

WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT PARKEND MEMORIAL HALL ON WEDNESDAY 31st July 2019

PRESENT:

WDPC COUNCILLORS P Hiatt (Chairman)

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

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR: R Boyles

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: R Leppington

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

8 members of the public present

PUBLIC FORUM

i) It was reported that a meeting was to be held the following Saturday (3rd August 2019) to set up a Community/NDP group to challenge, with the assistance of West Dean Parish Council, planning application P0919/19/OUT for development at the former 'pin factory' at Whitecroft. P Dunford offered WDPC support, and the contribution of former parish councillor S Freeman was acknowledged.

ii) Thanks to Parish Council were given for the grant award for the bat survey at Parkend Memorial Hall.

iii) Attention was drawn to the dangerous parking situation close to the Parkend Memorial Hall, exacerbated by the local car boot sales and the use of street parking by staff and visitors at International Timbers. The Clerk would advise the local Highways Manager.

iv) GCC Councillor R Boyles provided detailed reports on Youth Offending Teams, Troubled Families, Mental Health services the current Play Gloucestershire adventure day program (jointly funded with WDPC), and measures to investigate sheep incursions into the Redrow development at Whitecroft.

v) FODDC Councillor R Leppington was concerned about anti-social behaviour in Bream, including drugs and driving. It was advised that the local police inspector, Andrew Hodgetts, would be attending a WDPC meeting soon.

1: Council formal business

1.1 Apologies – D Oliver and M Costley

1.2 Declarations of Interest:

P Hiatt in respect of item 2.9

T Gwilliam in respect of item 2.4

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (26th June 2019) – The minutes were approved.

2. Matters for discussion and actions or decisions

2.1 Yorkley Court Farm

607

It was agreed that A Grant should be WDPC delegate to a meeting at FODDC late August or early September to consider the management of Section 106 moneys deriving from the Yorkley Court Farm Development.

It was agreed that it would be unwise for a member of the public to enter the Yorkley Court Farm area to provide maintenance for footpaths. It was agreed that P Dunford would request the local GCC Public Rights of Way officer to provide advice and support.

2.2 Finance and Staffing

i) The July transaction schedule was approved.

ii) Payments approved at this meeting would be authorised by P Dunford and J Richmond

iii) It was reported that the July Financial Inspection had been satisfactorily conducted by P Dunford and H Acton.

iv) The August Financial Inspection would be conducted by A Grant and C Smith.

v) After consideration of the Staff Appraisal training which took place on 23rd July 2019, it was resolved that a meeting of the Finance and Staffing Committee should be convened to consider action.

vi) The Council's restricted funds, held for specific purposes, were reported. It was agreed that Crow Ash Play Park repair work should be charged to Council asset maintenance and not to the Crow Ash Recreation account.

vii) Budget Performance

The budget figures against income and expenditure were presented.

viii) Councillors were invited to apply to attend the GAPTC training courses 'Being a Better Councillor' and 'Planning for Parish Councils in autumn 2019

The following nominations were made:

'Being a Better Councillor' (Wednesday 30 October at Brockworth Community Centre GL3 4ET from 9.30am - 4.30pm)

Nominees S Crick, S Francis and C Smith

'Planning Applications from the perspective of Parish and Town Councils' (Wednesday 20 November from 1000-1300 at Parish Rooms, Highnam Community Centre GL2 8DG)

Nominees P Dunford, B Freshwater, A Moore, C Smith, H Acton and S Francis

ix) It was agreed that mileage allowance would be paid for Councillors travelling on Council business. A draft claim form would be presented to the next Council meeting for approval.

x) It was agreed that the balance of the Arts Council Grant held by the Parish Council (£29,556.72) should be transferred to the Canopy account.

xi) Council agreed to transfer the funds held from the Arts Council England grant award to the Canopy bank account.

xii) It was agreed that two robust replacement winter salt bunkers should be procured at a cost of £739.98 to replace the existing plastic storage boxes which had been vandalised.

2.3 Proposed Development, former pin factory, Whitecroft

Although it was accepted that some development at the site could be supported, it was agreed that the current design proposal was unacceptable.

A local community action group would be set up, containing one representative of the NDP team and one Parish Councillor. This group would consider the application in the light of national and

608

district development orders, and fund raise and commission professional advice where necessary.

It was agreed in principle that West Dean Parish Council would in principle make available funds for commissioning reports and consultancy, but would not offer specific sums until after the Whitecroft Community meeting the following weekend when the requirement would be better known.

2.4 Five Acres

It was reported that the WDPC press release, deploring the delay in the disposal of the residual part of the Five Acres site to the District Council, had been published. T Gwilliam reported that funds were being sought from the District Council to expedite this matter. A further letter had been sent from the District Council to the new minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

2.5 Multi Use Track (MUT)

It was reported that a response was awaited from Dean Forest Railway to a request to conduct an inspection walk of the DFR track to examine the feasibility of constructing a track alongside the rail track.

2.6 Youth Services

A report was presented in the Clerk's report.

2.7 Remembrance Parades

In the light of the Royal British Legion withdrawing from the organisation of the Bream parade, it would be necessary if this event was to continue that the Parish Council would need to take it over. A risk assessment would be necessary to present to Council's insurers, and a local point of contact would be required to organise the event.

It was agreed that the Bream parade would not be allowed to collapse. S Crick and C Smith would be the local event champions.

The matter, including the management of the events at Whitecroft and Berry Hill, would be further considered at the next Council meeting, and if necessary, Council funds might be allocated.

2.8 Chair's Items

i) Police visit

It was reported that Police Inspector Andrew Hodgetts would be visiting West Dean Centre, 10.00am, Tuesday 7th August 2019.

ii) Sheep Issues

It was noted that the District Council were again considering a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to protect the built up parts of Bream from sheep.

At this stage, the proposal for a PSPO would be for Bream only. It was agreed in principle that future funding may be awarded by the Council to pursue this matter. This was agreed by all councillors except T Gwilliam, who abstained

iii) Mineral Quarrying at Clearwell

This matter had been raised by Newland District Council. Development at this site had always been opposed by Newland Parish Council, supported by West Dean Parish Council.

It appeared that GCC were minded to allow the latest application.

West Dean Parish Council would continue to support colleagues at Newland Parish Council, although no funding was required at this stage.

iv) Climate Emergency

Council resolved to declare a Climate Emergency in the terms of the attached Declaration, adopted at this meeting. Further notes relating to strategic issues are also attached.

Part 3: Items for information

Councillors to **Receive and Note**

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

Consultation data had been analysed by K Baugh of the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council. A meeting would be arranged following the NDP/Community meeting at Whitecroft to consider the 'Pin Factory' planning application.

3.2 Planning Committee

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

3.3 Highways Issues Report

The Highways Issues report would be sent to Councillors once compiled. A priority list of 'C' grade roads for repair would be compiled by the Clerk working with ward councillors.

3.4 Speed Camera Evaluation Project

J Richmond presented a report. It was agreed that a full report once the questionnaire results had been analysed, would be presented to Council at the September meeting.

3.5 The Clerk's report was presented.

There was some discussion about Council's defibrillators. It was agreed that there would be some research undertaken on their use, and that there should be some publicity in the next newsletter.

In respect of the newsletter, it was noted how effective was the way in which grant awards were displayed. It was agreed than a better method of distributing the newsletter, including the use of Royal Mail, should be considered.

3.6 The Deputy Clerk's report was presented

The Deputy Clerk was thanked for his work in arranging a replacement bench for Bream Cenotaph. It was agreed that the Bream 'Silent Soldier' should be moved to a more secure site, possibly at the West Dean Centre.

4 FORTHCOMING DATES AND MEETINGS August 2019

Tuesday 6th August 2019 5.30pm: Planning Committee, WDC

Tuesday 13th August 5.30pm: Phone Box Working Group, WDC

Tuesday 20th August 2019 5.30pm: Planning Committee, WDC

Wednesday 21st August 2019 10.00am: Highways Issues, Parkend

Wednesday 28th August 2019 7.00pm: Parish Council, Pillowell Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.53 pm