

WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE WEST DEAN CENTRE, BREAM ON WEDNESDAY 27th February 2019

PRESENT:

WDPC COUNCILLORS P Hiatt (Chairman)

P Dunford	B Evans
S Freeman	B Freshwater
B Gayler	F McGuinness
A Moore	C Smith

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR: none in attendance

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: A Grant and C McFarling

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 3 present

POLICE: PC H Davies

PUBLIC FORUM

There was a complaint by a member of the public about late night disturbances at a property in Pillowell. There was a further complaint about the noise, danger and unlawful use of motor cycles on Pillowell Recreation Ground. He had no satisfactory response from the police or from the District Council.

PC Davies advised that with few resources the police were unlikely to attend incidents of excessive noise at night. However, the police might be able to respond to allegations of drug taking, and if registration numbers of vehicles committing alleged offences at the Rec could be provided, then action could be taken. He reported that the area wildlife crime team, equipped with a quad bike, might be able to intervene. He confirmed that all reports would be in confidence.

P Dunford supported the complaint. He advised that he knew the owners of the property, who had let out the premises, and would inform them of the situation.

P Hiatt advised that the complainants should make a log of anti-social incidents, for submission to the Environmental Health Department at the District Council.

C McFarling advised that incidents reported to Environmental Health would be assessed and action would be taken where necessary.

PC Davies was thanked for attending the meeting.

1: Council formal business

1.1 Apologies – J Richmond, M Costley, T Gwilliam, J Pemberthy, S Crick and D Oliver

1.2 Declarations of Interest: A Moore as a neighbour of the proposed play park at item 2.8.

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

2. Matters for discussion and actions or decisions

2.1 Yorkley Court Farm

Concern was expressed at the use of Section 106 funds made available through the development of a solar farm at the Yorkley Court Farm site. The proposal that a Community Interest Company (CIC) be created was believed to be an unsatisfactory and bureaucratic means of managing the community S106 funds.

It was agreed that S Freeman, P Hiatt and the Clerk should write to Helen Blundell, the S106 officer at the District Council to ensure that the monies generated should be used properly for the benefit of the affected communities.

There was no update on enforcement issues at the Yorkley Court Farm site.

2.2 Finance and Staffing

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

ii) It was agreed that B Gayler and S Freeman would authorise February payments, with P Hiett as reserve.

iii)/iv) It was noted that no February Financial Inspection had taken place. It was agreed that F McGuinness and A Moore would conduct an inspection towards the end of March 2019 to cover the February and March bank statements.

v) The minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee of 12th February 2019 were approved. It was agreed that the revised Grant Policy and Application form, as recommended by the Committee be adopted by Council.

It was agreed that a group of councillors consisting of S Crick, F McGuinness and B Freshwater would be convened to consider the HR recommendations emerging from the meeting of the Finance & Staffing Committee football

vi) It was agreed that the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils should be appointed as internal auditors for the 2018-19 financial year.

It was agreed that the Clerk would request information from the Chief Executive of the Gloucester and Forest Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) about its presence in the Forest and particularly in the West Den Parish Council area in view of its recent reorganisation.

It was agreed that a self employed contract be issued to Carolyn Black as the Creative Canopy Project Leader funded by Arts Council England.

2.3 Five Acres

The Clerk reported on a recent useful meeting with the Gloucestershire Football Association on the provision of all weather pitches.

He advised that Homes England had still not signed the documents for the transfer of the playing fields at the Five Acres site to the Parish Council.

2.4 Grass Cutting Contract

It was agreed that the contract should be awarded to Complete Landscape Gardeners, as that company presented the lowest cost and the best value.

2.5 Speed Camera Evaluation Project

No report.

2.6 Inclusive Play Equipment

No report

2.7 Multi Use Track, Parkend to Lydney

It was reported that a meeting had been held with representatives of Dean Forest Railway (DFR), at which DFR asserted that there was no capacity on the Whitecroft to Lydney route to provide for a multi use track alongside.

This project was considered in the light of the recent announcement that DFR were considering extending the Lydney to Parkend line as far as Cinderford. This announcement had been made without any consultation with West Dean Parish Council, through which most of the planned extension route is through the West Dean Parish Council area. It has not been publicised in any recent Forestry Commission presentations.

It would appear that the route to Cinderford along the historic rail route would impinge on the Forest Cycle track, which might have to be resited, although no official information had yet been provided.

Actions approved:

- i) P Hiatt would check on the ownership and grant conditions imposed when the cycle track was constructed.
- ii) The Forestry Commission to be requested to provide information on proposed plans, including ownership of the cycle track from Parkend to Cinderford and the lorry park in Parkend.
- iii) B Freshwater to seek information on the official safety requirement for rail services.
- iv) DFR to be invited to the next Parish Council meeting.
- v) The Saunders Green route to be considered as an alternative route through Whitecroft.

2.8 Whitecroft Play Park

It was agreed that the Parish Council would not take over the provision or maintenance of the play park at Whitecroft funded by Section 106 monies from the development at the former Vencel Resil site.

2.9 Council Project Management

It was agreed that F McGuinness would draw up an action plan to develop a system of programme management to oversee Council's projects. It was noted that S Crick had also offered support.

2.10 Drainage Issues

It was agreed that B Freshwater would be the Council's representative on the drainage committee, with P Hiatt reserve if available.

2.11 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

A meeting would be held the following evening, 28th February 2019, at Whitmead Park, Parkend.

3.2 Planning Committee

The minutes of meetings on 5th and 19th February were received.

District Councillor A Grant would investigate the status of a planning application relating to a property in Lydney Road, Yorkley.

It was agreed that Council policy would be to insist that a cattle grid is included in the plans for all planning applications in Bream of more than one dwelling.

3.3 Highways Issues Report

The up to date schedule of outstanding issues was presented. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr Brian Watkins, local Gloucestershire County Council Highways manager, for his work in addressing local highways issues in a very difficult situation.

3.4 Boar

No report was delivered

3.5 Sheep

P Hiatt reported that a Sheep Liaison meeting was due, but that as the Group appeared to be ineffectual he was not sure of the value of attending.

3.6 Clerk's Report – received. Consideration would be given to holding a Dementia Awareness Course at the West Dean Centre

3.8 Deputy Clerk's Report – received.

4 FORTHCOMING DATES AND MEETINGS March 2019

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

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

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

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

Wednesday 20th March 2019 7.00pm: Forest Edge (South) NDP meeting: Yorkley Community Centre

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

The meeting closed at 21.32 hrs