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## Minutes of the virtual meeting of Westbury Parish Council held at 8.00 pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 via Zoom

Present: Cllr James Stone (JS), Cllr Graeme Cook (GC), Cllr Katy Wintour (KW), Cllr Cath Young (CY), Cathy Knott, clerk (CK) and Patrick Fealey, county councillor for Buckinghamshire Council (for 01/21)

### 01/21 Questions or comments from the public

Chairman JS welcomed Patrick Fealey to the meeting who provided us with an update on the flooding affecting much of Buckinghamshire just before Christmas. He advised there had been a great response from the fire service, water board and the environmental team. There is a localised fund available for anyone affected.

The chairman advised cllr Fealey that because of the blocked gullies along Main Street the rain water had nowhere to run which had a direct impact on homes along the street causing flooding; this has been an ongoing issue we've been in discussions with TfB along with other highways issues. Cllr Fealey said Buckinghamshire Council would soon be increasing its technicians and he would talk to them about rectify these matters asap.

Buckinghamshire Council has started to work on the budget which will be published once it's been agreed.

The ministry of justice is planning to erect a new category C prison at Grendon Underwood (next to the existing two jails) which will house a further 1440 inmates. If it goes ahead, work could start in 2023, creating about 600 permanent jobs.

### 02/21 To receive apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies accepted from Cllr Lindsay Webster (LW) and Cllr Vicky Webb (VW).

The chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year and thanked them for attending.

### 03/21 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The minutes were approved and virtually signed.

### 04/21 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 asap. **Action: JS/GC**

The Christmas trail/hunt was successful with 150 prizes claimed. The remaining prizes (purchased by Westbury Charity) were donated to Brackley foodbank. Thank you to all those who helped make this happen.

### 05/21 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda

Cllr GC for planning matters.

### 6/21 Finance:

#### a. Financial statement (different from agenda)

Current account: £9,070.95

Business account: £12,715.14

#### b. To note payments received since the last meeting £

Interest (December & January) 0.29

HS2 (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> claim) 21,552.00

VAT refund 6,198.17

#### invoices paid since the last meeting in November

C. Knott (clerk salary) 541.51

HMRC (tax) 4.80

Barbara Osborne (PAYE service) 66.00

C. Knott (expenses) 166.46

S. Rodwell (mowing expenses) 146.77

Buckinghamshire Council (dog waste service) 442.89 (VAT £88.58)

Open Space Concepts (for HS2 project gazebo 1<sup>st</sup> payment) 21,939.50 (VAT 4,387.90)

OPUS (streetlight electricity) 102.49 (VAT 5.12)

### **c. invoices approved**

C. Knott (clerk salary and HMRC tax)	546.31
Buckinghamshire Council (playpark bin service)	63.27 (VAT 12.65)
Horizon Treecare	410.00 (VAT 82.00)
OPUS (streetlight electricity direct debit)	115.75 (VAT 5.79)

### **d. To approve the budget and precept for 2021.22**

Chairman JS circulated the information prior to the meeting explaining that the Band D equivalent base (provided by Buckinghamshire Council) has reduced by 8.82 meaning our base tax point has moved.

It was agreed that because of the current crisis we should keep the precept for Band D houses at £85.62 which would mean lowering our budget – this has been possible to do due to energy savings from upgraded streetlights and a reduction in insurance costs that weren't possible to factor in last year's numbers. We have also made some small reductions in other areas of the budget but we will still be able to deliver a good standard of service to the village. Councillors unanimously approved the budget and the precept was set at £17,726. CK will submit a request to Buckinghamshire Council and put the information on the village website: <https://westburyvillage.co.uk/finance/>

### **7/21 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**

**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: amended plans submitted 16.12.20 – 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: no objection. AVDC decision: awaiting decision**

### **Application 20/03632/APP – withdrawn**

**Application 20/04393/APP** Mill Farm, Mill Lane, Westbury. Proposed erection of two dwellings.

**Parish council decision: no objection with note requesting a footpath through the farm.**

**AVDC decision: awaiting decision**

### **8/21 To seek approval to subscribe to Scribe accounting package**

The clerk circulated information prior to the meeting. Councillors unanimously approved to subscribe to Scribe as soon as possible in order for the clerk to start training to use the software for the next financial year's accounts.

### **9/21 To approve Tree Solutions quote for pruning (action from tree survey)**

The quote of £250 + VAT was approved to carry out the work as per the recent tree survey; T1 -formative prune on Pissards plum and T14/T15 remove ivy at the base of two Sorbus.

### **10/21 To accept councillors reports on the following areas (if there is anything to report):**

- a. Play Park** – KW reported that the park is being well used. The bin is being regularly emptied.
- b. Highways** – GC met with TfB in December to look at the bump/divot on Biddlesden Road causing a noise nuisance (and other jobs outstanding around the village). As the tarmac has not fallen out yet it will again be on the low priority list but GC will keep pushing Highways on this.
- c. Utilities** – GC has chased Western Power regarding streetlight no. 3 on the Brackley Road and our latest certificate.
- d. WVHA & WCS** – The hall is currently closed due to lockdown. WCS continues to provide a great service to the village and surrounding areas.
- e. Neighbourhood plan** – on hold until April 2021.
- f. Footpaths** – VW to contact Oxfordshire County Council for an update on the Mixbury DMMO case.
- g. Hs2** – A virtual meeting is being organised with EKFB for early next month to receive the latest updates and discuss any issues.
- h. Action plan** – no changes.

**Action: VW**

### **11/21 Correspondence received**

- Buckinghamshire Council updates –circulated via village email.
- HS2 update Twyford to Greatworth – circulated via village email and is available on the village website at: <https://westburyvillage.co.uk/full-steam-ahead-on-hs2/>
- St. Augustine's updates - circulated via village email.
- Mill Lane traffic issues - JS met with the estates co-ordinator at Beachborough School in December to discuss traffic issues in the village. Proposals are currently with their Senior Management. The clerk will request an update before our next meeting. **Action: CK**
- Mill Lane parking issues – complaints have been received regarding cars parking on the grass verge opposite School Close. As this land is owned by Beachborough, it was agreed to bring it up with the estates team and ask the complainants to write to the school bursar.
- Letter from HS2 addressed to 'the verge' – the clerk has written to HS2 advising how ridiculous this is (for the second time) and has given the correct address for Buckinghamshire Council whom the verge belongs to.
- Community Boards invitation to meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February – cllr VW to attend.

### **12/21 Councillor questions**

It has been noted that a resident's car is continuously parked on Playing Field Road. The clerk will write to all four residents courteously reminding them not to park there.

The clerk attended a virtual training session yesterday for promoting the elections. She has updated the website and suggested showcasing what the council does by using videos. More information can be found at:

<https://westburyvillage.co.uk/westbury-parish-council/>

George Coles is concerned about HS2 activity on Red Oak Farm land. It was agreed to raise concerns at our meeting with EKFB next month. **Action: JS/CK**

### **13/21 Items for the February Link**

Details of the next meeting, election details, website information, lambing season, fix-my-street details and keeping in touch information.

**14/21 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.

### **15/21 Close**

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

**The next meeting of the council will be held via Zoom on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 8.00 pm. If you would like to attend, please notify the clerk prior to the meeting.**

**Signed: James Stone**

**Dated: 10.02.2021**