



WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL (WDPC)

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HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS MINUTES

Meeting Date: 21st April 2026 Location: The West Dean Centre
Meeting Started 2.30pm Meeting Ended 3.50pm

Present

Cllrs J Richmond, M Bennett, B Freshwater, A Batchelor, S Dunford, S Yeates and S Francis – West Dean Parish Council (WDPC)
Cllr L Challis - GCC
N Choat and A Middlecote - GCH
Clerk – P Holland

PUBLIC FORUM

Cllr Richmond thanked everyone for attending and all present introduced themselves. Cllr Richmond invited the first member of the public present to speak to the Committee about their concerns.

Street Light Request

A member of the public addressed the meeting asking if there was an update on the street lighting at The Tufts, Bream. Which had been requested at the last Highways & Footpaths Meeting. N Choat contacted the team responsible to chase this request.

The member of public then spoke of their concerns regarding the inappropriate and illegal parking at the junction of Parkend Road and Whitecroft Road. This was item 5.2 on the meeting agenda. After some discussion N Choat noted that if drivers were following the highway code they would not park there with the current road markings, and this was enforceable by the police, and suggested that perhaps the PCSO should be asked to visit the businesses causing the issue to have a chat. Cllr Freshwater suggested perhaps adding yellow lines to this area, this work could be added to the same batch order that was being done for a short stretch in Yorkley. N Choat stated the cost of Yellow Line orders and said he would see if it was possible to add this to it or if it would have to wait for another order. Cllr Bennett noted how certain circumstances with traffic could cause the "Perfect Storm" scenario at this junction.

	Request for Parish Council support for continuous pavement between Sling and Coleford. A member of public addressed the meeting to raise their concerns over pedestrian safety, due to the lack of pavement on Lambsquay Road. After some discussion N Choat noted that this was in the Coleford Town Council Boundary not West Dean Parish. <u>Highways Request</u> A member of the public addressed the meeting on behalf of Bream Sports Club and asked if there was any update on the reinstatement of the bump that had previously been on the road near the entrance to the Sports Club. N Choat advised that this would be re-instated and was with the Community Team for completion within the next week. The member of public then asked if there was any update on the Forest of Dean Greenway route and Cllr Dunford gave an update on the current position. The member of public then asked if the road closure on Speech House Road had been amended and it was confirmed that the closure was now 7th May to avoid the Bank Holiday. <u>The public forum closed at 3.00 pm.</u>	MOP will speak to Coleford Town Council.
AGENDA No	ITEM/NOTES	ACTIONS
1	Apologies	
	Apologies were received from GCC Cllrs B Hoyland and P Camp.	
2	Declarations of Interest	
	Cllr Yeates declared he is a Heritage Expert and also a member of BHMI .	
3	Minutes of the Previous Meeting.	
	February Minutes were approved by resolution of the meeting as being an accurate account of the proceedings.	
4	Gloucestershire County Highways Report	
4.1	N Choat advised that there was to be resurfacing works in Bream but he was unable to give an exact time frame. He also spoke of the change in funding for works and there no longer being a Highways Local fund through Cllrs. Cllr Dunford asked if there was any information on the Pot Holes Works needed in the Yorkley/Viney Hill areas, N Choat advised that he had asked for a Safety Inspector to visit some areas.	

4.2	Cllr Yeates asked about road works in Joyford and was advised this was not Highway works but Utility works. A Middlecote advised that he had no update for this meeting. Cllr Freshwater raised a question on the river at Whitecroft and was advised by N Choat that this was moving on in design, and Welsh Water did not need the gas main relocated so the repairs can be done in 2026/27 financial year. Cllr Freshwater then raised a question on how long it should take for non-working traffic lights to be repaired. N Choat advised that once reported they should be repaired within 2 hours. Cllr Bennett advised that part of the bank had now fallen in further at this site. Cllr Richmond thanked N Choat and A Middlecote for their updates.	
5	Items for Discussion and Decision	
5.1	Request for Parish Council support for continuous pavement between Sling and Coleford. This had been resolved in the Public Forum	
5.2	Yellow Line Requests This item had already been discussed in the Public Forum, and N Choat reiterated that he would put in a request for this, but if unable to have it added he would look at putting white lines.	N Choat to report back to H&F meeting in June.
5.3	Replacement VAS Batteries Discussion was held on obtaining 4 replacement batteries for original 2022 which no longer retain their charge. Cllr Freshwater proposed the purchase of 4 batteries at a cost of not more than £205.00, seconded by Cllr Yeates and it was agreed by the committee to put this recommendation to Full Council.	Recommendation to Full Council.
5.4	VAS Post Request A request to place a VAS Post on Lydney Road Yorkley was discussed. It was agreed that N Choat would look at the available data and would bring an update to the next H&F meeting in June.	N Choat to report back to H&F meeting in June.
5.5	VAS Unit Price Quotes Discuss was held on the possibility of purchasing further VAS Units, as mentioned in the meeting of 17th February item 7.2. Cllr Dunford proposed purchasing 2 further units at a cost of £4679.98 excluding VAT, subject to available budget, seconded by Cllr Yeates and agreed by the committee to put this recommendation to Full Council. Cllr Batchelor asked a question on the new 20mph limits which is to be placed in villages and how this would be signed, N Choat advised it would be painted on the roads.	Recommendation to Full Council.

5.6	Game Keepers Public House Clarification on the plan for resolution of the flooding issues as discussed, A Middlecote advised that the survey of all the drains had been done and no issues found. He was now working with their consultants. WSP, to review everything and see why it was not working, he was pushing for a site visit. Cllr Freshwater advised that there may be 2 issues. • Water Overwhelming the system • Infiltration at the sumps. Cllr Yeates spoke of the stream which used to go to the Statutory Boundary but had been changed when the pipes were put under the road. Cllr Freshwater asked A Middlecote about the temporary plug which had been offered, this was discussed.	A Middlecote to update at next H&F meeting in June.
5.7	Forest of Dean Gateway Discussion on support from GCC for Forest of Dean Gateway Planning Application was discussed and N Choat agreed to meet with Cllr Dunford after the H&F meeting to go over points raised and would chase the appropriate person on their behalf for the response they were still awaiting.	N Choat to chase response from GCH
5.8	Potholes Lydney road, Yorkley, Whitecroft Level Crossing and 300 yards towards Lydney, Oldcroft Cut & Fry. Discussion on the potholes was held with N Choat advising that these would be done along with resurfacing work, the works would extend from the telephone exchange to the Pin Factory, including over the level crossing.	
6	Items for Information	
6.1	Realignment of Bream Heritage Walk Sign was noted	Deputy Clerk to contact Community Safety Team.
6.2	Game Keepers Public House information was noted	
6.3	Forest Road (B4234) – Full Closure for geotechnical repairs from 9 Feb 2026 was noted	
6.4	Wyedean Rally Consultation response was noted. Cllr Freshwater noted that the plan of the diversions did not include any named areas, N Choat advised that an official plan could not fit every sign which would be place on it.	
6.5	Placement of VAS – Whitecroft Road – information was noted	
6.6	Edge End VAS unit display information noted The Deputy Clerk asked A Middlecote if he knew to whom the unit belonged and it was agreed that the Community Safety Team at GCC would be the ones to answer this question.	

6.7	VAS Policy & Procedure information was noted. Cllr Richmond advised the committee that he and the Deputy Clerk had been working on this document ready to be presented to Governance & Scrutiny Committee in June and reports would be following. The development of the movement schedule was ongoing. Further discussion on the publication of results was held and this will form part of policy.	
7.	Chairs Items	
	Cllr Bennett mentioned a footpath from Sling which was overgrown, N Choat asked if Cllr Bennett could provide photographs and it was agreed that photos would be sent to the Deputy Clerk and forwarded to the appropriate organisation. Cllr Dunford asked a question on the new speed cameras on the A48 and where the average speed was recorded between. It was suggested that a letter be written to Gloucestershire County Council to clarify this point.	Cllr Bennett to send photos to PH for forwarding to appropriate organisation. PH to write to GCC
8.	Items for the Next Meeting	
	Yellow Line Requests – N Choat update. Game Keepers Public House – A Middlecote update.	
9.	Date of Next Meeting	
	Cllr Richmond advised that, as agreed, the next meeting would be moved to an evening slot to allow those who work to attend. He thanks both N Choat and A Middlecote for their offer to meet outside of the meeting should there be any items which needed their attention. The next meeting will be held on Monday 15th June 2026 at 7pm in the West Dean Centre.	