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Minutes of the meeting of Westbury Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th June 7.30 pm at Westbury Village Hall

Present: Chairman James Stone (JS), cllr Graeme Cook (GC), cllr Cath Young (CY), cll Katy Wintour (KW), cllr Pierre Jeannes (PJ), cllr Vicky Webb (VW) from 7.50pm, Cathy Knott, clerk (CK) and 22 members of the public

It was agreed to change the running order of the agenda to allow Max Mossman time to arrive for the open forum (79/22). Standing orders were adjourned at 7.50pm and resumed at 8.55pm.

80/22 Questions or comments from the public

Caroline Cornell provided an update from Buckinghamshire Council;

- it is still hoped the drains in Main Street will be attended to in the summer holidays, however they could be put on the list of a different scheme going forward. The chairman advised on the importance of this work as it is causing flooding issues to homes. Caroline will reiterate with Transport for Bucks (TfB).
- The tree on the crossroads of Biddlesden Road will have its crown lifted later this month. The chairman advised the verges needed cutting more regularly (especially in the current weather) as they cause an obstruction to an already busy and dangerous junction.
- If residents are registered with Swan GP Practice in Buckingham and are experiencing issues, please let Caroline know: Caroline.Cornell@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

The Chairman advised that Evenley Parish Council has been made aware of planning proposals for an anaerobic digestion facility to be built near to the ruins of the medieval village of Astwick. There will be a public exhibition at Evenley Village Hall next Thursday 16th June between 3.30pm and 7.30pm to show proposed plans.

HS2 has issued hard copies of AVDC package 16 Westbury to Turweston Ch. 92.6 – 95.5 showing designs and detailed drawings of Westbury embankment and viaduct, Grovehill embankment and Turweston cutting, embankment & viaduct. If you would like to borrow a copy, please contact the clerk: westburyclerk@aol.com

A member of the public asked whether HS2 had provided any feedback regarding a compulsory purchase notice as discussed at the annual parish meeting in April.

A member of the public asked whether we had received feedback regarding the sign blocking the entrance to the footpath gate over Red Oak Farm. The clerk will chase both.

Action: CK

81/22 To receive apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies were received and accepted from cllr Richard Tredwell (RT). Patrick Fealey of Buckinghamshire Council also sent his apologies. The chairman thanked everyone for coming.

82/22 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the annual meeting of the parish council held on 11th May 2022

The minutes were approved and signed.

83/22 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

70.22 – it was agreed to have a walk-about to approve locations for the large 20 and 30 mph signs to be placed for best impact. Kit at TfB has approved community speed watch signage at the entrances to the village; we are still seeking funding for these.

69.22 & 76.22 – the clerk has been promised a call from the planning manager at Buckinghamshire Council to discuss applications 17/01042/APP (Beachborough overflow carpark), 21/04043/APP (pathway issues behind the village hall) and 20/00496/APP (Biddlesden Road).

84/22 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda

None received.

85/22 To review and sign councillor register of members interests

Councillors reviewed/amended their interests for the year. The clerk will update the website.

86/22 Finance (different to agenda)

a. Financial statement

Current account: £5,845.80

Business account: £21,840.75

b. To note payments received since the last meeting £

WPHC grant for play around the parishes this summer 950.00

c. To note invoices paid since the last meeting (approved by email out of council)

The Workshop Aberfeldy (3x tree plaques for the Platinum Jubilee) 121.50 (VAT 24.30)

d. to approve invoices submitted:

C. Knott (June salary & tax) 588.05

C. Knott (expenses incl. annual website hosting fee & Jubilee expenses) 242.99 (VAT 47.91)

Barbara Osborne (PAYE service April to June) 67.50

Karen Roberts (Jubilee expenses) 66.25

Chris Donoghue (Jubilee expenses) 215.99

S. Rodwell (mowing) 192.33

Amazon (Tenor Tech Ltd - printer) 65.42 (VAT 13.08)

OPUS (streetlight electric direct debit) 47.78 (VAT 2.39)

e. To receive an update from the internal controls' councillor

CLlr KW has checked the following information: bank balances; as stated in the minutes, cash book entries to agree with the items noted in the minutes and the forecast planned spend remains within our precept budget limits.

Caroline Cornell left the meeting at 7.50pm.

Standing Orders were adjourned.

79/22 Open forum to receive information from Max Mossman (land manager) regarding a planning proposal for land adjacent to Westbury Playing Fields, followed by a question/answer session

Max thanked the parish council for inviting him and Mark (land owner) to the meeting and advised that after speaking to members of the cricket club, he felt there was a need for more facilities in Westbury and wanted to propose whether a mutually beneficial arrangement could be sought, wherein he would build a small-scale development (no more than 20 mixed size houses) and in return he would provide facilities (a bigger parking area for the village hall/shop and tennis courts were mentioned). He advised that at present there aren't any plans, and they would need to carry out feasibility studies and surveys; the area is approx. 4 acres. They are currently just trying to gain an insight as to whether the parish council and villagers would be on board with their ideas.

Q. It is Greenfield land; why should we allow you to build here? All developments approved in the past have been on industrial sites.

A. Buckinghamshire Council recently announced a Call for Sites will be undertaken which extends to Greenfield sites, as it is clear the supply from Brownfield sites across the County will not be sufficient enough to meet the housing and employment development needs over the next plan period.

Q. Westbury has embraced the growth and over the last 15-20 years we have seen many new developments. Past developments included discussions around extending the road (newly called Red Oak Lane) to Mill Lane. Is this something that could be looked at again?

A. No; this would be far too costly and require a much larger development for it to be feasible.

Q. If the development was approved, would more houses be added in the coming years?

A. No, it would be a landscaped led development.

Q. The current infrastructure in this part of the village is not secure. How would this be addressed?

A. We would carry out full drainage surveys along with highways surveys etc.

Q. Do you have a timeline?

A. No, not as yet.

Q. Would access be from Red Oak Lane?

A. We hope it could be shared with this access yes, but we will be directed by Highways surveys.

Q. Parking for cars on the development could exacerbate an issue we already experience in the village. How would this be addressed?

A. Buckinghamshire Council has strict guidance for new developments which we would follow.

Other comments:

We are experiencing footpath issues regarding the previous development; we would need clarity that all paths (public and otherwise) are made official and clearly signed/maintained.

The chairman thanked Max and Mark for coming to the meeting, advising we would let them have some feedback and we'll go from there.

Further public discussion carried on after Max and Mark left the meeting. Cllr GC advised our neighbourhood plan is on hold which could really help us with this and future proposals; he explained we got as far as publishing a visioning note in 2019 which can be found on our website at: <https://westburyvillage.co.uk/westbury-parish-council/> but due to the amount of time and commitment it involves, we have been unable to take it any further. He asked villagers to come forward if they can help.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 8.55pm and all members of the public (except two) left the meeting.

87/22 To consider new planning applications (if there are any) and to receive an update on applications outstanding

Outstanding applications with no change to information

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

Application 21/02386/APP: Beachborough School, Mill Lane, Westbury. New temporary/portable classroom, 40ft storage container and 1.8m high willow fencing.

Application 17/02835/APP: Mill Farm, Mill Lane, Westbury. Variation of condition 2 attached to planning permission 17/02835/APP (erection of four dwellings) to allow drawing 1703-03E to be approved.

Application 22/00587/APP: The Wilds, Brackley Road Westbury. Householder application for outbuilding with storage in the roof space (retrospective).

Application 22/00378/ALB: Manor Cottage, Mill Lane, Westbury. Listed building application for Re-roofing the main dwelling.

Application 22/01101/APP - The Wilds Brackley Road Westbury. Erection of cabin to provide ancillary annexe accommodation (retrospective).

88/22 To approve areas for verge wilding plans

It was agreed to put this on hold until Autumn. The clerk will add it to the September agenda.

89/22 To decide whether to replace the wooden barriers on Mill Lane (to the front of School Close)

Councillors approved to replace the barriers and will form a working party to carry out the work. JS will seek a quote for the wood, and we will agree on costs out of council.

Action: JS

90/22 To provide feedback on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations

All activities and events were hugely successful and enjoyed by many. A big thank you to everyone involved and to our sponsors – SugaRich, DALROD, Oltco and Westbury Parish Hall Charity.

91/22 To discuss parking issues on Playing Field Road

Emails have been received from a resident living on the road asking about the fairness of not being able to park on the road when sometimes this is being abused by visitors to the hall. It was agreed to write back advising that allowing residents to park on the road makes it very difficult for traffic to flow. Although we're unable to police the road at all times, the village hall association (WVHA) regularly reminds hirers that they are not allowed to park on the road. During big events at the hall, it is inevitable the road will be used for short term parking.

92/22 To accept councillors reports on the following areas (if there is anything to report):

- a. Play Park** – Zebedee is still undergoing treatment, but we hope to reinstate him soon.
- b. Highways** – Cllr GC will push Highways to carry out work to drains on Main Street during the summer holidays.
- c. Utilities** – Nothing to report.
- d. WVHA updates** – new classes include a baby and toddler group and two football clubs. Youth cricket will be starting again on Friday evenings.
- e. Neighbourhood plan** – following tonight's meeting we hope to get enough people to be able to commence with the plan. If you would like to be involved, please email the clerk at: westburyclerk@aol.com

- f. **Footpaths** – Cllr VW reported that she and Sue Rumfit would be at the village hall on 17th June to prepare witness statements for the hearing on 23rd and 24th August.
Regarding the stiles on the footpath adjacent to Hollywell House (leading up to the Dust Houses), the owners have agreed to replace one of the stiles with a gate and the parish council will remove the stile in the middle as it isn't needed.
- g. **HS2** – hard copies of the AVDC package 16 Westbury to Turweston are available to borrow from the clerk: westburyclerk@aol.com
- h. **Action plan** – No changes.

93/22 To receive items for the July Link

The Link will now be published quarterly so the next one will be Autumn (September/October).

94/22 To note correspondence received that requires discussion

None.

95/22 Councillors Open Forum

Cllr CY advised most of the community speed watch volunteers have dropped out; the clerk will promote again. It was agreed to apply for a grant for community speed watch signage at the entrances to the villages through WPHC.

Action: CK/CY

Cllr PJ asked about Beachborough's sports facilities which were mentioned by Mark earlier in the meeting. The chairman advised the cricket club regularly use their facilities and there is a village badminton club once a week. It was agreed to revisit this to see if we could have regular use of the tennis courts.

Action: PJ

Beachborough overflow carpark/traffic issues continue. It was agreed to raise an enforcement enquiry. The clerk has written to the school asking whether they notify Buckinghamshire Council of events and the need for a traffic management plan. The estates co-ordinator has responded to say she will contact the events team at the Council to further understand their obligations and will report back. The clerk will chase.

Action: CK

96/22 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*)

A member of the public asked who owns the Leylandii trees at the back of the village hall. The chairman advised we are currently reviewing options with adjoining households.

97/22 Close

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th July 2022 at 7.30 pm at Westbury Village Hall.

Signed: James Stone

Dated: 13/07/2022