
Notes of the Annual Parish meeting held at Westbury Village Hall on Wednesday 13th April 2022

Present: Chairman James Stone (JS), Cllr Cath Young (CY), Cllr Katy Wintour (KW), Cllr Vicky Webb (VW), Cathy Knott (clerk) and 20 members of the public including members from Westbury Parish Hall Charity, Westbury Shop & Café, Beachborough School and Buckinghamshire Council

Apologies

Vice-chairman Graeme Cook (GC), cllr Richard Tredwell and cllr Pierre Jeanne (PJ)

Confirm the minutes of the virtual meeting held on Wednesday 21st April 2021

The minutes were agreed and signed.

Chairman's welcome

Chairman James Stone welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending, explaining that this year we decided to hold an informal meeting, which we hoped would encourage more people to attend. James thanked the clerk, Cathy Knott and his fellow councillors for the work they carry out on behalf of the village. This year we have a full team having recently welcomed Richard and Pierre onto the council.

Taking a quick look back over the last few years, we have completed several projects including:

- Updating all the streetlights
- Refurbishing the playpark
- Resurfacing Playing Field Road and this year, adding more drainage
- Renovating Treebank (the island on Main Street)
- Installing a covered seating area at the village hall – the pergola
- Planting bulbs and trees around the village (including 3 new trees this year) which we continue to monitor
- Rebranding the notice boards with the addition of the historical walk board
- Achieving the general power of competence
- Lobbying Buckinghamshire Highways (via the HS2 road safety fund) for a safe crossing over the A422 – the outcome of this looks promising, and we should hear more later this month
- Setting up a community speed watch group

This year's projects include:

- Tarmacking the back and side areas of the village hall and creating a MUGA
- Liaising with Brackley Town Council & West Northants Council to create a path/cycle route from Westbury to Brackley
- Organising the Queen's Platinum Jubilee events in June
- Hosting the public inquiry in August for Mixbury Footpath Nos. 30, 31 and 32 Modification Order 2019

To receive a presentation from EKFB/HS2 followed by Q & A session

Dave Butcher, engagement manager and David Griffiths-Allen, head of engagement for Eiffage Kier Ferroviaire BAM JV (between Twyford and Greatworth), talked us through slides shown on the big screen (appendix one) showing progress made to date at the North and South compounds on the A422 along with a look ahead to what we can expect during the next few months.

A question and answer session followed.

Question:

When will the whole project be complete and how much will it all cost?

Answer:

EKFB will be carrying out further work for the next five years before handing over to the rail team who it is estimated will work for a further five years; we are currently looking at having trains running between 2029-2033. EKFB is still on budget from when the contract was handed over.

Question:

Have you found anything of archaeological interest in Westbury and are we able to view items?

Answer:

A lot of information is available on our website at: <https://www.hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/archaeology/> and it is hoped to develop an interactive map showing what's been found.

Question:

Will there be benefits to the community when the landscape is put back?

Answer:

We are looking at whether haul roads can be redeveloped to benefit communities helping to create green corridors, cycling routes and art projects.

Question:

A lot of trees that were planted by Fusion have died. Is there a maintenance programme in place?

Answer:

There is a maintenance programme in place, and this is on our radar and will be rectified but it is season dependent. If there is a particular area where they have died, please report it to Dave so he can flag the area:

David.Butcher@ekfb.com

Further information can be found at: <https://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/local-community-webpages/> and local information to Westbury can be found on the village website at: <https://westburyvillage.co.uk/full-steam-ahead-on-hs2/>.

Public discussion and questioning; members of the public may comment on any parish issues and direct their comments to the parish council or any of the visiting representatives in an open forum

Following with the informal setting, members of the public and councillors mingled to discuss various topics. If you have an issue you would like to be raised at a future meeting, please contact the clerk at westburyclerk@aol.com

Close of the meeting

The meeting closed at 9pm.