



WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

Dave Kent
Clerk to the Council

Clive Hooper
Deputy Clerk

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COUNCIL MINUTES

WDPC COUNCILLORS: B Freshwater (BF), A Moore (AM), P Duntford (PD), B Evans (BE), S Yeates (SY), A Bruce (AB), B Gayler (BG), S Francis (SF), D Oliver (DO), S Crick (SC), M Costley (MC), J Richmond (JR) and J Dale (JD).

District and County Councillor R Boyles

District Councillor P Hiett

Members of the Public S Salmon, Andrew Moore and Sarah Brad

D Kent (Clerk) and C Hooper (Deputy Clerk) were in attendance

PUBLIC FORUM

District Councillor P Hiett

County Councillor R Boyles

COUNCIL FORMAL BUSINESS

1.1 Apologies were received from:

A Grant and A Sumners

1.2 Declarations of Interest

None received

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting – The minutes of the meeting on 28th October 2020 were accepted as a true record to be signed by the Chair as soon as is feasible.

3.2 Planning Issues (Marians Walk, Berry Hill (taken out of sequence))

It was noted that in respect of Planning Application P1583/20/FUL - Marians Walk, Berry Hill, construction of 18 dwellings a request had been made by Council to seek an extension of the time limit beyond the agreed date of 20th November 2020, and to seek clarification of some matters before a response could be provided.

Post meeting note: after application to the District Council for such an extension, it was advised by the District Council that the closing date for responses would be extended to 20th January 2021, and that further expert consultants' reports would be provided

It was agreed that a virtual meeting of the Planning Committee would be held if the District Council agreed to these conditions, at a date to be arranged around mid-December. This meeting would be to consider this application in particular, and may also consider any other current application of particular interest. The possibility of holding an actual in person meeting, perhaps in the Berry Hill area would be considered, if safe and legal. Public participation, subject to the Council's Standing Orders, would be permitted.

1.4 Meeting Protocols (back to published sequence)

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It was agreed that the exclusion of members of the public from any participation in Parish Council meetings was unsatisfactory.

It was agreed that the emergency protocols for the conduct of Council meetings would be rescinded in respect of the restoration of the Public Forum at the start of each meeting and to relax the limitation of numbers of members of the public attending.

Council's Standing orders for meetings would be re-installed, with the following limitations:

Meetings would continue to be held in a 'virtual' form, until it was safe and legal to resume actual in person meetings.

Members of the public would be invited to attend, to a maximum of 15. Those wishing to attend to contact the Clerk, who would accept the first 15 members of the public to apply, and provide them with logging on details.

The Deputy Clerk would investigate the possibility of 'hybrid' meetings.

2. Items for discussion and decision

2.1 Corona Virus Emergency

Considered under 1.4 above

2.2 Finance & Staffing

i) The electronic payments for November 2020 as presented were approved.

ii) The automatic payments for November 2020 (standing orders and direct debits) were noted.

iii) BF and JR were appointed to provide the electronic authorisations for November 2020 bank payments.

iv) AB and SF would conduct the Financial Inspections for December and January

v) It was reported that the November Financial Inspection (by JD and SC) had been conducted satisfactorily

vi) It was agreed that emergency payments for the period before the next meeting would be delegated to the Chair, Deputy Chair and Clerk

2.3 Climate Emergency/Village Veg

There was no report, but AB asserted that the information provided for the Parish Council's newsletter was not party political.

2.4 Grant Award Process: Yorkley Court Farm S106 Funds Group

A brief report was provided on the progress of the application process, which was on hold until a ruling on the management of the funds had been received from the District Council

2.5 Crossing Cottage, Pillowell

The Clerk provided a brief report on enquiries into the status of the footpath at the rear of this property, to the District Council and to Forestry England.

2.6 Newsletter

It was agreed that an annual budget of £5,000 would be allocated for the distribution of the newsletter. It was reported that the newsletter was in the process of being printed, and would be available in a few days.

2.7 Bream Youth Report

It was reported that a useful meeting of the Bream group had been held, and a further meeting would be held the following spring. Venues for events would be sought. P Hiatt would be invited to the next meeting.

2.8 Gention Grant Awards

It was confirmed that the grant awards for the £10,000 offered by Gention would be taken forward. It was agreed that the grant awarding team should consist of 2 Bream residents, a Bream District Councillor, a West Dean Parish Councillor, and a representative of Gention. The awards would be advertised.

2.9 NHS Consultation

The Clerk would retrieve and circulate Council's response to the previous NHS Forest Hospital consultation. Councillors would submit their own responses.

The main points of concern were the provision of transport to hospital for visitors and patients, the provision of accommodation for health service staff, and the provision of sufficient beds at the new facility.

2.10 Consideration of District 2019-41 Plan

It was agreed that this matter would be referred to the Planning Committee.

2.11 Chair's Report

There was no Chair's report.

3.1 Neighbourhood Development Plan

A report was presented.

3.2 Planning

This item had been considered out of sequence earlier in the meeting.

3.3 Dean Forest Greenway

It was reported that the planning application for the track had been submitted to the District Council. The Clerk would check on the progress of this application.

PD thanked the Chair for the work that he had devoted to this project.

BF requested that these issues should be resolved:

- i) Insurance liability for users of the track
- ii) The danger of flooding at the Middle Forge to Norchard link
- iii) Information on the link to Brockhollands.

The Clerk presented a brief project status report.

3.4 Speed Reduction Strategy Group

The Deputy Clerk reported that he had submitted a bid to the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office for a grant of £1,000.00 for the installation of posts on which to install VAS posts.

JR reported that the ongoing project would require speed surveys, historical data and information on specific locations.

At this point it was agreed that the meeting should be extended by 30 minutes

3.5 Annual Governance and Accountability Audit

The External Auditor's report was received.

3.6 Clerk's Report

A report was presented

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3.7 Deputy Clerk's Report

A report was presented.

The provision of dementia-friendly facilities was supported, and quotations would be provided for the next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm

The next meeting would be held under agreed Council protocols, at 7.00 pm, Wednesday 27th January 2021.