loaned from the police for use at identified sites, these matters to be discussed with J Richmond before any further action was taken.

2.7 Inclusive Play Equipment

It was agreed that the recommendations of the Amenities Committee, to consult with the Forestry Commission, the District Council, and other parish and town councils on suitable locations, should be adopted.

2.8 Multi Use Track, Parkend to Lydney

This item was taken out of sequence earlier in the meeting

2.9 Chairman's Items

No items this meeting

Part 3: Items for information

Councillors to **Receive and Note**

3.1 Forest Edge (South) (formerly Pillowell) Neighbourhood Development Plan

All relevant information was available in the attached meeting minutes.

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3.2 Planning Committee

The minutes of meetings on 4th and 18th December 2018 and 8th and 22nd January 2019 were received.

3.3 Highways Issues Report

The up to date schedule of outstanding issues was presented. B Freshwater will present the Clerk with a list of 'C' roads in need of resurfacing.

3.4 This item was taken out of sequence earlier in the meeting

3.5 Boar

The Clerk reported on a Feral Wild Boar Group meeting held earlier in January under the auspices of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board.

He advised that the Group was primarily concerned with the agricultural interest rather than the effect of boar on the local community, and it might not be worthwhile to continue to attend.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Forestry Commission asking for information on income from the sale of boar products.

3.6 Sheep

P Hiett reported on a Sheep Liaison Group meeting recently attended. There seemed little value in attending as no actions were identified.

3.7 Clerk's Report – received.

3.8 Deputy Clerk's Report – received.

The meeting closed at 21.58 hrs

4 FORTHCOMING DATES AND MEETINGS February 2019

Tuesday 5th February 2019 5.30pm: Planning Committee, WDC

Tuesday 12th February 2019 5.30pm: Finance & Staffing Committee, WDC

Tuesday 19th February 2019 5.30pm: Planning Committee, WDC

Wednesday 27th February 2019 7.00pm: Parish Council meeting: WDC

Thursday 28th February 2019 7.00pm: Forest Edge (South) NDP meeting: Parkend Memorial Hall