



WESTBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th March 2017 at Westbury Village Hall at 8.00 pm

Questions/comments from the public

No public present

24/17 Members present

Cllr James Stone (JS), Cllr Graeme Cook (GC), Cllr Jeremy Banks (JB), Cllr Vicky Webb (VW), Cllr Sue Barrett (SB) & Cllr Franco Capella (FC) and Cathy Knott (Clerk)

Apologies received from: Cllr Robin Bone (RB),

25/17 To receive declarations of interest

Councillors to declare any non-registered pecuniary or personal interests relating to the Agenda FC for Land off Brackley Road.

26/17 Approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th February. It was resolved to sign the minutes as a true record.

27/17 Matters arising

CK has written to Rt. Hon. John Bercow in support of a Westbury resident with broadband issues.

28/17 Financial matters

(a) It was resolved that the following invoices be approved and were signed for payment:

C Knott (salary)	£448.50
TexPrep	£ 42.00
AVDC (dog waste bins)	£433.29
Sue Barrett (items for VH)	£ 47.67

(b) Record the receipts: £1.29 interest

29/17 Clerks appraisal

VW and JS advised that they had met with CK for her appraisal and reported that the Parish Council continued to be extremely pleased with CK's work and there were no areas of concern. CK has recently attended training sessions for Risk Management and Financial Management and will also be attending sessions on the Data Protection Act, Freedom of Information Act and Agenda and Minutes. Training costs are being shared with Evenley Parish Council.

CK advised that she is still putting in over 9 hours a week as a result of work she does on the village website. JS and VW agreed that they should employ someone to sort out the website and simplify it ensuring it linked to Facebook pages, Twitter etc, and was compatible with phones and tablets. This would in the long run save a great deal of time. In addition, they agreed that more people should be trained to manage their own pages to take pressure off CK, we would then review the hours again.

It was noted that the salary remains the same this year and that CK has opted out of the pension scheme.

All Councillors agreed to put some budget aside for the website. VW and CK will work out a brief for the next meeting for either updating the current website or for starting a new one.

Action: CK/VW

30/17 Welcome Pack

SB advised that we have been working on a Welcome Pack for new people moving to Westbury. They will be made available for residents of the new homes and anyone moving to Westbury. Hard/electronic copies are available from the clerk (westburyclerk@aol.com).

31/17 Playing field road-the way forward

SB reported that a quote has been received from Richard Haynes for the resurfacing and partial widening of Playing Field Road. Costs come in at approximately £36,000.00 + VAT. SB has applied to Community Chest for a grant to be able to carry out this work which has unfortunately been rejected. One of the reasons for the rejection was because the parish council have no evidence of a covenant or arrangement in place for the residents of the road to contribute towards its maintenance. In 2009, the parish council received a sum of money from one Playing Field Road resident for access rights for his property and the four newer houses on Playing Field Road. This money was put towards the development of the new village hall.

Councillors agreed to investigate further but were conscious that residents would probably not be expecting to have to pay a contribution for maintenance. It was also felt that it wouldn't be fair as the road is used by many other people. CK will contact Lorimer's Solicitors again and ask for clarification that there is nothing in writing indicating otherwise.

Action: CK

SB advised that we should apply to WREN for funding after the 1st April (as we have to wait one year after the previously funded project has ended) and wait for the New Homes Bonus grant to become available again. She added that S106 monies could not be used for the road. It was agreed that we should revisit this issue in two months' time.

32/17 Section 106 monies and grant update

JS reported that the parish council have been notified that S106 monies have been made available for the 14 new houses in Westbury. The funds must only be put towards local sport/leisure projects and must be spent within ten years.

A wish list is being put together and SB has contacted AVDC to discuss some options.

JS has met with Wickstead to discuss the playground equipment. He is awaiting quotes for replacement of the soft-landing mats, and different pieces of new equipment including an all-weather table tennis table. He advised the swings are coming up to 50 years old and will need replacing before too long. The fencing around the park desperately needs to be replaced and could form part of this funding.

Other items on the wish list are a marquee, a climbing wall, new village website and a fitness trail around the village. Westbury Wilds was also discussed, to clear the field to the right of the woods and provide a family centred space for picnics and camping. Also, the footpath from Mill Lane up to the village hall.

33/17 Insurance Renewal

JS advised that the insurance is due for renewal in April. We have received a quote from Zurich (our current provider) for a one-year, three-year and five-year plan. It was agreed to get another quote from Came & Company to compare prices, but all Councillors agreed not to go above the figure of £1824.33 (Zurich's three-year term proposal).

Action: JS

34/17 Planning updates

FC advised that there were no new planning applications.

CK has written to Helen Prangley, Mark Brown's developer (16/01708/AOP) regarding the footpath through his proposed development that was verbally agreed to.

Application no.	Address	Details	AVDC Update
16/04567/APP	Land Adj Mill Lane Westbury Buckinghamshire	Erection of one detached dwelling and garage	Parish Council objected on grounds of historic interest. The application has been withdrawn whilst a heritage assessment takes place.
16/04155/APP	Former Paf Ltd Mill Lane Westbury Buckinghamshire	Erection of two flats and two maisonettes in place of the previously approved commercial (B1) units.	Parish Council had no objection. Awaiting decision

16/03420/APP	Treebank 41 Fulwell Road Westbury Buckinghamshire NN13 5PR	Change of use from Agricultural to residential use of a small parcel of land	Approved with conditions. The caravan has now been removed.
16/01708/AOP	Land off Brackley Road, Mill Lane, Westbury	Demolition of agricultural buildings and erection of four dwellings	Outline approval given.

20/17 Reports

Playground

JS has met with a representative from Wicksteed to discuss the repair/replacement of the rubber safety surfacing around the play equipment and to discuss ideas to transform the park to increase capacity. He is awaiting an artist impression and quotes for possible works. JS continues to empty the bin in the park.

Utilities

GC has signed a one-year deal with OPUS for electricity. We have been paying higher fees because our contract ended and we have been charged three times as much. It was agreed to stay with OPUS in order to chase backdates and retrieve some money back. There are three lights out in the village currently which have all been reported to Balfour Beatty.

Four lights in Westbury still have the old-style fuse box which will need the full power to be switched off before any works can be carried out on them. It was agreed that we should prioritise these to be replaced ASAP. GC is awaiting a price for a safety check on all lamps and he advised that Balfour Beatty may be able to supply six month old units which will make a good saving. He advised of a bent street lamp in School Close. This will be looked at during the safety check.

Highways

See item 21/17.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

WVHA

VW reported that the association is in a good healthy financial state. The Events Committee continues to struggle and is desperately in need of volunteers. VW is continually frustrated by Anglian Water and is in the process of trying to get money back that was charged to the association for a leak that wasn't anything to do with the hall.

She has also had trouble with PPL/PPS over the licence for music etc, but this is in the process of being resolved now.

Shop

GC has been unable to meet with the Shop Committee this month. CK will ask them to report at our Annual Parish Meeting next month.

21/17 Receive Correspondence

An email has been received regarding a truck parking on the pavement in Fulwell Road leaving no space to walk on the path. It was agreed to put a notice in the Link asking people to be courteous when parking around the village. Emails has been received regarding speeding along the A421 highlighting concerns for the safety of children crossing the road from one side of the village to the other. Another email was received concerning speeding along Main Street.

Although Highways have previously said they would not consider lowering the limit to 30 mph on the A421, it was agreed to revisit the issue with Highways and ask about having a pedestrian crossing. GC will also look into the possibility of using a mobile speed sign to be used on A421 and Main Street.

Action: CK/GC

Work has begun on the land next to Reindeer House, and parking for the builders is an issue. SB and Paul Winks have asked the contractors if they could park in the village hall carpark rather than Main Street. It was agreed to formally write to the contractors urging them to park at the village hall.

Action: SB/CK

A number of emails have been received raising concerns over the recent demolition of the barns on Red Oak Farm, as there are fears that there may be asbestos present. CK has logged a report with Environmental Health and FC will contact planning to make sure they are adhering to correct procedure.

Action: FC

22/17 Items for the April Link

Date & details of Annual Parish Meeting.

Sad passing of Tony Brock. Our thoughts are with his family.

Considerate parking and speeding in the village.

Welcome Pack.

HS2 update.

23/17 Items of urgent business

WSCA have offered to donate funds towards Christmas lighting in the village. They would also like to contribute towards the sound panels in the hall. RB has been in contact with them to discuss.

It was agreed to put HS2 back on the agenda under reports.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00 pm on Wednesday 12th April at Westbury Village Hall.

DRAFT