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Minutes of the virtual meeting of Westbury Parish Council held at 8.00 pm on Wednesday 25th November 2020 via Zoom

Present: Cllr James Stone (JS), Cllr Katy Wintour (KW), Cllr Vicky Webb (VW) and Cathy Knott, clerk (CK)

135/20 Questions or comments from the public

Chairman JS welcomed County Councillor Patrick Fealey; Buckinghamshire Council to the meeting who provided us with an update. He and Charlie Clare have been attending the HS2 and East-west Rail working group which has been set up to provide a forum for communities affected. He invited one of us to attend the next virtual meeting on 10th December.

Community Boards has launched a community minibus for North Bucks called BART (Buckingham Area Rural Transport). He asked the clerk to make the information available to groups as Covid-19 has scuppered their formal pre-Christmas launch plans. More information can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/mybart.org.uk>
Buckinghamshire Council is busy forming the budget for 2021.22 and has further supporting grants available for small businesses. More information can be found at: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/search/?query=additional+restrictive+grant>

136/20 To receive apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies accepted from Cllr Cath Young (CY), Cllr Graeme Cook (GC) and Cllr Lindsay Webster (LW).
County Councillor Charlie Clare has passed on his apologies and would like to let everyone know that he misses seeing us all and looks forward to attending a meeting soon.
The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

137/20 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on 14th October 2020. The minutes were approved and virtually signed.

138/20 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only 97/20 OPUS complaint – JS & GC have been unable to meet but will aim to get together before the new year.

Action: JS/GC

139/20 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda None received.

140/20 Finance:

a. Financial statement

Current account: £2,361.57

Business account: £20,714.85

b. To note payments received since the last meeting £

Interest (Oct & Nov) 0.32

Invoices paid since the last meeting

C. Knott (clerk salary) 541.51
C. Knott (expenses incl. website/Norton) 131.90 (VAT 14.58)

c. Invoices approved for payment

HMRC (tax) 4.80
Black Dog Design (for HS2 project +WPC Logo artwork) 887.00 (VAT 107.00)
Churchyard donation 150.00
OPUS (streetlight electricity) direct debit 96.00 (VAT 4.80)
Open Space Concepts (for HS2 project - gazebo) 21,939.50 (VAT 4,387.90)

- **not to be paid until funds released from HS2**

d. To present and discuss the draft budget and precept for 2021

The chairman circulated the draft budget prior to the meeting and explained the increases and decreases. With effective budgeting we have been able to keep the precept from rising (for the fourth year running) but until Buckinghamshire Council release the tax base figure on 1st December, we are unable to predict the actual figure.

141/20 To receive planning updates and recommendations

Application 20/00496/APP: Land Off Biddlesden Road Westbury. Erection of 7 dwellings and associated works.

Parish council decision: objection. AVDC decision: awaiting decision

- update: the planning officer and the agent have been in discussion over the last few weeks and since then, amendments have been submitted. Once the planning officer has worked through the amendments, the parish will be re- consulted once more.

Application 20/03051/APP;

Manor Farm House Main Street, Westbury. Proposed single storey rear part end extension with associated internal and external works.

Parish council decision: no objection. AVDC decision: awaiting decision

- update: amendments have been submitted and an extension of time for the determination of the application takes the date to 11th December 2020 so that the matters can be resolved. Buckinghamshire Council will review the position at the end of that period.

Application 20/03632/APP;

Mill Farm, Mill Lane, Westbury. Proposed erection of two dwellings.

Parish council decision: no objection AVDC decision: awaiting decision

Application 20/04002/APP;

SugaRich, Biddlesden Road, Westbury.

Variation of Condition 2 on application 17/03745/APP - It is necessary to reposition the lagoon to allow space to incorporate a reed bed to clean the water before it is discharged into the adjacent water course.

Parish council decision: it was agreed to look at the plans further to clarify whether a shed is included in the application or whether this was previously approved.

After meeting note: *it has been confirmed the only change is the proposed position of the new lagoon to move up hill towards the road to make way for a small reed bed; therefore, parish council decision: no objection.*

142/20 To report back on the clerk's annual appraisal

The chairman, vice chairman and the clerk (virtually) met on 17th November. JS thanked Cathy for all the work she does for the council and village.

143/20 To report back on the Community Boards Meeting on 10th November

Cllr KW attended the virtual meeting and gave more information about the Bart community mini bus service that Patrick had spoken about. Other items (relevant to Westbury) discussed included a public health update and details of sub groups for rural villages. Cllr KT felt that the meeting was focussed mainly on Buckingham town and could be more inclusive to villages. It was agreed one of us should try to attend every other meeting. CK will circulate the minutes once they have been received.

Action: CK

144/20 To make arrangements for a Christmas trail/hunt

The clerk advised that eleven locations have been submitted so far. She will create a map and put together some ideas of how we can carry out the trail/hunt before circulating.

Action: CK

145/20 To accept councillors reports on the following areas (if there is anything to report):

- Play Park** – KW advised the park is still being well used and has recently replaced the hand sanitiser.
- Highways** – GC is meeting with Paul Foot (TfB) tomorrow, regarding the unsuccessful repair (causing a noise nuisance) on Biddlesden Road. He will also chase other outstanding issues.
- Utilities** – GC has reported streetlight no. 3 on the A422 to Western Power as Balfour Beatty has identified the problem as the DNO feed cable being pulled from the fitting (probably caused by a tree branch). He will also chase Western Power for our latest certificate.
- WVHA & WCS** – JS reported that the shop & café continues to respond to the needs of the community and has extended their range of local goods. They have invested in new chairs and tables and purchased transparent removable screens to help protect customers from the elements and balls!
Various regular hirers have been in contact with WVHA to make arrangements for returning to classes and activities in December.
- Neighbourhood plan** – on hold until April 2021.
- Footpaths** – VW has kindly donated a gate to replace the footpath gate that is very old and in danger of falling off that leads from the back of the church graveyard to the path behind the Old Vicarage and fields. VW advised that the hearing for the Oxfordshire footpaths Mixbury DMMO case should take place in the new year but will probably be delayed. She will contact Oxfordshire County Council for an update.

Action: VW

- g. Hs2** – regarding HS2 vehicle movements, EKFB has advised that the lorry route application to the Highways Authority (known as a Schedule 17) is currently going through the required process. They will update us in due course.
- h. Action plan** – nothing to report.

146/20 Correspondence received

- Buckinghamshire Council updates – the clerk continues to circulate via village email.
- Hazelmere Parish Council's Climate Emergency Working Group is reaching out to parish councils to understand what others are doing to reduce the impact of climate change – the clerk and chairman have responded to advise we have upgraded our street lights to LED this year which also dim to 50% after 10pm, with our energy coming from renewable energy tariffs. We also rebuilt our village hall five years ago and tried to build in environmental best practice and sustainability.
- Beachborough traffic – the chairman and cllr LW are meeting with the Estates Coordinator on Friday to discuss issues.
- Emails received in response to the deviation of the footpath at Station House – the clerk and cllr VW have responded.

147/20 Councillor questions

None received.

148/20 Items for the Link

Details of the next meeting, Christmas update & best wishes, fix-my-street details and keeping in touch information.

149/20 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)*

No public present.

150/20 Close

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

The next meeting of the council will be held on Wednesday 11th January 2021 at 8.00 pm at Westbury Village Hall (venue TBC). If you would like to attend, please notify the clerk prior to the meeting for track and trace purposes.

Signed: James Stone

Dated: 13.01.2021