

Parish Office
10 Orchard Place
Westbury
Brackley
Northants
NN13 5JT

Telephone: 01280 423295
Email: westburyclerk@aol.com
Website: www.westburyvillage.co.uk



Minutes of the meeting of Westbury Parish Council held on Wednesday 11th January 2023, 7.30pm at Westbury Village Hall

Present: Chairman James Stone (JS), cllr Graeme Cook (GC), cllr Vicky Webb (VW), cllr Katy Wintour (KW), cllr Pierre Jeannes (PJ), cllr James Watson (JW), Cathy Knott, clerk (CK) and one member of the public

01/23 Questions or comments from the public

No questions.

02/23 To receive apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies received and accepted for cllr Richard Tredwell (RT). Apologies were also received from cllr Caroline Cornell and Patrick Fealey, Buckinghamshire Council. The chairman thanked everyone for attending.

03/23 To welcome James Watson and receive his signed declaration of acceptance of office

The chairman welcomed James to the council. Cllr JW signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

04/23 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the annual meeting of the parish council held on 16th November 2022.

The minutes were approved and signed.

05/23 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

141/22 – a response has been received from Laura Pearson after writing to the planning department to express our frustrations regarding issues arising from applications 21/04043/APP, 20/00496/APP and 17/01042/APP.

It was agreed to write back to say we don't agree with her response and ask her to attend the site of the path referred to in application 21/04043/APP, in order that she fully understands the issues. The clerk will copy in our MP and councillors Fealey and Cornell (BC). We will seek legal advice if needed. **Action: CK**

143/22 - cllr VW handed the chairman a letter of resignation saying she feels privileged to have served for the last 23+ years on the parish council. After successfully completing the Mixbury footpath claim, it feels now is the right time to leave. The chairman, clerk and councillors all thanked cllr VW for all her hard work over the years. The clerk will start the process of co-option and it is hoped to be able to co-opt a new member at the February meeting.

145/22 – cllr VW advised the new straw barn at Red Oak Farm (approved in 2019) is in the correct position, but it was noted that the plans refer to a single pitched roof and the description/text refers to a double pitched roof.

151/22 – cllr GC will remove the stile halfway down the path adjacent to Hollywell House and the owners will remove the one further down – still to be actioned.

06/23 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda

None received.

07/23 Finance

a. Financial statement

Current account: £ 4,654.94

Business account: £31,251.47

b. To note payments received since the last meeting

Bank interest

7.15

To note any payments made since the last meeting

Norton (virus protection for clerk's laptop)

16.66 (VAT 3.33)

C. Knott (Dec salary & tax)

588.05

Barbara Osborne (PAYE fee Oct-Dec)

67.50

O'Neil Homer (NP)

100.00 (VAT 20.00)

O'Neil Homer (NP)

1,100.00 (VAT 220)

OPUS (streetlight electricity)

58.21 (VAT 2.91)

Amazon (Office Specialities Ltd) kit for defibrillator

12.49 (VAT 2.50)

c. to approve invoices submitted:

C. Knott (January salary & tax)	588.05
OPUS (streetlight electricity direct debit)	64.20 (VAT 3.21)

d. To approve the budget and precept for 2023/24

The chairman circulated figures prior to the meeting explaining the tax base for 23/24 has increased by 4.7% from 219.51 to 224.47. He proposed a budget (available to view at: <https://westburyvillage.co.uk/finance/>) which would see an increase of 5.5% against a band D equivalent (an increase of £4.70 for the year), the first increase for five years. Councillors unanimously approved the budget, and it was resolved to set the precept at £20,273.02.

08/23 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 21/04043/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 22/00378/ALB: Manor Cottage, Mill Lane, Westbury. Listed building application for re-roofing the main dwelling – 07.10.22 update status decided, decision appeal, non-determination. Status: Appeal lodged.

09/23 To receive a report from the neighbourhood plan steering group

Jonathan Newman, leader of the steering group reported that the whole group met on 5th December after holding individual working group meetings with O'Neil Homer.

The four working groups are Housing mix and tenure, design and environment, land availability and community facilities. All groups have pulled a lot of information together which will be shared with the village at the first community engagement event on 4th March at the village hall. They will also hold a question & answer session. We have been successful in securing technical support with AECOM and have met with two designers who are putting together a report. The walkabout with them identified areas of significant green spaces and environmental assets which will be identified in the neighbourhood plan with recommendations for formal recognition.

The chairman thanked Jonathan and the group for all their time and work.

10/23 To provide an update on the HS2 community fund project

The tarmacking should be completed next week (weather dependent).

11/23 To approve for publication, the grass cutting tender document for 2023-2026

The chairman advised we have been approached by a member of the Church PCC as to the possibility of including the churchyard cutting schedule within our tender; JS has asked for more information. After advertising the tender, the clerk has received seven expressions of interest. As soon as the document is complete, she will send it to all.

Action: JS/CK

12/23 To receive/approve quotes for the playpark gate

Cllr KW advised the safety gate cannot be repaired and has received two quotes for a new one. It was agreed to purchase one through Zaun Ltd for £945.00 + £300 carriage. Cllr GC has asked Richard Haynes for a quote for installation.

Action: KW

13/23 To accept councillors reports on the following areas (if there is anything to report):

- a. Play Park** – see item 12/23. We are awaiting a confirmed quote for the playpark fence.
- b. Highways** – Kit Gordon-Stuart is no longer our local area technician; we don't have a replacement. GC noted there are pot holes on Biddlesden Road which will need attending to once they get bigger.
- c. Utilities** – GC will chase Balfour Beatty for a quote to replace the three streetlights on the A422 and the four lights at the bottom of Mill Lane.
- d. WVHA/WCSC updates** – PJ advised WVHA have met to discuss the rising costs of utilities and a further meeting will be held on 02.02.23. During the cold snap a flood occurred in one of the changing rooms – the clerk will be making an insurance claim. More village events are being held and classes are well booked. WCSC have organised a welcome space on Tuesday & Friday afternoons with funding from Buckinghamshire Council and they have set up a community cinema starting on 12.01.23.
- e. Neighbourhood plan** – see item 09/23.
- f. Footpaths** – VW advised all personal data from the Mixbury claims has been safely disposed of. It was noted that the footpath sign on the gate at Red Oak Farm was moved to the fence but has since been put back. She will contact Dave Butcher, EKFB to discuss.

Action: VW/CK

- g. HS2** – the A422 new compound entrance is open at the roundabout locations, for both north and south. Areas inside have been tarmacked and wheel washing facilities have been installed at the location from leaving the site to entering the compound tarmac areas. Work has begun on the temporary bridge – backfilling of the abutments, weather dependant. There will be a full weekend closure at the end of March. The bridleway (no. 33) along the old railway is very muddy and difficult to access. VW will contact HS2 to ask whether anything can be put down.
- h. Action plan** – no new updates.

14/23 To note correspondence received that requires discussion

- Wood burning – resident request to press Buckinghamshire Council to make Westbury a smoke controlled designated area - noted.
- Notification from HS2 to carry out surveys on parish council land – noted.

15/22 Councillors Open Forum

May Gallaher, our longest standing member of the public supporting the parish council has sadly passed away. Our thoughts are with her partner Les, her family and friends.

16/23 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.

17/23 Close

The meeting closed at 9pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 7.30 pm at Westbury Village Hall.

Signed: James Stone

Dated: 8th February 2023