



WESTBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 10th April 2019 at Westbury Village Hall at 8.00 pm

Present: Chairman James Stone (JS), Cllr Vicky Webb, Cllr Cath Young, Cathy Knott (Clerk), District Councillor Patrick Fealey, County Councillor Charlie Clare, 12 invitees and 3 residents.

1. Chairman's welcome

Chair, James Stone welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He read a section of the notes taken at the annual parish meeting held in 1968 which Arthur Cleaver chaired 51 years ago talking about very similar topics.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Graeme Cook, Cllr Mark Willis, Cllr Jodie Martin, Cheryl Snudden (HS2), PC Graham Labrum, Rev. Liz Simpson, Suzie Walton and Jacky Owen.

3. Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

Notes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th April 2018 were agreed and signed.

4. To hear the following reports

Report from District Councillor Patrick Fealey

Patrick gave an update on the change to a new unitary authority advising that there will be no local elections this year. He also talked about the opening of the Exchange in Aylesbury town centre, planning issues and HS2. To read the full report please visit: <https://westburyvillage.co.uk/annual-parish-meetings/>

Report from County Councillor Charlie Clare

Charlie reported that the resurfacing scheme on the A421 between Tingewick Roundabout and Gawcott Roundabout will take place during the summer. Works to the Tingewick roundabout have been delayed due to Anglian Water issues until 18th April. It will then take four weeks work to complete the roundabout.

Drainage has been repaired between Westbury and Finemere and Stowe Drive from Water Stratford and the A422 has been patched at Shalstone.

Charlie advised that HS2's Notice to Proceed has been delayed until November. Bucks County Council is debating the motion to call for a halt to all enabling works until Notice to Proceed is given. To read the full report please visit:

<https://westburyvillage.co.uk/annual-parish-meetings/>

Q/ Can you explain the quality control regarding potholes as they seem to break down within a matter of weeks.

A/ Charlie advised that good repairs cannot take place during the winter months as the temperature is too cold. Therefore, holes are temporarily filled then plane and patching works take place during the summer months. On rural roads we use a velocity jet fixing process which is a tenth of the cost of normal filling and is guaranteed for three years. This is proving cost effective as 100 holes can be filled during one day as opposed to 20 a day using traditional methods.

Q/ Over the last few years we have lost several hundred metres of hedgerow and this spring we have had two large areas disappear without planning permission; what can we do to protect our hedgerow?

A/ Patrick advised that most hedgerow removal forms part of planning applications and usually there is a clause to plant new hedgerows. If any have been taken out without permission, the enforcement team will deal with it.

Q/ We are having issues with the drainage on the roads in Westbury, particularly on Main Street and Mill Lane. Because of the volume and speed of traffic, water is having an impact on listed properties located next to the roads which is affecting the fabric of the buildings. The tarmac is cracking and the block paving on Mill Lane is also starting to concave because of this.

A/ Charlie advised that we should take photos/videos of the issues and send them to him so that he can action.

The following reports from local clubs and organisations can be found on the village website

www.westburyvillage.co.uk under Annual Parish Meetings:

- St Augustine's Church
- Westbury Cricket Club
- Halse Junior Football Club
- Westbury Wilds
- Beachborough School
- Westbury Community Shop & Café
- Westbury Parish Hall Charity
- Westbury Village Hall Association
- Westbury Youth Club
- Eiffage Kier

Chris James, the Community Engagement Manager for Eiffage Kier (EK), reported that over the last year, EK has been planning and preparing ground investigations to better understand the area; this will continue over the summer. Works to compounds and access roads will commence towards the end of the year. He and Cheryl (HS2's Community Engagement Manager) continue to engage with local communities and one of the key issues to come out of discussions is the effect of traffic during construction. Chris advised that the A421 rather than the A422 will be taking the brunt of traffic which is good news for Westbury. Designs of the viaduct are underway along with an updated noise model. A noise barrier will be erected. During the latter part of the summer, Chris will share landscaping visuals, traffic figures and noise models with the parish council. Next year, EK will submit plans following the formal planning process. The 2026 completion date is still in place despite some setbacks.

5. Chairman and Councillors' reports

Chairman's report – James Stone

'We have welcomed Cath Young and Jodie Martin to the council in the last year and have said a sad farewell to Sue Barrett and Derek Crane. Sue has been a hugely active member of the parish council and we will be presenting her with a special memento of her eight years as a parish councillor. Jodie has also just left the council so we will now start the process of co-opting two new members and hope to welcome people at the annual meeting of the parish council on 22nd May. If you would like to apply, please email the Clerk at westburyclerk@aol.com

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 over the past 12 months.

During 2018/19 we applied to the HS2 Community Fund for new road signs, funding for a neighbourhood plan, pop-up stable gazebos, a permanent covered pergola, tarmacking to the back and side of the village hall and to install a basketball hoop and markings. We also submitted ideas for section 106 monies from the former PAF Ltd site (Meadow View development), the land adjacent to Mill lane (the development behind the village hall) and the proposed Biddlesden Road development.

We have had a busy year tackling dog poo, resurfacing Playing Field Road, revamping the playpark (including the installation of a new high fence), undertaking a survey and safety check of our streetlights and installing a new tree on the village green known as Treebank.

Some of our actions for the coming year include upgrading the streetlights in Main Street and Orchard Place, re-applying to HS2's Community Environment Fund (as we were unsuccessful the first time around), engaging with HS2

and its enablers to ensure we have as much information and support during the build and up to and during the construction phase of the project, traffic management throughout the village, the Neighbourhood Plan and carrying out a tree survey to identify all parish council owned trees in the village and to carry out safety checks.

Our financial position is strong; we have money in reserve which is helping us build towards a year's precept in reserve (in line with BALC best practise). As in previous years we have seen less exceptional costs which has allowed us to operate within our budget and maintain our reserves during the year. This marks the third year of no increase, in real terms, in the parish precept for Westbury.

The accounts will be internally audited by John Marshal of NCalc on 14th May and will be made available to the public between June/July 2019.' To read the full report please visit: <https://westburyvillage.co.uk/annual-parish-meetings/>

6. Councillor Reports

CLLr Cath Young reported on the work she has been doing regarding the neighbourhood plan in Westbury. CLLr Vicky Webb reported on the Oxfordshire footpaths claim, CLLr Mark Willis submitted a report regarding planning and CLLr Graeme Cook submitted a report regarding streetlights and highways. To see these reports, please visit: <https://westburyvillage.co.uk/annual-parish-meetings/>

7. Open forum for questions

None received.

Chair James Stone thanked everyone for attending and for giving their reports.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm