

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF WEST DEAN
HELD AT THE WEST DEAN CENTRE
WEDNESDAY 24th May 2023 AT 7.00pm**

PRESENT

Parish Cllrs:- A Bruce (Chair), S Francis, A Moore, D Wheeler, S Dunford, B Evans, J Richmond, and S Yeates

Panel Speakers:- PCSO C Ambury, Members of the Forest Edge South NDP Steering Group, 1st Royal Forest Scout Group, Bream Early Learners, Parkend Allotments and Parkend Events Committee.

Clerks: K Carpenter & P Holland

There were apologies from:- Cllrs: A Grant, M Costley, and B Hoyland (GCC Cllr)

I. INTRODUCTIONS:- The Chair welcomed Cllrs, guest speakers and residents of the parish to the meeting. Cllr Bruce indicated that there was an amendment to the agenda as members of the Forest Edge South Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had asked to make a short presentation to the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ASSEMBLY:- The minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 11th May 2022 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. ANNUAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS:- Cllr Bruce gave Cllr Hoyland's apologies as she was unable to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances. It was agreed that this report would be posted on the parish website for all interested parties.

4. PCSO – ANNUAL REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL:- PCSO Ambury spoke referencing the annual reports provided by the police covering a range of incidents within Berry Hill, Bream, Christchurch, Ellwood, and Sling and Pillowell over the last 12 months, with some indications as to the reasons for the increases and decreases in the presented data. The issue of anti-social behaviour was discussed and PCSO Ambury confirmed that she and her colleagues are working closely with the schools in the parish, and she usually spoke to the younger children on this topic. Should residents wish to report any incidents PCSO Ambury suggested residents use the online reporting facility on Gloucestershire Police's website (www.gloucestershire.police.uk) or by dialling 101 or 999 in an emergency.

PCSO Ambury spoke regarding the requests that had been received for Local Speed Watch Groups for the separate villages within West Dean, and the campaign advert which had been placed on the Council's Website and Facebook page. However, there were not enough interested residents from each to set up individual groups, so a joint West Dean Speed Watch Group had been formed, anyone interested in joining this were asked to let PCSO Ambury have their details.

PCSO Ambury can be contacted via:- Lydney Police Station, 5 High Street, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 5DP and Group - **mobile - 07814082174**

5. Forest Edge South NDP:- The FES NDP steering group gave a detailed update on the progress, the public consultation and the concerns raised during the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and it's supporting documents. They also briefly discussed the next stages for the Neighbourhood Plan but were unable to give a detailed timescale for these steps to be completed.

This prompted a short discussion as to when or if a Bream Neighbourhood Plan would be programmed into West Dean Parish Council's Action Plan.

6. Grant Reports from:-

- **1st Royal Forest Scouts Group:-** Gave a verbal report on the new tents purchased with the grant

awarded by WDPC which will enable the troops to continue their camping excursions.

- **Bream Early Learners:-** Gave a short talk, with photographs of the newly developed play area which will enable the children to play no matter what the weather conditions.
- **Parkend Allotments:-** Gave an overview of all works supported by WDPC grant awards.
- **Parkend Events Committee:-** provided a presentation of the event supported through the WDPC grant award.

7. Parish Council Mission Statement and Action Plan Consultation.

Cllr Bruce invited both Cllrs and residents to help WDPC formulate a Mission Statement and Action Plan which will guide the parish council over the next 4 years to achieve what is most important to residents of West Dean.

The Chair then opened the floor so that residents present could raise questions, concerns, or issues that the parish council have noted and will consider, these being:-

A. Street scene in Bream and the parish

- a. Continuing sheep fouling issues - liaison with Forestry England on specific areas of concern.
- b. Verge cutting and visibility cuts.
- c. Littering
- d. Sheep presence in villages overnight – potential legal investigation
- e. Animal welfare issues
- f. Health implications of fouling of pavements and village areas
- g. Speeding and vehicle activated signs.
- h. Improvement of street scene – village entry gates etc.
- i. Finger Post updates and additions
- j. Signposting residents to other agencies re complaints on street scene

B. Environmental and Flooding

- a. Road conditions in severe weather events
- b. Flooding issues due to such weather events
- c. Clearance of drainage ditches and responsibly for this
- d. Potholes – roads and pavement condition

C. Social and Community

- a. Cost of living impacts
- b. New Dunn Works Sling – noise, smells, visual impacts
- c. Facilities for youth club at West Dean Centre
- d. Youth Provision

Residents were advised to contact the Parish Office to raise complaints about all the issues discussed and the Clerks would pass information onto the relevant Authority or Agency and would also begin to collate all complaints for further investigation and potential action or projects on behalf of residents by WDPC, potential for development of a WDPC app to aid reporting of issues.

Cllr Bruce thank everyone for coming and their valuable input to the meeting which closed at 10pm.

A special thanks to Bream Early Learners Administrator for their assistance in clearing down following this meeting.