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## **Minutes of the annual meeting of Westbury Parish Council on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 8.00 pm at Westbury Village Hall**

Present: Chairman James Stone (JS), Cllr Graeme Cook (GC), Cllr Vicky Webb (VW), Cllr Cath Young (CY), Cllr Katy Wintour (KW), Cathy Knott, clerk (CK) and two members of the public (until item 73/21)

### **67/21 To elect a chairman for 2021/22 and receive the chairman's declaration of acceptance of office**

It was resolved that cllr James Stone be re-elected as chairman for the coming year. He duly signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

### **68/21 To receive apologies for absence**

All present.

### **69/21 To elect a vice chairman for 2021/22**

It was resolved that Cllr Graeme Cook be re-elected as vice chairman for the coming year.

### **70/21 To receive all councillors' acceptance of office forms**

All councillors signed their acceptance of office and electronic service of summons consent forms.

### **71/21 Welcome**

The chairman welcome everyone to the first face to face meeting of the year and thanked everyone for attending.

### **72/21 Questions or comments from the public**

A resident attended to find out more about how the village hall runs and whether the parish council has jurisdiction over the Charity. He felt that the hall should only be for the benefit of Westbury clubs and residents rather than be hired out to anyone regardless of where they live.

The chairman advised that the council owns the hall and lease it to Westbury Parish Hall Charity (WPCH) who are the landlords & legal entity (made up of five trustees). They then sub-lease it to Westbury Community Shop & Café (WCSC) and Westbury Village Hall Association (WVHA). The council does not get involved in the day to day running of the hall but does have overall responsibility to make sure objectives and outcomes (to grant providers) made when the hall was built, are being obligated and fulfilled. He explained the hall is a commercial asset here for the greater good of the village and surrounding area and has to meet its running costs; this would be an issue if the hall only relied on bookings from Westbury residents and clubs.

The chairman suggested he should attend the next WVHA meeting to bring this up with them and if unsatisfied by their response to take it up with the Charity.

### **73/21 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the virtual extraordinary meeting of the parish council held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

The minutes were approved and signed.

### **74/21 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**

59/21 the 'unknown Tommy' will be located on Main Street near to the notice board.

60/21 WPHC agreed to fund a larger replacement bin for the playpark.

63/21 The broken wobble board will be removed from the playpark asap.

### **75/21 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda**

None received.

### **76/21 To ratify the following decisions made at the April meeting:**

- 57/21 Invoices approved
- 58/21 Application 20/04002/APP – no objection agreed.



### **81/21 Resolve to adopt the General Power of Competence and confirm we are eligible**

The Clerk gave a brief outline of the General Power of Competence under the Localism Act 2011 and the advantages it brought to the Council and community. Cllrs noted that once adopted, the Power would be available for use throughout the life of the Council ie the next 4 years. Cllrs then approved the resolution 'that having met the eligibility criteria as defined in section 8(2) of the Localism Act 2011 and prescribed by Article 2 of and set out in the Schedule to the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, Westbury Parish Council confirms that it is entitled to use the General Power of Competence made available by section 1(1) of the Localism Act 2011'.

### **82/21 Co-option; to discuss applications from interested parties and resolve to co-opt**

The vacancies have been promoted via village email, Facebook and the notice board. One resident has shown an interest in joining the council and it was agreed to contact the sports clubs in Westbury to try and garner interest there.

### **83/21 To discuss/reassign councillor responsibilities**

It was agreed to put this on hold until the next meeting to see if we can fill the vacancies first.

Cllr CY advised she'd be happy to run Speed Watch and cllr VW advised she could help with planning whilst we wait to fill the vacancies.

### **84/21 To receive information from councillor VW regarding meadow verges**

The national Blue Campaign is hoping local councils will allow their verges to grow wild, as scientific evidence shows that even small strips left to grass and wild flowers can have a positive impact on both invertebrates and bird varieties. Cllr VW advised she would identify areas in Westbury and liaise with Beachborough over the verges on Mill Lane. She will communicate findings to villagers in the coming months but if anyone would like to be involved, please contact her at: [vicky.hopewalker@btinternet.com](mailto:vicky.hopewalker@btinternet.com).

For further information on the national scheme visit [www.bluecampaignhub.com](http://www.bluecampaignhub.com)

**Action: VW**

### **85/21 To accept councillors reports on the following areas (if there is anything to report):**

- a. Play Park (KW) – the sanitizer has been topped up. It was agreed that once this has run out, we should remove it and reassess whether it's needed again in the future. It was agreed to remove all three wobble boards as one is broken and it won't be long before the other two become faulty; GC will ask SugaRich if they are able to action this. The new litter bin will require a concrete base; cllr GC will liaise with Richard Haynes over this.  
**Action: GC**
- b. Highways (GC) – the recent A422 works appear to be unfinished. Cllr GC will bring this up with Bucks Highways along with the outstanding jobs in the village. Verbal complaints have been received about Beachborough traffic; it was agreed to try and set up a meeting between Bucks Highways, Beachborough and the parish council again to try and manage this and the chairman will liaise with the estates coordinator at Beachborough to see whether the school would be prepared to carry out an independent road traffic assessment.  
**Action: JS**
- c. Utilities (GC) – Western Power has updated its information held for our replacement lights and they have issued new certificates. Cllr GC has informed OPUS who have credited our account from last May with £640.30.
- d. WVHA & WCSC updates (JS) – some of the regular hirers will be returning next week but as yet WVHA isn't promoting hire.  
WCSC have begun the process of moving out of the main hall. Jo Lee is leaving at the end of the month and Mel will be taking over the management role.
- e. Neighbourhood plan (on hold until the VALP is published)
- f. Footpaths (VW) – the secretary of state should have considered the Mixbury DMMO case the first week in February but this has again been delayed, however it is likely a hearing will be held in the village this year or next. In preparation cllr VW is looking at preparing statements from witnesses over the summer months. A complaint has been submitted to Buckinghamshire Council regarding the temporary deviation of the footpath at Station House which resulted in an officer visiting the site. Cllr VW has met the owner and has sent the parish councils views into Buckinghamshire Council as most walkers are happy with the current arrangement. Cllr VW will respond to Buckinghamshire Council regarding the proposal from EKFB with regard to deleting the footpath bridge for WBB/17 in Westbury, to be replaced with a diversion under the HS2 bridge over the Rive Ouse advising we are in agreement with this.  
**Action: VW**
- g. HS2 (JS) – a virtual meeting was held on 28<sup>th</sup> April with Fusion and EKFB – information can be found on the village website at: <https://westburyvillage.co.uk/full-steam-ahead-on-hs2/>
- h. Action plan – the clerk has updated the plan and will circulate to councillors.

**86/21 Correspondence received**

- Buckinghamshire Council updates – circulated via the village email.
- Buckinghamshire Council election results - Robin Stuchbury (labour), Caroline Cornell (conservative) and Patrick Fealey (conservative) have been elected to the Buckingham West Ward.

**87/21 Councillor questions**

None received.

**88/21 Items for the June Link**

- Details of the next meeting
- Thank you to Westbury Shop & Café
- Information about wild verges
- Unknown Tommy information
- Speed Watch update
- HS2
- Fix my street
- Join the village mailing list and Facebook group

**89/21 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.

**90/21 Close**

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 8.00 pm at Westbury Village Hall.**

**Signed: James Stone**

**Dated: 16/06/2021**