

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 12th July 2023, 7.30pm at Westbury Village Hall

Present: Chairman James Stone (JS), cllr Katy Wintour (KW), cllr Pierre Jeannes (PJ), cllr Graeme Cook (GC), cllr Richard Tredwell (RT), cllr Jonathan Newman (JN) and Cathy Knott, clerk (CK)

113/23 To receive apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies received and accepted for cllr James Watson. Robin Stuchbury, Patrick Fealey and Caroline Cornell, Buckinghamshire Council also sent their apologies. The chairman thanked everyone for attending.

114/23 Questions or comments from the public

No members of the public present. Robin Stuchbury (BC) provided information in his absence on flooding in Buckinghamshire. Caroline Cornell provided an update on timescales for work on Main Street drains; 16 weeks lead time, and Fulwell Road (up to the A422) 8 weeks lead time.

115/23 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on 14th June 2023.

The minutes were approved and signed.

116/23 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

Still to be actioned from the last meeting:

110/23 signage for Playing Field Road. **Action: GC/KW**

110/23 proposal to replace the fence along the western boundary of the playing field. **Action: JS**

117/23 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda

Cllr RT for item 125/23; owner of land/buildings.

118/23 Finance (*different to agenda*)

Financial statement

Current account: £7,150.06

Business account: £18,485.99

a. To note income received

Bank interest	13.85
National Grid (wayleave payment)	62.61
WPHC match funding grant towards solar panels/tree work	5,000.00

b. To note payments made since the last meeting

Energy My Way (solar panel deposit, to be reimbursed)	6,948.48
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c. To approve invoices submitted:

C. Knott (June salary & tax)	677.87
HMRC (tax)	20.40
OPUS (streetlight electricity)	44.01 (VAT 2.20)
S. Rodwell (June mowing)	427.96
Texprep (NP hard book)	31.70
PCC Westbury (towards St. Augustine's churchyard maintenance)	150.00
Raxan Ltd (Amazon) skipping rope	3.16 (VAT 0.63)

119/23 To consider new planning applications (if there are any) and to receive an update on applications outstanding

No applications outstanding.

120/23 To provide an update on the HS2 community fund project and agree on quotes for tree work

HS2 has confirmed they are happy with our chosen contractor Energy My Way to install solar panels. WPC has paid the deposit and cllr PJ has a meeting booked with Bruce Ludlow, Installation Manager at the end of the month to discuss the next stage.

Two of three quotes have been received for work to reduce the height and trim the sides of the leylandii trees behind the village hall. Councillors resolved to accept Tree Solutions (Christian Terndrup) quote but cllr PJ will ask whether there is any room for manoeuvre. Once a price is confirmed, the clerk will submit information to HS2 and request if further funding can be provided for the overspend.

121/23 To discuss an ongoing dispute between WVHA and Anglian Water (WAVE)

The chairman advised there has been an ongoing dispute with Anglian Water (WAVE) for the last 7 years (since 2016) for water usage at the village hall. The name on the account is Westbury Parish Council (despite asking for it to be changed), but the account is managed by WVHA. JS suggested if this can't be resolved, legal input will be needed.

It was noted the dispute appeared to have been resolved last year when WVHA received credit notes from WAVE, however Anglian Water (the wholesaler) is yet to confirm acceptance of the conclusion and since then another invoice has been issued for c.£3700 claiming payment for far more water than WVHA has used against one meter, and a sewerage charge against the other meter. Fortunately, the treasurer of WVHA has kept records of all correspondence showing Anglian Water's inaccuracies.

122/23 To accept councillors reports on the following areas (if there is anything to report):

- a. **Play Park** – KW has ordered a skipping rope to use as a handle for the glider. Cllr RT will remove the old gates. JS will chase Richard Haynes for a date for replacing the fence. **Action: JS/KW**
- b. **Highways** – see item 114/23 re Main Street and Fulwell Road. Regarding the long awaiting new crossing on the A422, we have been advised design work has now been completed and arrangements are being put in place to deliver the scheme. It is expected this will be during the final quarter of 2023.
- c. **Utilities** – nothing to report.
- d. **WVHA/WCSC updates** – Jeff Christian has taken on the role of paid caretaker/manager of the village hall. At the recent charity meeting, there was a renewed desire for the two organisations to work together. The next meeting will be held in September.
- e. **Neighbourhood plan** – we are now in formal consultation (regulation 14) and to date, we have received limited feedback. Due to a mix up with contact details for statutory bodies we have extended the time to receive responses by two weeks, taking it to 15th August 2023.
- f. **Footpaths** – nothing to report.
- g. **HS2** – Pile trimming work is ongoing in readiness for pile cap installation on the abutments for the viaduct and planned works include transition pile installation on Westbury embankment (south of the river). The A422 new road alignment and proposed full weekend closure is currently showing end of August, early September. The mobile visitors centre will be at the village hall again soon and Dave (EKFB) will join us for our meeting in September to provide a full update. HS2 information can be found on our village website at: <https://westburyvillage.co.uk/full-steam-ahead-on-hs2/>
- h. **Action plan** – no changes.
- i. **Speed Watch** – nothing to report.

123/23 To note correspondence received that requires discussion

- **Request from St. Augustine's PCC regarding maintenance of the churchyard.** A donation of £150 was agreed. The clerk will help to promote the need for volunteering to help with the churchyard.
- **Are any fun children's activities happening in Westbury this Summer?** It was agreed that this didn't fall under the parish council remit, but if the shop would like to organise an activity, the charity (WPHC) has monies set aside to fund it. It was resolved to add an item to the September agenda regarding Beachborough School's engagement with the community going forward.

124/23 Councillors Open Forum

The clerk advised that after writing to residents of School Close regarding the use of the turning circle on Mill Lane (see item 93/23), she had had further correspondence with a resident which she would share with councillors.

125/23 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 members of the public present, however cllr RT (as a member of the public) raised concerns over whether the neighbourhood plan would have a negative impact on his families planning permission to convert Snowball buildings

to two dwellings. He advised that because of the Covid-19 epidemic, work had been delayed and the three-year timescale has lapsed so his family would need to resubmit an application to extend the time allowed to build. After seeking advice from O'Neil Homer (our neighbourhood plan consultants), the clerk advised that *'as long as the site scheme hasn't changed and the owners are going to continue to rely on their permitted development rights to change their agricultural buildings into dwellings, they should simply need to apply for prior approval consent again. However, if the owner is going to change the scheme so that it no longer benefits from permitted development rights and brings a scheme forward for development that needs planning permission, then yes, the neighbourhood plan would not be supportive of it, but neither would the adopted local plan so you're not really changing the game for them.'*

126/23 Close

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

The next meeting will be held on 13th September 2023, 7.30 pm at Westbury Village Hall.

Signed: James Stone

Dated: 13/09/2023