



WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

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FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting Date: 31st August 2022, 7pm
Location: The West Dean Centre
Present: Cllrs J Dale, S Francis, B Evans, S Yeates, M Costley, P Dunford, B Gayler, A Bruce, A Moore and S Dunford
Clerks: K Carpenter & P Holland

AGENDA No	ITEM/NOTES	ACTION
	Public Forum – opened at 19:00 A resident from Parkend asked the Council about the vehicle activated sign, which has been located on New Road, Parkend, and why it was not currently at this location. They were advised that the two units currently owned had been sent for the retro fitting of solar panels to reduce the reliance on charging of batteries. They were also advised that this change to the units would also require an increase in the height of the pole to allow for the correct clearance to for pedestrians to be maintained. They were also advised that if other locations were identified as being potential sites for the units it would require speed surveys and then installation of poles to be undertaken but to contact the parish council with this information. A further member of the public wished to raise a concern with the website and the ease of locating agenda packs for meetings. The website has been updated and there is still additional work which is ongoing to further improve the site and this concern will be addressed with the provider. GCC Cllr B Hoyland gave a brief resume of the report circulated earlier in the day and highlighted the following elements: • Road Safety Consultation – closing date 11/9/2022 • Active Gloucestershire's event day on 9/9/2022 • Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue press release on fire safety and the danger of chimney fires • The homes for Ukraine scheme and the need for matching with host families after the initial 6-month period.	

	Cllr Costley asked about the 20's plenty scheme and was advised that this is with the Environment Scrutiny Committee and is part of the Road Safety Consultation. Cllr Evans asked if this would be kept on the agenda as it has been debated previously, he was assured that it would be. FODDC Cllr P Hiatt was available to answer any questions from the report that had been circulated earlier. Cllr Hiatt advised of the Local Plan consultation and advised the parish and all individuals to submit a response. Cllr A Moore arrived at 19:13 He also advised the member of the public in attendance to discuss the VAS that Community Safety Partnership grants were available to support community action on road safety. Cllr Evans asked how the developing Local Plan with the identified housing allocation was addressing the climate emergency in reference to increase vehicles in the district and where employment opportunities were for this increased population. Cllr Hiatt agreed that this was a dilemma but felt that this consultation and plan was the most effective undertaken by Forest of Dean DC in terms of it being driven by need, local people, and developers. Cllr P Dunford stated that WDPC have arranged a series of meetings to discuss and debate the Local Plan Consultation to provide a comprehensive response. He also asked a question about the architects engaged to work on the Five Acres project and how these were appointed and how the feedback from the consultation meeting would be incorporated. Cllr Hiatt confirmed that this was done under procurement rules with all the usual due diligence elements being considered, although the company has a history of working with the authority. He also advised that the report was not yet available from Gloucestershire Rural Community Council but officers at the events had noted the feedback and some of this was already being implemented. Cllr P Dunford than asked about the resolution from the monitoring officer and if it had been complied with? Cllr Hiatt responded that it had not been complied with presently but thanked Cllr Dunford for raising the complaint. The statement given by Cllr Hiatt was quite lengthy or which a separate report has been kept. Cllr S Dunford arrived at 19:28	
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22081	<u>COUNCIL FORMAL BUSINESS</u>	
22081.1	Apologies Apologies were received and noted from Cllrs S Crick, A Grant, J Richmond, D Oliver, and F McGuinness.	
22081.2	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest to receive or note.	
22081.3	Minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27 th July at The Hut; Berry Hill were approved by resolution of the Council as an accurate record of the meeting.	
22082	<u>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION</u>	
22082.1	Financial Reports	
22082.1i)	The financial payments were approved by resolution of the council. Cllr Evans raised a question about contracts of employment and was advised that all full and part time staff had contracts.	
22082.1ii)	The Councillors appointed to undertake the approval of electronic payments were Cllrs P Dunford & M Costley.	
22082.1iii)	Cllr Francis gave a brief summary of the July 2022 financial inspection undertaken of the parish and West Dean Centre accounts, all items were checked and were satisfactory.	
22082.1iv)	The Councillors appointed to undertake the August 2022 financial inspection were Cllrs Bruce & Moore.	
22082.1v)	The budgets were briefly discussed in terms of funding for speed surveys and VAS units, Cllr Yeates advised that Cllr Richmond had applied to GCC for funding for surveys and was in contact with Berry Hill about the donation for the VAS unit.	
22082.2	Forest Edge South NDP Cllr S Dunford proposed that the Council agrees that the Parish owned land known as Captains Green, Yorkley is put forward to be designated as 'Local Green Space' by the steering group of Forest Edge South, Neighbourhood Development Plan. He gave a brief presentation of the thinking and process that has been undertaken to identify the land requiring this protection and how this would affect any future development of the area and afford it protection	

	like a green belt. Cllr Evans asked if there were any financial implications and was advised that to designate the land there were none but potentially could arise if the land is developed in the future. Cllr Evans moved a proposal to support this motion which was seconded by Cllr Bruce and carried by unanimous resolution of the Council.	
22082.3	Climate & Biodiversity Cllr J Dale proposed that Council produces a resident survey and initiates a consultation process to determine whether residents support turning off streetlights for the benefits of carbon reduction, improved biodiversity, cost savings and improved sleep patterns for residents. There was a discussion about how this consultation would be managed on either a whole parish or village by village basis and if the roll out would be done in a similar way, what evidence base was available about dark skies and crime, which was felt to be an area of resistance to the proposal, whether motion sensors were a viable option for consideration and the need for additional research to be undertaken before going out to consultation. Cllr Dale proposed that the consultation was supported by Council and that this be returned to the Climate & Biodiversity Committee for additional information and implementation planning of the consultation. This was seconded by Cllrs Evans and S Dunford and carried by resolution of the Council.	
22083	<u>ITEMS FOR INFORMATION – COUNCILLORS TO RECEIVE & NOTE</u>	
22083.1	Planning Committee Cllr P Dunford gave a brief outline of the planning committee meetings and informed the meeting that the most contentious application was The Builders Yard in Parkend with 3 detached dwellings. Clerk to chase planning officer on full report being added to the portal. He also briefly mentioned the additional information added the Dean Forest Greenway application and encouraged all to support and add comments. The minutes of the meetings were passed on bloc.	
22083.2	Highways & Footpaths Cllr Yeates gave a brief outline of the meeting discussion, which was mostly taken up with speed surveys and VAS location suggestions in Ellwood. He also advised that Cllr Richmond and himself were developing a policy document on speeding issues.	

	He also advised that a grant application had been made to GCC for funding for speed surveys and that Cllrs S Dunford and Dale were undertaking some research in Yorkley on speeding issues. The minutes of the meeting were approved.	
22083.3	West Dean Centre Management Committee The Deputy Clerk gave a brief oversight of this meeting, and the minutes were approved.	
22083.4	Chairs Items A brief discussion was held about the Forestry England consultation on Cannop Ponds, and it was agreed that they should be approached for copies of reports and that the parish council should be a consultee. Clerk – to contact FE for reports. Cllr Evans asked about the debate previously held on youth provision and potential day events, there was much discussion about this and the potential cost and time implications. It was agreed that Forest Voluntary Action Forum, youth workers would be contacted to open lines of discussion on this subject. Cllr Evans also spoke briefly about the emergency plan and then need for this to be done. It was agreed that Cllrs S Dunford and S Yeates would meet with the Clerks to progress with the inclusion of climate emergency planning. Cllr Evans was asked to recirculate the Newland PC Plan.	
22083.5	Clerks Report The Clerks report covered several items, and the following actions were agreed: ○ Books of condolence to be sought in preparation for Operation London Bridge ○ Work to continue to update website and action to progress newsletter is begun. ○ Project to provide a safe space at the West Dean Centre in conjunction with Bream Friends to be planned and implemented. Clerks to also contact all other village halls, community centres and churches etc about their individual plans for safe spaces and how the parish could support these efforts. ○ First aid training for the Clerks to be organised as soon as possible.	
22083.6	Deputy Clerks Report No report to present.	

22083.4	Public Forum Follow-up				
	There was no public follow-up as all members of the public who had been in attendance had already left the meeting.				
22084	Forthcoming Meeting Timetable –				
Sep-22					
Thurs	1 st Sept 2022	5.00pm	Local Plan Consultation	West Dean Centre	
Tues	6th Sept 2022	5.30pm	Planning Committee	West Dean Centre	
Thurs	8 th Sept 2022	5.00pm	Local Plan Consultation	West Dean Centre	
Thurs	8th Sept 2022	7.00pm	Climate & Biodiversity Committee	West Dean Centre	
Tues	13 th Sept 2022	5.00pm	Local Plan Consultation	West Dean Centre	
Tues	20th Sept 2022	11.00am	Governance & Scrutiny Committee	West Dean Centre	
Tues	20th Sept 2022	5.30pm	Planning Committee	West Dean Centre	
Weds	28th Sept 2022	7.00pm	Full Council	West Dean Centre	
Oct-22					
Tues	4th October 2022	5.30pm	Planning Committee	West Dean Centre	
Thurs	13th October 2022	7.00pm	Climate & Biodiversity Committee	Pillowell Village Hall	
Tues	18th October 2022	3.00pm	Highways & Footpaths Committee	West Dean Centre	
Tues	18th October 2022	5.30pm	Planning Committee	West Dean Centre	
Weds	28th October 2022	7.00pm	Full Council	West Dean Centre	