



## WESTBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Westbury Village Hall at 8.00 pm

**Present** Chair, James Stone (JS), Cllr Sue Barrett (SB), Cllr Mark Willis (Cllr), Cathy Knott (Clerk), District Councillor Patrick Fealey, 14 invitees and 5 residents. Cllr Vicky Webb (VW) joined us later in the meeting.

#### 1. Apologies and welcome

Apologies were received from Cllr Graeme Cook, Cllr Derek Crane, County Councillor Charlie Clare, Rev. Liz Simpson, David Grainge, Charlotte Wallace, Suzie Walton and Jacky Owen.

Chair, James Stone welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

#### 2. Notes of previous meeting

Notes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were agreed and signed.

#### 3. To hear reports from clubs and organisations

**Thames Valley Police report** given by Matt Wareham, Police Community Support Officer

Westbury is a very low crime area. In the last twelve months five crimes were reported, consisting of one burglary, one drugs offence, one motor theft, one tampering with a motor vehicle and one sexual assault. This compares to four crimes reported last year.

#### Report from District Councillor Patrick Fealey

During the last year we've seen the successful completion of the staff culture change programme. This together with our digital solutions, has attracted the interest of other local authorities across the country who are similarly suffering from cuts to the Government Grant and we're now selling our ideas to them – generating over £150,000 of income for AVDC in the last year alone.

2017 saw the second anniversary of the Vale Lottery and Tony Hadley, of Spandau Ballet, came along to help celebrate the occasion – along with many of the organisations who've benefitted from the scheme. We've now got about 160 organisations signed up and are selling the lottery to other local authorities.

To read the full report please visit our village website: [www.westburyvillage.co.uk](http://www.westburyvillage.co.uk) or request a copy from the parish clerk ([westburyclerk@aol.com](mailto:westburyclerk@aol.com))

**The following reports from local clubs and organisations can be found on the village website [www.westburyvillage.co.uk](http://www.westburyvillage.co.uk) under Annual Parish Meetings**

- St Augustine's Church report submitted by Rev. Liz Simpson
- Westbury Cricket Club given by Pete Rymer
- Westbury Football Club report submitted by David Grainge
- Halse Junior Football Club report given by Angela Gee
- Westbury Wilds report submitted by Jacky Owen

- Beachborough School report submitted by Charlotte Wallace
- SugaRich/Brackley Dryer report given by Jade Beech
- Westbury Community Shop & Café report given by Sue Lucas (Chair)
- Westbury Parish Hall Charity report given by Ian Wakeford (Trustee)
- Westbury Village Hall Association report given by Vicky & Colin Webb
- Westbury Youth Club report submitted by Suzie Walton

#### 4. **Chairman's and Councillors' reports**

##### **Chairman's report – James Stone**

I'd like to welcome Derek and Mark to the council who join us after the resignation of Jeremy Banks and Robin Bone. We are currently in the process of co-opting another member and hope to welcome someone at May's annual meeting of the Council. If you would like to apply, please email the Clerk.

I'd like to thank my fellow councillors for their continued commitment, hard work and dedication to the parish and remind you all that they do this on a completely voluntary basis and have the best interest and wellbeing of the parish in mind.

I would like to give a very special thank you to Cathy Knott, our Parish Clerk for her continued dedication and support to the Chair, Councillors and parish. She really does keep us on the straight and narrow and always goes above and beyond the remit of her role.

During 2017/18 we have:

- An active and thriving village who regularly attend events
- Change and uncertainty with the start of work on HS2
- A Community Defibrillator at the village hall with Cathy & James as guardians. Next training will be provided on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April. Thanks go to Cathy for her research into this and who applied for the British Heart Foundation grant that paid for the Defibrillator. I would also like to say a big thank you to all the clubs, associations, businesses and individuals who also donated and contributed to the defibrillator, the cabinet and installation.
- Tendered the grass cutting and associated services contract which has been rewarded to S. Rodwell for up to a further 5 years.
- The Clerk has attended
  - Freedom of Information & Data Protection
  - Agenda & Minutes
  - Social Media Training –
  - With further Data Protection training on 24<sup>th</sup> April
- S106- we have submitted two applications for section 106 funds in the year
  - Play area refurbishment/refresh, £65,721 from the former PAF Ltd site at the bottom of Mill Lane – Planning applications are in for a new fence to the front of Playing Field Rd.
  - Outside Gym equipment - £7,700 from former PAF Ltd site
  - We have also submitted ideas for 17/02835/APP Land adjacent to Mill lane (£19,248)

Actions for next year

- Streetlights – update three lights in Orchard Place and Mill Lane – Isolation required
- Apply for HS2 Community Funds
- Engage with HS2 and its enablers to ensure we have as much information and support during the building up to and during the construction phase of the project.
- Resurface Playing Field Road
- Revamp Play area
- Replace the Fence line along Playing Field Road

## Councillor Reports

Cllr Sue Barrett reported that we have been successful in our applications to the Big Lottery and Viridor, in securing funds to widen and resurface Playing Field Road/Drive. Works will be taking place within the next couple of months and will be completed by June.

We have also been successful in securing funding from Tesco 'Bags of Help Scheme' to be able to purchase equipment for the Youth Club. Our project will be put forward to a customer vote in Bicester Tesco store during May and June. The project with the highest number of votes across our region will receive £4,000 (or the amount that was requested up to this value), the second placed project £2,000 (or the amount that was requested up to this value), and the third placed project £1,000. Please start collecting blue tokens in readiness!

Cllr Vicky Webb reported there is still one outstanding rights of way claim. The Secretary of State has ordered Oxfordshire County Council to resolve this matter by July this year. If there is an appeal it will go to a hearing.

## 5. Financial Statement

Our financial position is strong, we have money in reserve to pay the retention to Edgar Taylor, a VAT claim to submit for 2017/18 and we are building towards a year's precept in reserve (in line with BALC best practise). Through 2017/18 we have seen less exceptional costs than previous years which has allowed us to maintain our reserves during the year.

Overall the 2018/19 precept increased by circ 7% (£1,212 in value) to £18,350 although the overall Band D cost stayed close to the current level of £85.72 (£85.62 for 2018/19). This has been possible by reducing cost in certain areas of the budget as well as seeing an additional 14.38 rateable proprieties for the 18/19 year.

Key changes in the budget are:

- A raise in the Clerks costs to cover additional hours, wage costs and associated employment costs. It should be noted that the raise in hours will support the work required to comply with the new Data Protection Regulation coming into effect during the year and the work required to bring the village Facebook site up to date. It should be noted the Clerk had a pay freeze in 2016/17.
- Playground maintenance costs have been halved in preparation for the extensive work that will be undertaken during 2018/19 with S106 monies.
- Grass Cutting/Maintenance - Increased budget to include a sum for weed control around the village and with the possible use of mechanical sweepers if necessary.
- Dog Bins - small reduction in annual budget, now in line with current annual charge.
- Website - sum allowed for ongoing annual maintenance and fees.
- Following last years expected 40% increase in utility costs (lighting) Graeme undertook a detailed review of our tariff, supplier and mix of lamps (LED & wattages) around the village, we have been able to renegotiate our tariff and reduce the increase. PLUS received substantial rebates during the year. £876 v £1,600.

The accounts will be internally audited by John Marshal of NCalc on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and will be made available to the public between June/July 2018.

## 6 Opportunity to meet with representatives from Fusion and HS2

Chair James Stone thanked everyone for attending.

**The meeting closed at 9.00 pm**