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

Present: Chairman James Stone (JS), cllr Katy Wintour (KW), cllr Pierre Jeannes (PJ), cllr Richard Tredwell (RT), cllr Graeme Cook (GC), cllr Jonathan Newman (JN), cllr James Watson (JW) and Cathy Knott, clerk (CK). Caroline Cornell, and Robin Stuchbury Buckinghamshire Council joined the meeting for item 144/23, along with five members of the public.

144/23 To receive apologies for absence and welcome

All councillors present. The chairman thanked everyone for attending.

145/23 Questions or comments from the public including a report and update from Dave Butcher, Engagement Manager at EKFB (Eiffage Kier Ferroviaal BAM JV) regarding HS2 works in the area

Dave Butcher gave a detailed presentation on what's been happening locally and in particular at the A422 compound and the works due to take place over the coming months. Once they have been received, you can download the slides on our community website at: [Full steam ahead on HS2 | Westbury Parish Council \(westburyvillage.co.uk\)](http://Full steam ahead on HS2 | Westbury Parish Council (westburyvillage.co.uk))

Cllr Cornell provided relevant updates from Buckinghamshire Council:

- The A422 (between Westbury and Brackley) will be closed overnight (19:00 to 06:00) between 6th to 11th November to install the Puffin crossing.
- There has been a delay in moving the banking hub to the old Lloyds building in Buckingham. It is currently located at Buckingham Library and is open to the public Tuesdays to Fridays.
- Buckinghamshire residents aged between 40 and 74, are being encouraged to book a free NHS Health Check at their GP surgery. Find out more at buckinghamshire.gov.uk/nhs-health-check

Cllr Stuchbury advised of changes to the Devolution & Asset Management Policy. He also said the development of a strategy to ensure that the needs and aspirations of autistic people and their carers in Buckinghamshire are well supported.

146/23 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on 13th September 2023. The minutes were approved and signed.

147/23 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

Still to be actioned from previous meetings:

110/23 proposal to replace the fence along the western boundary of the playing field.

Action: JS

148/23 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda

None received.

149/23 Finance (*different to agenda*)

Financial statement

Current account: £8,123.41

Business account: £28,678.90

a. To note income received

Bank interest (Oct)	25.46
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b. To approve invoices submitted:

C. Knott (Oct. salary)	677.87
HMRC (tax)	22.40
Sainsburys (prizes for Silver Sunday bingo)	9.80 (VAT £1.96)
Maddie Coxhill (website admin & creation of NP page)	85.00
Saltway Farmshop (Christmas tree)	320.00
OPUS (streetlight electricity)	46.10 (VAT £2.31)
S. Rodwell (Sept mowing)	213.98
Hostfast (website domain)	58.74

c. To consider budget information for the next financial year 2024/25

The chairman has started the budgeting process and shared a spreadsheet showing year to date expenditure which is in line with the current budget. It was agreed to form a working party before the next meeting to discuss what we want to achieve over the next few years and how we'll fund it.

Action: JS

150/23 To consider new planning applications (if there are any) and to receive an update on applications outstanding

23/02295/APP – Red Oak Farm, Westbury. Erection of a muck store – PENDING.

23/02257/AHR – Land at Westbury. Removal of 647m section of hedgerow – APPROVED.

151/23 To discuss options for having an email address for the new westburyvillage.org domain and agree a budget

The clerk advised our website designer has retired from website management. It was agreed we should refresh and add new content in line with the accessibility statement. Cllr JW proposed we need a wider discussion to discuss what we're trying to achieve. He will look at costings and we'll discuss again at our next meeting.

Action: JW/CK

152/23 To provide an update on the HS2 community fund project

Tree surgeons will work on reducing the height of the hedge behind the hall from this Friday (13th Oct) and the solar panels will be installed week commencing 30th October.

153/23 To agree on quotes received for suitable matting at the playpark

Deferred to the next meeting.

154/23 To discuss how to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings on 6th June 2024

It was agreed we should mark this event as a sign of respect and importance. We will liaise with the shop & café team and Beachborough School to come up with some ideas.

Action: All

155/23 To discuss arrangements for Christmas

The clerk has ordered a 20ft Norway Spruce tree from Saltway Farmshop which will be delivered w/c 13th November. It was agreed to get a team together to put it up on 18th November (with a backup date of 25th Nov should it be needed) so it is ready for the 'Switch On' on 1st December when WCSC are hosting a BBQ and Christmas market. The clerk is liaising with WCSC and Sue Barret who have invited the Beachborough boarders to attend the switch on. It is hoped the Buckingham Ukulele band can play on the night.

156/23 To make arrangements for the clerk's appraisal and a budget meeting

It was agreed to try and meet before the next meeting.

157/23 To accept councillors reports on the following areas (if there is anything to report):

- a. **Play Park;** GC has put up the two new signs warning drivers small children are playing and is waiting to hear back from Kompan regarding the broken handle on the glider (zip wire).
- b. **Highways;** the Main Street drains have been jet washed. Buckinghamshire Highways has advised if flooding is still an issue, they will arrange another investigation using CCTV.
- c. **Utilities –** nothing to report.
- d. **WVHA/WCSC updates;** charity meetings will take place on 25th October.
- e. **Neighbourhood plan;** JN advised everything is progressing well.
- f. **Footpaths;** works to repair the concrete bridge in Beachborough School field (connecting the Mixbury footpaths 30, 31 & 32), will be carried out from Monday 16th October and will take approximately four weeks. Once the work is complete, the footpath can be reinstated and accessed by all.
- g. **HS2;** see item 145/23.
- h. **Action plan;** the updated plan has been circulated.
- i. **Speed Watch;** JW has met with volunteers. Groups of three will start the campaign as soon as a schedule has been set up. It was agreed to review sites and suggest more suitable locations to the Police.
- j. **Beachborough** JS has arranged a meeting for 25th October between members of the parish council and the school.

158/23 To note correspondence received that requires discussion

- Request to raise the crown of the trees in the playpark.
- Buckinghamshire Council's review of polling districts and polling places circulated to the parish.
- Beachborough School will be holding their annual fireworks display on 6th November. Their Christmas Bazaar will be on 18th November.

Action: JS/PJ

159/23 Councillors Open Forum

- It has been suggested that the (locked) gate leading from the field adjacent to the playing field to the village hall be replaced by a kissing gate to enable those with limited ability whilst making sure cows can't escape. Cllr PJ agreed to investigate costings and the clerk will investigate funding streams. **Action: CK/PJ**
- There has been some misunderstanding around whether the cricket club's sponsorship boards should be left up or taken down. The chairman advised he would be attending WVHA's meeting next week and would take the matter up with them.
- It was agreed to move the next meeting to the following week, on Wednesday 15th November.

160/23 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*)
None received.

161/23 Close

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

The next meeting will be held on 15th November 2023, 7.30 pm at Westbury Village Hall.

Signed: James Stone

Dated: 15th November 2023