

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF WEST DEAN
HELD AT THE WEST DEAN CENTRE
WEDNESDAY 12th June 2024 AT 7.00pm**

PRESENT

Parish Cllrs:- A Grant (Vice Chair), S Francis, S Dunford, J Richmond, and A Betinson

Panel Speakers:- PCSO C Ambury, Great Oaks, Forest Fighting Fit, Yorkley Football Club and Bream Heritage Walk.

Clerks: K Carpenter & P Holland

There were apologies from:- Cllrs: A Bruce, A Moore, S Yeates, B Evans, M Costley, E Cooper, B Freshwater, and J Roberts

I. INTRODUCTIONS:-

The Vice Chair welcomed Cllrs, guest speakers and residents of the parish to the meeting. Each Councillor introduced themselves and which ward they represented, the speakers introduced themselves and stated organisation they were from and both the Clerk and Deputy Clerk introduced themselves and explained their roles within the Parish Council, the Clerk spoke briefly of the next Parish Newsletter and how and where it would be available. Cllr Grant noted a change to the agenda as Ellwood Youth Football Club did not attend and two other grant recipients attended wishing to give their thanks and report on the use of the monies awarded.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ASSEMBLY:-

The minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 24th May 2023 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Chairs Report:-

Cllr Grant read out a report which had been prepared by Cllr A Bruce, who was unable to attend, a copy of the report is on the West Dean Parish Website and printed copies were available for those who wished to take one.

4. ANNUAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS:-

Cllr Hoyland stated that she is responsible for a funding pot which has been used to support those in the district who are trying to support locals, groups such as Cricket, and gyms, which give access to sports to children, Village Halls and Community Groups trying to support older residents, this funds grass roots work that can really make a difference.

She has also just become chair of Commons and Rights of Way Committee (CRoW) and works closely with Gloucestershire County Highways relating to issues within

5. 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 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 left her contact cards for those who wish to take them.

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

6. Grant Reports from:-

- **Great Oaks:-** Gave a verbal report on the well-being service the grant awarded by WDPC has helped to support, they spoke of the new Cancer Hub which operates drop ins on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday every month to offer a safe place to discuss any issues or concerns cancer sufferers, or their Carers, may have regarding their diagnosis, treatment and recovery. They also spoke of the many events which are held at the Centre which include bereavement counselling, befriending services, support services for those with life limiting illnesses and those who care for them.

They made it clear that anyone needing their services could refer themselves to Great Oaks.

- **Forest Fighting Fit:-** Gave a short talk, outlining the work which has been done with the grant money to improve the equipment, personal safety and facilities at the gym, they offer a space for youths to take part in sports but also to learn social skills, build confidence, make friends and feel safe. They also support Men's Mental Health and open at unsociable hours to provide a place to go when needed.
- **Yorkley Football Club:-** Gave a verbal report on the progress of the works for which a grant from WDPC was given. The works have been delayed due to weather conditions and works being done by other Organisations, but they hoped to complete the kissing gate installation as soon as possible to provide a safe route from the grounds to the village.

They now have an under 13's side which is now entering a league and have been approached to form a women's football team.

- **Bream Heritage Walk:-** gave a verbal report on the print run of their booklet which the grant from WDPC has made possible. The booklets will be put out in local shops, café and in the West Dean Centre for anyone who wished to take one. The route is mapped out in the centre pages and historic landmarks are noted. The booklet is usually free but does have a price on the back should anyone wish to take a larger quantity.

7. Public Questions and Comments:-

A member of public asked if there were any updates on the Multi Use Track which the Parish Council are working on developing.

Cllr Dunford gave assurances that this project was moving forward and that a great deal of work had been taking place in the background. It was stated that discussions had been held and a revised route had been identified and now the work on a revised planning application would begin.

Cllr Francis commented that this project needed the backing of the County Council to ensure its success.

Cllr Hoyland indicated that this track was something she would support, and hoped that Gloucestershire County Council would also support as it linked in with the Strategic County Cycle Spine.

The Manager of Forest Fighting Fit asked if it would be possible to have printed copies of the next Parish Newsletter to give out to those who attended referral classes at the gym.

The meeting closed at 8pm.