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Minutes of the meeting of Westbury Parish Council held at Westbury Village Hall on Wednesday 11th March 2020 at 8:00pm

Present: Cllr James Stone (JS), Cllr Graeme Cook (GC), Cllr Vicky Webb (VW), Cllr Katy Wintour (KW), Cathy Knott (Clerk) and seven members of the public.

Questions/comments from the public

A resident asked for an update on traffic calming in Westbury, specifically the A422. The chairman advised that we have had a number of conversations with Bucks Highways and are awaiting their response. Cllr GC will ask them to look into 3-2-1 calming measures on entering the village. Another funding stream has just become available which we are looking at.

Action: GC

30/20 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies accepted from Cllr Cath Young (CY) and Cllr Lindsay Webster (LW).

31/20 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2020.

The minutes were approved and signed.

32/20 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

24/20b - the blocked drain on Main Street has been reported again.

27/20 - Treebanks – JS will be discussing the best approach with Scott Rodwell.

Balfour Beatty has confirmed the new streetlights are on order and anticipated delivery is w/c May 11th with works to be completed by the end of May.

All other matters are either on the agenda or are being dealt with.

33/20 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda

Cllr GC for SugaRich regarding item 36/20.

34/20 Financial matters

(a) Financial statement

(b) Payments received

(c) Invoices to be paid

(d) To approve the insurance schedule and consideration of the offer to tie in for three years

BANK BALANCES	£
Current	3,472.98
Business	23,229.22
TOTAL	26,702.22

Invoices paid since the last meeting		VAT £
LF Blinds (reimbursed by WPHC)	132.88	66.44
Income received since the last meeting		
WPHC reimbursement for LF Blinds	132.88	
Interest	0.89	
Invoices submitted for approval (as at 04.01.20)		
C. Knott (Feb salary)	520.00	0
C. Knott (Feb expenses)	87.60	0
Texprep (NP breakfast flyers)	40.00	0
TCM Brody (delivery of NP breakfast flyers)	20.00	0
Maddie Coxhill (website amendments and updates)	86.25	0

To approve the insurance schedule and consideration of the offer to tie in for three years

Chairman JS advised that we've come to the end of our three-year deal with Zurich. Quotes have been received including one from Community Action Suffolk (CAS) a broker of Royal Sun Alliance. He circulated information prior to the meeting. The level and type of insurance offered by insurers is almost identical, however CAS include £20k for Business Interruption as standard which Zurich don't and the CAS quote covers assets up to £200k. In addition, CAS's 3-year Long Term Agreement (LTA) would reduce our 1st year premium to £1,418.19 providing a £474 saving against 20/21 budget. Councillors unanimously agreed to approve the CAS quote and a 3-year agreement.

35/20 Planning updates & applications

Application	Address	Details	AVDC Update
19/02652/APP 19/02653/APP & 19/02654/APP	Mill Farm Mill Lane Westbury	Erection of straw, hay and fodder barn. Extension to cattle barn x 2	Parish Council: No objection AVDC: awaiting decision
20/00055/APP	Manor Farm House, Main Street, Westbury	Demolish existing two garages and erect building to accommodate 2 garage bays, workshop and ancillary accommodation to include boot room, home office and home gym	Parish Council: No objection AVDC: awaiting decision
20/00496/APP	Land Off Biddlesden Road Westbury	Erection of 7 dwellings and associated works	Parish Council: Oppose AVDC: awaiting decision

36/20 Open forum to discuss application 20/00496/APP

Chairman JS reported that we invited the land agent to the meeting to answer questions about the proposed development, but he hadn't responded. However, Helen Brain, AVDC planning officer has answered a lot of our questions around highways, HS2, ecology and sustainability.

Cllr GC advised that Bucks Highways still appear to believe there is no issue with access (regarding the blind bend etc) and the unsafe traffic island. JS said a number of conditions still need to be met and a lot of additional information still needs to be submitted regarding outstanding concerns.

JS noted that the correlation between the last proposal and this one regarding the number of vehicles the dwellings would generate works out at only a 15% reduction. He added that these dwellings are not what the village needs. Having carried out a housing stock survey for our neighbourhood plan, we have found that more affordable housing is needed (so that our younger generation are able to stay in the area) rather than larger properties out of most people's financial reach.

Suspension of standing orders

A resident expressed concerns over the proposed pathway that would run behind the development as highlighted in the Crime Prevention Design Advisor's report on the planning portal.

It was noted also that there is no access point to the neighbouring field and concerns over what this land might be used for and whether this would also be built on in the future.

A resident expressed concerns over an invasion of privacy. He understands there is no right to a view but surely there is a right not to live in darkness. Cllr VW advised that the height of the proposed dwellings needs to be looked into as information isn't available on the plans.

Back in meeting

Councillors unanimously agreed to oppose the application for the following reasons:

- Lack of detail
- Ecology - no changes from the last refusal
- Heritage
- Outside of village confines
- Unsustainable dwellings,
- Unsafe crossing
- Highways and drainage issues

The clerk will submit comments on the planning portal.

Action: CK

37/20 To agree on the Brackley Road VAS scheme and amount of match funding

The clerk explained that after submitting an application to LAF last year for another vehicle activated sign (VAS) on Buckingham/Brackley Road (A422) we have received notice that because of the new unitary authority coming into effect on 1st April, LAF will no longer be; it is being replaced by Community Boards who have their first meeting in the summer and this will have to go through their process. We have been asked to consider if we'd still like to go ahead with the application and what we can afford to contribute.

The chairman advised that the government has just announced that Buckinghamshire has been allocated £3.95

million to provide mitigation for the HS2 project (HS2 road safety fund) and bids for potential schemes can now be submitted. It was therefore agreed to apply to this instead and put the application on hold with Community Boards. We will also apply for other traffic calming measures on the A422. **Action: CK**

38/20 To discuss arrangements for the annual parish meeting on 15th April

It was agreed to take a different approach this year. The clerk will ask for written reports that she will put together in a booklet to circulate on the night and has invited Caryl Billingham, chairman of Brackley Community Hospital 2020 Trust charity to give a presentation on the new hospital and all the NHS facilities within it that will benefit Westbury residents. We will also invite representatives from Beachborough School to inform parents about activities they are organising and hosting for our younger generation. It was agreed that BarVH should be open before and after the meeting and to ask the community shop and café to supply refreshments. **Action: CK**

39/20 To provide an update on the public rights of way in the Mixbury Parish (if available)

Cllr VW has spoken to Alex Humphreys, officer of countryside & highway records at Oxfordshire County Council who has advised that no progress has been made regarding the objections to the order of Mixbury footpaths, no's 30,31 and 32 modification order. By now, the matter should have been referred to the Secretary of State (to consider the next stage – either to address the matter by an exchange of statements or by calling a public inquiry). Cllr VW will draft a letter of complaint. **Action: VW**

40/20 To accept councillors reports on the following areas (if there is anything to report):

- a. **Play Park (KW)** the broken wobble board has been removed. New bolts have been fitted on the rope ladder. Thank you to SugaRich for carrying out this work. It is hoped to have enough marine plywood left over from the main notice board to repair the park notice board before it's reinstated.
- b. **Highways (GC)** the blocked drain on Main Street has been reported again. Cllr GC will send the list of outstanding issues to TfB. **Action: GC**
- c. **Utilities (GC)** we have signed up with OPUS for a two-year contract for streetlight electricity.
- d. **WVHA & WCS (VW)** JS advised that he attended WVHA's meeting on Monday. Recent events have been well attended and they have a good variety of regular hirers (classes and activities). The next big event is VE Day on 8th May. New wi-fi equipment has been installed in the hall, shop and outside and in June the speed will increase when we change provider. VW reported that the shop and café has recently sent out a quarterly newsletter. Their next special events are a pizza evening on 20th March, a Mother's Day tea on 22nd March, and the café society's talk on 6th May. All information can be found on the shop and café page of the village website at <https://westburyvillage.co.uk/>.
- e. **Neighbourhood plan (CY)** The next steering group meeting will be held on 16th March to prepare a presentation for the (free) village breakfast being held on Sunday 29th March to consult with villagers (subject to advise on Covid-19 virus).
- f. **Footpaths (VW)** because it is so wet and muddy, dogs are in danger of getting an upset stomach from licking their feet. Owners are advised to wash their paws thoroughly.
- g. **Hs2 (LW)** JS, LW and CK attended a meeting on 18th February along with representatives from other parish councils to receive information from Fusion, Eiffage Kier and HS2. We now have a dedicated HS2 page on our village website, showing the latest updates and we have shared their presentation: <https://westburyvillage.co.uk/full-steam-ahead-on-hs2/>
There will be a community drop in event at the village hall on Wednesday 18th March between 4 and 8 pm where you will be able to talk to various representatives about your concerns and learn about what will be happening in this area.
- h. **Action plan (CK)** no new updates.

41/20 Correspondence received

- AVDC notification giving a VALP update – modifications are being submitted before representations are sent to the Inspector in mid-April. It is expected that he will consider representations in June. This will cause a slight delay to the finalisation of VALP (Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan).
- BCC letter regarding the HS2 road safety fund (see item 37/20).
- OPUS letter responding to cllr GC's complaint about the inconsistency of bills (on our old contract) as we were on a fixed usage, advising they will resolve the issue as soon as they're able to.

42/20 Items for April Link

- Annual parish meeting information
- VE Day information
- Dog fouling notice
- In sadness note - Jean Ireland
- Fix my street and keeping in touch

43/20 Councillor questions

None received.

44/20 Public Participation session (Members of the public are invited to address the council. The session will last for a maximum of 10 minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 3 minutes. Members of the public should address their representations through the chairman of the meeting)

Further discussions were held regarding item 36/20.

45/20 Close

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 15th April at 8.00 pm at Westbury Village Hall.

Approved by James Stone, Chairman at the annual parish meeting on Wednesday 15th April 2020