

WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT:

WDPC COUNCILLORS P Hiatt (Chairman)

S Crick	B Evans
P Dunford	S Freeman
B Freshwater	B Gayler
T Gwilliam	A Moore
D Oliver	

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: 2 present

POLICE: PC H Davies

PUBLIC FORUM

There was a complaint about the lack of planning enforcement action in respect of renovation works imposed on the owners of the Yorkley Court Farm site by the District Council. The complainant was advised to submit his own complaint to the District Council, while West Dean Parish Council would consider the matter in item 2.1 in the agenda below.

District Councillor C McFarling gave a brief presentation on the Forest Economic Partnership, which was working to regenerate the local economy.

1: Council formal business

1.1 Apologies – J Richmond, M Costley, F McGuinness, J Pemberthy and C Smith

1.2 Declarations of Interest: T Gwilliam as an employee of an interested party in agenda item 2.7 below

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (27th February 2019) – The minutes were approved.

2. Matters for discussion and actions or decisions

2.2 Finance and Staffing (this item was taken out of sequence)

i) The February 2019 payments and credit card transactions were received.

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

iii) The April Financial Inspection would be conducted by S Freeman and P Hiatt.

iv) It was reported that the February/March financial inspections had been satisfactorily carried out by A Moore and F McGuinness.

v) It was agreed that Council's membership of the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils should be renewed for the 2019-20 financial year.

2.1 Yorkley Court Farm

It was reported that the enforcement timetable imposed upon the owners of Yorkley Court Farm in respect of the lack of compliance with the instruction from District Council Planning to complete carry out repairs and renovations to the listed building at the site, and to remove a builders' yard.

It was resolved that the Clerk would write to FODDC expressing Council's concern about these enforcement issues.

2.3 Five Acres

The Clerk reported that the transfer of the Five Acres sports fields to West Dean Parish Council had now been completed. There was still no news on the transfer of the rest of the Five Acres site to the District Council.

2.4 Multi Use Track

It was noted, following a walk by the rail track from Whitecroft to Lydney, that it seemed to be perfectly able to support a Multi Use Track alongside the rail track, except for a couple of areas where some works would be necessary. There was support for the project from the County Council, the Forestry Commission and the public, and the lack of cooperation from Dean Forest Railway was disappointing.

It was agreed that S Freeman with the Clerk would convene a meeting with the Forestry Commission, Andy Lewis (the Paralympian) and other interested parties, before meeting with DFR.

A feasibility study would be commissioned after a route had been identified.

2.5 Council Project Management

It was agreed that a process of managing Council projects and reporting progress would be adopted as proposed to the meeting. Implementation action would be deferred until the new council was elected in May. This matter will be considered as a possible item for the annual parish assembly.

2.6 Parish Meeting 29th May 2019

It was agreed that Carolyn Black of Creative canopy and the Paralympian Andy Lewis would be invited to join the panel.

2.7 Parkend Road, Bream, Footpath Issue

T Gwilliam took no part in the meeting while this item was under discussion

Actions approved:

It was agreed that a further £500 be allocated for legal advice to the residents of Parkend Road, Bream, affected by this matter.

Council would require a copy of legal advice provided to the residents.

2.8 Former BT Telephone Kiosks

It was agreed that, as part of the local heritage, the kiosks should be retained where possible. Possible uses included as information points or to house defibrillators, as a feature to be placed beside community centres or as an arts venue. Repairs should be carried out more cheaply than as proposed in the surveyor's report, and could be carried out by local volunteers. Consideration should be given to raising revenue by sponsorship or advertising.

It was resolved that the matter should be given closer consideration at the next meeting of the Finance & Staffing group, which may propose a funding allocation. The kiosks should be locked up as soon as possible.

2.9 Summer Youth Activities

It was agreed that D Oliver, S Crick and the Clerk should investigate summer activities offered to young people by specialist organisations and make appropriate recommendations, including dates, to Council.

2.10 Portable Events Shelters/Marquees

It had been informally proposed that Council acquires a tent/shelter/marquee to make available for events around the parish area. After some discussion, it was agreed that although the

proposal to make such equipment available for local events was supported, the cost of purchasing, maintaining, insuring, storing and erecting it would be prohibitive.

S Crick advised that the scouts have such equipment available.

It was agreed that Council would create a schedule of available equipment to publicise and to facilitate its sharing with organisations holding open air events.

2.11 Public Order Disturbances

Council considered two items, the 'Rave' at Spruce Drive, Speech House, and the use of Pillowell Rec by unauthorised riders.

In respect of the first issue, it was noted that the available police resources were not sufficient to address the situation. The matter would be considered at the next meeting of the Community Safety Partnership (FODDC).

In respect of the second issue, expedients including putting a gate at the access to the field and installing CCTV were discussed.

The matter would be brought up with Inspector Andrew Hodgetts

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 week to finalise the poster and make arrangements for a series of 3 public consultation events at three venues around the parish in May and early June

3.2 Planning Committee

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

The Clerk would remind FODDC Planning about its concerns about a display a railway carriage opposite Parkend Station.

Council supported the Committees objection to the self build project proposed in the Pillowell Conservation area.

3.3 Highways Issues Report

Received

3.4 Sheep

P Hiett announced that he had stood down as WDPC's representative on the Sheep Liaison Group. T Gwilliam would be Council's new representative.

3.6 Clerk's Report – received.

4 FORTHCOMING DATES AND MEETINGS March 2019

Tuesday 2nd April 2019 5.30pm: Planning Committee, WDC

Wednesday 3rd April 2019 7.00pm: NDP Meeting, Yorkley Community Centre

Thursday 11th April 2019 5.30pm: Finance & Staffing Committee, WDC

Tuesday 16th March 2019 5.30pm: Planning Committee, WDC

Wednesday 24th April 2019 7.00pm: Parish Council meeting: Yorkley Community Centre

The meeting closed at 21.32 hrs