

WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT ELLWOOD SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY 26th June 2019

PRESENT:

WDPC COUNCILLORS P Hiatt (Chairman)

H Acton	P Dunford
B Evans	S Francis
B Gayler	A Grant
T Gwilliam	A Moore
J Richmond	

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR: R Boyles

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: D Wheeler, R Leppington and C McFarling

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: About 20 people representing the campaign to achieve Carbon Neutrality by 2030.

PUBLIC FORUM

GCC Councillor R Boyles presented a report on children's services at GCC.

FODDC Councillor R Leppington reported in respect of concerns about free roaming sheep in the Forest that a proposal to resubmit a Public Space Protection Order to protect the village of Bream was being considered. It was noted that the new composition of FODDC would be more inclined to support such a measure than the previous Council.

R Boyles reported that GCC Highways were considering means whereby the issue of sheep roaming highways could be mitigated.

P Hiatt explained that the cost of legal challenges would cause risk, which might not be acceptable. The Parish Council had a policy of recommending that a cattle grid is installed at the entrance to all new developments in Bream.

A member of the public appealed to the Council to support FODDC in its demand for carbon neutrality by 2030 (to be considered at item 2.1 below)

He also advised that he had received an encouraging response from the Head of Paid Service at FODDC had been received in respect of planning enforcement issues at Yorkley Court Farm.

1: Council formal business

1.1 Apologies – B Freshwater, J Richmond, C Smith, M Costley and S Crick

1.2 Declarations of Interest: None received

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Annual meeting on 15th May 2019) – The minutes were approved.

2. Matters for discussion and actions or decisions

2.1 Climate Change

A Moore provided a report. He described some of the work that FODDC were undertaking, including the recruitment of a 'Carbon Officer' and the presentation of a workshop in May attended by 40 people.

The Carbon Officer would be presented to the public at an open meeting at 5.00pm on 16th July at FODDC.

It was resolved that Council would provide full support for FODDC on this issue, and would:

- i) Declare a climate emergency
 - ii) Set up a working group to include councillors and members of the public
- Cooperate closely with FODDC and its Carbon Officer in its campaign on this issue.

It was agreed that A Moore would draw up the necessary agendas and terms of reference for the Council working group, and what this item would be a permanent item on Council's agendas.

2.3 Yorkley Court Farm

The Clerk reported that he was in contact with FODDC about the Section 106 moneys generated from the Solar Farm at Yorkley Court Farm

2.4 Finance and Staffing

i) The payments made by delegated powers were noted.
The June transaction schedule was approved.

ii) Payments approved at this meeting would be authorised by J Richmond and B Gayler.

iii) It was reported that the May/June Financial Inspection had been satisfactorily conducted by A Grant and B Gayler.

iv) The July Financial Inspection would be conducted by P Dunford and H Acton.

v) It was agreed that H Acton and A Moore would become additional signatories to the WDPC Unity Bank account.

vi) The grant awards recommended by the Finance & Staffing Committee were considered.
The recommendations were accepted en bloc, with the following reservations and conditions:

- a) More information would be sought from Age Concern about the purpose of the bid (as Council will not consider awards to pay salaries) and the large reserves held by the organisation.
- b) The grant of £5,000 award to Bream Early Learners would be held as designated funds in the WDPC bank account until it was required for building purposes.
- c) In respect of the application for repairs and maintenance to the Bale Recreation Ground, Broadwell, it was agreed that Coleford town Council should be contacted for information. The Bale site is an enclave of the West Dean Parish Council area, surrounded on three sides by the Coleford Town Council area, accessible by road only from the Coleford Town Council area, and with a catchment area exclusively of Coleford residents.
- d) In respect of the Canopy bid, a decision would be deferred until later in the meeting when the proposed project to present arts events at WDPC telephone kiosks would be considered.
- e) The award to Sling Playing Fields in respect of bamboo eradication was subject to further information required on where responsibility for the infestation had arisen.

vii) Training programme:

The offer by GSAPTC for an in house Being a Better Councillor Course for a date in September seemed to be inconvenient for many councillors. It was resolved that the Clerk would seek another date convenient for all councillors, failing which Councillors would be invited to attend open scheduled events.

Councillors interested in attending the Councillor Planning Course on 20th November 2019 should advise the Clerk.

In respect of the Staff Appraisal course offered by GAPTC, the proposed date of 4th July was unrealistic. The Clerk would arrange the course for a later date, with those to attend P Hiett, B Freshwater, A Grant, S Francis and the Clerk.

viii) Bank Standing Orders

It was agreed that the following regular monthly payments should be made by bank standing order:

HMRC (PAYE and NI) £1,014.17

99Web (Web and Social Media management) £75.00

Mrs M Farr (Opening West Dean Centre daily) £91.20

ix) Council resolved to approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement 2018-19

x) Council resolved to approve and sign the Accounting Statements 2018-19

2.4 Five Acres

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Government Minister, Mr J Brokenshire, copy to Mr Mark Harper MP, to complain about the lack of progress in the transfer of the remaining area of the Five Acres site to FODDC, which was frustrating WDPC and FODDC's plans to develop the area as a community hub.

2.5 Multi Use Track (MUT)

The Clerk reported on recent developments.

There had been a recent encouraging exchange of letters between the Council and Dean Forest Railway, and WDPC is now involved in a working party with Lydney Town Councillors to take the project forward. The Clerk would write to DFR requesting permission to conduct a walk along the rail track, inviting DFR representatives to join.

i) It was agreed that councillors would advise the Clerk of their particular areas of interest in public affairs. It was noted that S Francis was interested in matters relating to health and housing.

2.6 Youth Services

A report was presented by the Clerk

2.7 Speed Camera Evaluation Project

J Richmond presented a report. There had been a 9.5% response rate (25 responses) to the questionnaire, which although disappointing still provided useful information.

A full report would be provided in about 2 months.

It was noted that lower speeds would deliver lower carbon emissions, which would align with Council's climate emergency policy.

2.8 Chair's Items

A request for a defibrillator to be provided at the Nags Head pub, Oldcroft, was received. It was advised that it was Council policy to support the purchase of defibrillators around the Parish area, with Council offering 50% of the funds with the local community raising the remainder. H Acton and the Clerk to take forward.

Part 3: Items for information

Councillors to **Receive and Note**

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

A Moore reported three successful and well-attended events at Parkend, Yorkley and Whitecroft. The questionnaires completed by residents were in the process of being analysed, and would be considered at future NDP meetings.

3.2 Planning Committee

The minutes of meetings on 4th and 18th June were approved.

3.3 Highways Issues Report

The Highways Issues report was presented.

T Gwilliam reported the poor condition of Grove Road, Berry Hill in spite of repeated pothole repairs. This would be entered on the Highways Issues data base, and reported to GCC Highways.

3.4 Phone Box Working Group.

The report was accepted, and therefore the grant application from Canopy specified in 2.4 vi) d) above could be approved.

3.5 The Clerk's report was presented.

3.6 The Deputy Clerk's report was presented

It was agreed than an emergency Extraordinary meeting of council would be arranged for a convenient date in mid-July to consider the urgent issue of the future of Parish Remembrance Day parades in the tight of the apparent refusal of RBL to support the traditional event in Bream, and the implications for the other events in the Parish at Whitecroft and Berry Hill

4 FORTHCOMING DATES AND MEETINGS July 2019

To be arranged: Extraordinary meeting of Council to consider Remembrance Parades 2019 in the light of RBL's withdrawal of support for the Bream event.

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

Wednesday 10th July 2019 7.00pm: Forest of Dean Youth Group meeting, WDC

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

Tuesday 23rd July 2019 11.00am: Highways Issues, WDC

Tuesday 23rd July 2019 5.30pm: Amenities Committee, WDC

Wednesday 26th June 2019 7.00pm: Parish Council, Parkend Memorial Hall

The meeting closed at 21.50hrs