



WESTBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday, 10th June 2015 in
Westbury Pavilion at 8.00 p.m.

Present

Cllr Derek Crane (DC) Chair, Cllr James Stone (JS), Cllr Sue Barrett (SB), Cllr Alison Boughton (AB), Cllr Tom Thompson (TT), Cllr Jeremy Banks (JB), Cathy Knott (Clerk) and 5 residents.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Vicky Webb, Graeme Cook, David Grainge, Richard Tredwell and Jacky Owen.

Welcome

Derek Crane welcomed everyone and introduced his fellow Councillors and the Clerk.

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th June 2014 were agreed and signed.

District Councillor Patrick Fealey thanked the Parish Council for inviting him. He has been involved in a variety of roles including Chair of Planning Development Management Committee, member of WREN Advisory Board and Chair of Turweston Conservation Group. He was re-elected as Councillor for the Tingewick Ward in May and continues to support many local projects. Patrick offered to support Westbury with their new Village Hall project and will communicate with SB. He reported that there was a lot going on in the county, including a new university in Aylesbury and major works at Swan Pool in Buckingham. He works closely with Robin Stuchbury.

County Councillor Robin Stuchbury thanked the Parish Council for inviting him. He has had a very busy year with a lot of time spent working with children's services, social and elderly care and education, including Passport to Work. Robin reported that Buckinghamshire is failing the bottom 15% of children in schools and is campaigning to solve the issues around this, as their chances of future employment will be nil and they will be totally reliant on the state. He said the Royal Latin School have had a large extension built but have run out of money and are seeking further funds to be able to finish it off. He said the Head of Buckingham School is doing a good job and Robin would like to help bridge the divide between the two schools.

James Browning of Lodge Park thanked the Parish Council for inviting him. James handed round a leaflet detailing a collection of 14 houses and 2 office units at the new Mill View development. He said they were currently working on the West section, on 4 foundations. There is contamination (from the old paint factory) on the right hand side of the development (plots 11 to 14) that they are working on with the Environmental Agency.

They will be on site until April 2016. The road will be adopted by Highways along with the existing bridleway next to Plot 9 (which is a protected route) and the 3 parking spaces next to it.

A resident asked James why there were 2 office units being built instead of houses? James answered that because of Section 106, they had to abide by planning laws, but they are looking into carrying out a

case study which they would review with the local authority. If it was apparent that the office units would not have much use, perhaps they would grant them permission to build further houses. James gave contact details for the Construction Director, Steve Dayer tel. 07714 150019 (steve@lodgepark.uk.com) and himself tel: 07802 679852 (james@lodgepark.uk.com)

Reports from local clubs and organisations

St Augustine's Church Sue Fuller thanked the Parish Council for the opportunity to give a report. She said the Church is part of the West Buckingham Benefice (which consists of 6 churches). 2 services are held every month at the church along with others at festival times and when they host the whole benefice, along with Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals. The Christmas Service was extremely well attended and so was the Easter Service, with lots of children from the village enjoying an egg hunt. The Church is looking forward to sharing further events with the village. Sue said there are a small amount of people regularly attending Church services now. The Church receives no money for the upkeep of the building and they have to comply with regulations and H & S issues when it comes to fixing the roof, leaning grave stones etc, which really stretches their resources. They have made various repairs in the last year including having the ceiling plastered. There are still repairs outstanding to the roof. Sue said the Church is open every day, 7 days a week and everyone is welcome. They are very grateful to those who keep the Church yard looking so lovely. The Church advertises their services in the Link and on their website (there is a link to this on the village website, www.westburyvillage.org). JB advised Sue that Beachborough may be able to help ease the burden of scaffolding and assistance with some tasks and asked Sue to liaise with the Bursar. TT offered his services with H & S.

WSCA Tony Kayll thanked the Parish Council for inviting him to give a report. He said WSCA have had a great year and have organised many events for the villagers including the usual breakfasts, walks and discos. The monthly pub night has been a great success and has brought together a wider group from the community. He thanked Rupert Smith and Steve Viner for their help organising The Westbury Wallop which sold 125 tickets, making £2800 profit. He thanked Beachborough for their help with the Beers n Bangers Night (using Beachborough's homegrown sausages), and for hosting various events at the school including the Village Fete which will take place on Saturday 18th July and Theatre in the Village (which is now an annual event in the school's theatre). Tony said WSCA turned over £24,000 in the last year, with a profit of £9,000. They have met their target of raising £20,000 for the new village hall and they look forward to working with the Parish Council in the future with management of the new village hall.

Cricket Club Richard Tredwell, First Team Captain of Westbury Cricket Club was unable to make the meeting but supplied a report which was read by Derek Crane. The Senior Club had a good season with the First XL winning the Peter Strong Cup and finishing a very close 3rd in the OCA League. The Second Team finished 4th in their Division and lifted the Steve Dixon Cup with a very young side of whom 6 had come through our Junior section. This section has gone from strength to strength and most age groups are either winning or nearly winning their own competitions, both boys and girls, and with over 120 signed on again, it should be a good year once more. We started this season wondering how long the old pavilion had left, and appreciate that it is still standing but also recognise the need for change and look forward to the completion of the tremendous new project which can only benefit all.

Football Club – The Chairman of the Football Club, David Grainge, was unable to make the meeting but supplied a report which was read by Derek Crane. David thanked the Parish Council for the opportunity to give a report. The Club participated in the bottom division of the North Bucks and District Football League. The season was really one of two halves, the first half, the team was struggling and languishing in the bottom two of the League table, but at the turn of the year performances improved giving more confidence in the team and some far better results were achieved which coincided with moving out of the bottom two in the league table.

This Club finished in 9th position from the final 14 teams finishing in the league which was an improvement on the previous season when the Club had finished in 11th position from 15 teams in the league.

For the record, the Club played 26 League Matches of which 6 were won, 2 were drawn, and 18 being lost giving a total of 20 points. There have been 50 goals scored for and 70 goals scored against the Club. David went on to say that it is becoming more and more difficult to raise sufficient players to have a regular squad on a week by week basis, as there are several players who do not wish to be involved in regular participation Saturday after Saturday.

The Club have been informed that for next season, Registration and Entrance Fees will be increased. In concluding this short report, it is disappointing for me to have report that there is still a certain amount of uncertainty that surrounds the Club at the present time for varying reasons on whether we continue to play football as a Club in the forthcoming season of 2015/16. Finally I would like to record our sincere thanks to the Parish Council, in particular the Parish Clerk, Cathy Knott and the Chairman, Derek Crane for their continual support to the Club, it is greatly appreciated by all at the Football Club.

Westbury Wilds Jacky Owen was unable to make the meeting but supplied a report which was read by Derek Crane.

Westbury Wilds is a 20 acre wood held in Trust for the residents of Westbury. It is situated approximately a mile from Westbury along the Biddlesden Road on the left hand side. There are five trustees who are chaired by our Rector, The Rev. Liz Simpson. The original wording of the 1764 Enclosure Act is painted on a large board which is kept in the Church belfry. The woodland is in a semi wild environment, offering lovely walks. Every villager is entitled to collect fallen wood. The Wilds has no income but is kept in good heart mainly due to the Trustees who have lived in the village for many years.

Beachborough School Jeremy Banks thanked the Parish Council for inviting him to give a report. He said that the school continued to be about the same size with approximately 336 pupils. It is a good business with a small margin ploughed back into the school, fulfilling their charitable status. Jeremy said Beachborough is working well with the village, hosting various events including Theatre in the Village, Westbury Wallop and the Village Fete. It also hosted the Polling Station this year. Some new signage has gone up and a new third car park has been built that should alleviate some of the parking around the village. He continues to remind parents to be mindful of where they park and apologises for the inconvenience this can cause. Jeremy appeals to villagers to be respectful when walking their dogs through the grounds as there has been regular dog mess left on the games' field. Please therefore keep dogs on leads and clear up after them.

SugaRich (Brackley Dryer) Graeme Cook (Operations Manager) was unable to make the meeting so Tom Thompson gave a short report.

The Dryer has had another successful year with limited complaints for the fourth year running. There has been a changeover of Environmental Officer, putting them at low risk. The Liaison Group meets with the village once a year now.

Village Hall Committee Sue Barrett reported that our core grant provider, the Big Lottery has given us the green light to give our chosen contractors (Edgar Taylor) a letter of intent. We are aiming for the 6th July for demolition and hope to have the village hall built by March 2016. The Final Stage Committee have been having monthly meetings (information and minutes can be found on the village website). We have raised almost £850,000 but because of inflation in build costs, we need to find a further £40,000 to kit out the building. We have completed 50 grant applications so far, but have only been successful with 7. The aim of the committee now, is to find a fundraising strategy to help with this. Sue introduced Jez Perin, who has joined the committee along with Freya Barrett who will represent

Westbury Youth. Jez organised a Pizza and Movie night a couple of months ago, successfully bringing in 20 other young people between the ages of 8 and 16 years. He asked them what they would like out of

the new village hall, in order that we can start to think about what we should be offering the younger generation. Sue has contacted LAF (Local Area Funding), who have ring-fenced an amount to help support Westbury Youth. Some ideas Jez and Freya have come up with are a climbing wall, an outdoor cinema and a youth space bus.

Sue said the shop and cafe were a big part of the project, and had their own Sub Committee chaired by Susanne Ashley.

Any questions on the project should go to Cathy Knott, Clerk (westburyclerk@aol.com)

Chair's and Councillors' reports

Derek Crane

The chairman thanked his fellow Councillors and Clerk for all their support and hard work. He also thanked the local organisations, sub committees and residents. He said the last year has been extremely busy, with a lot of major events happening including HS2, Bucks/Oxon Footpath registrations and of course the Village Hall Project. He said it has been a bit fraught at times, with sweat, tears and sleepless nights, but overall it has been worth it! Derek said that thousands of hours of work have gone into making this project go forward and thanked everyone for pulling together in the last year.

James Stone

Planning

Having only just taken over planning. –It is currently very quiet, although it should be pointed out that Westbury has had more development in the last 25 years than any other village of the same size, which puts us in good stead for the future!

Planning regulations have undergone many changes in the last 2 years and the District Council is still without an area plan.

As we know construction is underway on both the Lormay site (Main Street) and the PAF site (Mill Lane) with 14 new properties and 2 office units being built. And obviously not forgetting our new village hall!

Footpaths

Progress around outstanding issues has been very slow this year due to changes within Bucks Rights of Way. We still do not have a Right's of Way Officer for the area and as such only urgent requests are being dealt with. This means that any outstanding or new issue will not be dealt with or there will be a substantial delay until action is taken.

Fly tipping has not been as big an issue as in the past, and instances of house hold waste being dumped on or slipping onto footpaths seem to still be the main issue.

Dog fouling is still an issue in parts although we have increased the number of bins in key areas of the village.

When issues have been reported we've liaised with landowners such as in vegetation across footpaths and directly with Rights of Way as and when necessary. Although RoW do seem to be less responsive! We will continue to monitor the footpaths and work with all relevant parties to ensure there continues to be unfettered access for all.

We have gone through the tender process for grass cutting in the village and have re-awarded this to S. Rodwell for the next three years.

Jeremy Banks

HS2

We have submitted a response to the environmental plan and also a petition against HS2 with considerable demands for mitigation. The General election has meant that the process has been delayed but we should have a hearing for the petition in the Autumn of this year if not before. It has already been agreed that Featherbed Lane will remain open during construction which is a positive but most of our other requests, additional sound barriers and planting has been rejected as not necessary. We shall continue to try and get the best possible results for mitigation.

Bucks/Oxon Footpaths on behalf of VW

The first part of our claim concerning the paths in Bucks has been to the Rights of Way Committee, and moved in our favour. An objection to the order for the footpath from Fulwell along the railway track to the bridge was lodged and so this will now go to a Secretary of State Hearing on October 13th 10am at the Village Club, Westbury.

Tom Thompson

Utilities

Dog fouling has vastly improved around the village and most importantly on the Playing Field. E.ON no longer maintain our street lights, this is now done by Balfour Beatty and the electric is now supplied by Opus due to the drastic cost rise by E.ON. TT is looking into LED lighting for the village.

Alison Boughton

Highways

Roundels and road markings are all now complete.

Speed awareness signs for wheelie bins have been purchased and AB has started to distribute them to help stop speeding in the village.

AB met with Jonathan Dickens at the end of May regarding the state the pavements & verges along Main Street were left in after the path was patched. Works should commence over the summer to put this right. AB continues to have regular village walkabouts with David Smith from Transport for Bucks. Concerns over Orchard Place have been noted and will be looked into in the very near future.

Playground

AB reported that the playground is very well used.

She has received a quote from Scott Rodwell for the removal of moss under the swings which has been approved by the PC. He has treated the area but unfortunately it rained shortly afterwards so he is going to treat it again.

Finances

The Chairman stated that the Financial Statement (year ending March 2015) had been sent into the external auditors and would be available to everyone on the village website in July.

- Opening balance was £50,836
- The Precept was set at £14,530
- Expenditure for the year was approximately £58,882
- Income for the year was approximately £74,442

Figures are distorted due to the bulk of receipts received for the new village hall.

Most of the expenses (£46,000) were professional fees.

£76,000 is ring-fenced for the village hall project

The operating budget for normal council activities was £15,000

We spent approximately £13,500 on operating costs (almost in line with the precept) which we have kept the same for this current year. No precept money has been spent on village hall costs, but been paid for by grant monies received.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m. and refreshments were served.

Signed _____

Dated _____