

WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT BERRY HILL MEMORIAL INSTITUTE ON WEDNESDAY 25th September 2019

PRESENT:

WDPC COUNCILLORS P Hiatt (Chair)

H Acton

S Crick

S Francis

A Grant

A Moore

M Costley

P Dunford

B Freshwater

T Gwilliam

C Smith

D Kent (Clerk) was in attendance

COUNTY COUNCILLOR: R Boyles

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: R Leppington, D Wheeler

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

5 members of the public

PUBLIC FORUM

D Sharp provided the venue safety information and presented a report on the state of the Memorial Institute. The building was in poor shape, and the management committee was in need of some new members. It was agreed that following the forthcoming AGM of the Committee an approach to the Parish Council might be made. Meanwhile, through social media and other publicity, efforts would be made to seek more community involvement.

E Highfield made a presentation on the recent changes to Stagecoach bus services. P Hiatt reported that the District Council would be organising a meeting with the County Council, Stagecoach and Parish/Town Councils to address this matter.

I Standing of the Verderers reported on vehicle collisions in the Forest with feral boar and deer. Consideration should be given to imposing speed restrictions and erecting 'gateways' at entrances to the forest with messages warning of the presence of these animals. The Verderers should be invited to future meetings of the Forest of Dean Road Safety Group.

The reports by County Councillor R Boyles and by Youth Association A Bumpstead are summarised as an addendum to these minutes

1: Council formal business

1.1 Apologies – Parish Councillors B Gayler, D Oliver, B Evans and J Richmond; District Councillor R Leppington; Deputy Clerk P Jones

1.2 Declarations of Interest:

P Hiatt and T Gwilliam in respect of item 2.5 as District Council Cabinet members

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (28th August 2019) – The minutes were approved.

2. Matters for discussion and actions or decisions

2.1 Local Bus Services

Complaints were made about the recent Stagecoach bus services in the area, with particular concerns about the cuts to services in the Christchurch area, poor communication and consultation, lack of impact assessment, poor services from some areas to Gloucester, poor bus quality, and no integrated transport policies.

E Highfield, with Councillor S Francis, was developing a questionnaire on the impact of the changes on local communities.

2.2 Yorkley Court Farm

The Clerk would chase up the local Public Rights of Way Officer in respect of the poor state of the footpaths in the area following recent communications between the Parish Council and him.

B Freshwater suggested that the erection of a fence beside a footpath had made the clearing of overgrown footpaths more difficult.

The Clerk would remind the District Council about convening a meeting for the disbursement of S106 moneys promised for the site.

2.3 Finance and Staffing

i) The September transaction and credit card schedule was approved.

ii) Payments approved at this meeting would be authorised by P Hiett and H Acton

iii) It was reported that the September Financial Inspection had been satisfactorily conducted by H Acton and B Freshwater

iv) The October Financial Inspection would be conducted by B Freshwater and S Francis

2.4 Proposed Development, former pin factory, Whitecroft

No report was presented. The issue of land contamination from the site's industrial history was raised, and would be taken into account in future consideration of this application.

2.5 Five Acres

It was advised that the District Council were seeking legal advice in respect of the delay in the transfer of the remaining Five Acres estate from Homes England to the District Council.

Frustration was expressed about this delay, and a press statement would be prepared by P Hiett and B Freshwater, with some input from the Clerk.

2.6 Multi Use Track (MUT)

B Freshwater presented a report. An escorted rail trip along the Lydney to Parkend line had been conducted by Dean Forest Railway for the project team, and some difficulties had been identified in the route. The Clerk would arrange a meeting with GCC Highways Department with the project team, which would include the Lydney Town Council representative.

2.7 Youth Services

This matter had been fully discussed in the Public Forum. A meeting of the Bream Action Group would be arranged to consider the provision of a safe place for young people of the village to gather, to include Alethea Bumpstead and the Bream Sports and Social Club.

2.8 Remembrance Parades

S Crick was finalising the event's risk assessment, which would be presented to the Council's insurers to include in the Council's insurance policy. The Clerk advised that the road closure had been approved and the road cones and PA system would be ready for collection at St Mary's Church, Lydney, and that the wreaths had been ordered.

2.9 Chair's Items

Council would await a report from the Memorial Institute following their AGM, and would consider any emergency grant bid which might be made.

The Council declared its intention to work with agencies including the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Tourist Association, the Police, the District and County Councils and the Verderers to address the issue of feral animals in the Forest and their impact on road safety.

Part 3: Items for information

Councillors to **Receive and Note**

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

The Clerk provided a report. A grant for £2,900 had been awarded to the project by Locality. A series of meetings and presentations had been arranged for October.

3.2 Planning Committee

The minutes of the meeting on 3rd September 2019 were approved.

The Clerk made an appeal for members to attend the forthcoming Planning Committee on 1st October 2019, as it was feared that, as several regular Committee members were unable to attend, the meeting might be inquorate. It was agreed that if it was not possible to hold the meeting, the Clerk would be delegated with the power to send planning observations to the District Council on the basis of the reports of councillors who had considered the relevant applications.

3.3 Highways Issues Report

The report was received too late to be presented to Council.

3.4 Forest of Dean Road Safety Group

Received

3.5 Climate Emergency

Various issues were discussed. Various meetings were to be held, and item 4 below lists all those currently arranged.

Councillor A Moore is coordinating West Dean Parish Council's responses to this issue, and will liaise with the Clerk to circulate an ecological report and to seek and disseminate information on the subject.

3.6 The Clerk's report was presented.

3.7 The Deputy Clerk's report was presented

4 FORTHCOMING DATES AND MEETINGS October and early November 2019

Tuesday 1st October 2019 5.30pm: Planning Committee, WDC

Wednesday 2nd October 2019 7.00pm: Neighbourhood Planning in the Context of Climate Change, Yorkley Community Centre

Thursday 10th October 2019 5.00pm: Finance & Staffing Committee (grant awards), WDC

Thursday 10th October 2019 7.30pm: Climate Change: What Town & Parish Councils can do: Main Place, Coleford

Tuesday 15th October 2019 5.30pm: Planning Committee (preceded by Local Plan presentation), Garden Room, Parkend (opposite Parkend Station)

Wednesday 16th October 2019 10.30am: Affordable Housing Walkabout, Whitecroft (?) and Yorkley

Wednesday 16th October 2019 7.00pm: NDP Meeting, Yorkley Community Centre

Monday 21st October 2019 7.00pm: Informal Budget Setting meeting, Ellwood Football Club

Wednesday 30th October 2019 9.30am: Being a Better Councillor GAPTC course, Brockworth Community Centre

Wednesday 30th October 2019 7.00pm: Full Council Meeting, West Dean Centre

Wednesday 13th November 2019 10.00am: Cyber Security Presentation, WDC

Wednesday 20th November 2019 10.00am: Planning Applications from the perspective of Parish and Town Councils GAPTC course, Parish Rooms, Highnam Community Centre

The meeting closed at 9.55pm