



Meeting of West Dean Parish Council

Tuesday 09 March 2021 commenced at 7:00pm

Held by video conference (in order to protect the health and safety of councillors and members of the public during the COVID-19 pandemic)

Present: Harry Urquhart (HU) – Chair, Jane Higgins (JH), Bill Seabrook (BS), Andy Francis (AF), David Sutton (DS), and Christine Warry (CW)

Others present: Melanie Camilleri (MC) – Clerk/RFO, Councillor Richard Britton (Alderbury and Whiteparish division), Cllr Deborah Hook (West Tytherley, Frenchmoor & Buckholt Parish Council), and six members of the public

29/21 Apologies for Absence: Sarah Hurst (SH)

30/21 Declarations of interest: None

31/21 The Minutes of the West Dean Parish Council meeting held on **Tuesday 09 February 2021** were approved.

32/21 Public Forum

33/21 To receive a report from Cllr Devine (Wiltshire Council)

- At full council meeting the 2021/22 budget was approved - 5% increase (of which 3% social care)
- Absence of forward 5-year housing plan: consultation taking place to form basis of development.
- Alan Bannister raised the Joint NDP Reg 16 submission Dec 2020 yet there is a hold-up to send it to the examiner as WC say they want a Habitats Regulation Assessment. TVBC, however, are happy for it to proceed to the examiner without one. Cllr Devine agreed to help in this matter.
- Area Board Grants – next date 27 May. Consider making your applications.
- Confirmed WC's policy in 2021 continues as they don't strim verges unless for road safety reasons.

34/21 Planning

21/00536/FULLS: Friars Orchard, Rectory Hill, West Dean, SP5 1JL

Proposal: Change of use of agricultural barn to dwelling, with associated parking, landscaping and access

Representation was made in person by the direct neighbour. After a short discussion on the application, voting took place by a show of hands. Resolved unanimously to OBJECT for the following reasons:-

It seeks permission to extend the property beyond the original Class Q restrictions i.e.:-

- encompass additional curtilage beyond the barn itself
- raise the ridge height of the roof by 1.2m and additional glazing creating overlooking/loss of privacy issues
- increased external lighting which doesn't protect dark skies in this rural location

21/00597/PDHS: 24 Hillside Close, West Dean, Salisbury, Hampshire

Proposal: Notification of proposed works to a dwelling - Single storey rear extension (length from rear wall of original dwellinghouse 6 metres, height 4.0 metres, height to eaves 2.9 metres)

After a short discussion on the application, voting took place by a show of hands. Resolved unanimously to SUPPORT.

21/01744/FUL: The White House, Ashmore Lane, West Dean, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 1HN

Proposal: Demolition of existing redundant and derelict outbuildings and construction of new single replacement outbuilding

After a short discussion on the application, voting took place by a show of hands. Resolved unanimously NO OBJECTION

21/01768/TCA *For info:* West View Junction At Dean Road And Grimstead Road East To Rectory Hill West Dean SP5 1JQ.

Proposal: T1 Macrocarpa - Fell

- i) 20/01903/FULLS Glebe Farm, West Dean. HU provided an update on the applications referral to TVBC Southern Area Planning Committee on 23 Feb 2021. Representation was made from WTPC and WDPC, however, this was ignored by the Committee who approved the application. HU expressed disappointment with the Mid Test Councillors (Johnson and Ward) who did not appear to be cognisant with the application nor had they sought views from their parishioners in advance. The NDP (status and future application of this document in the planning process) will be added to the April Agenda.

35/21

Broadband

- i) DW provided an update following Agenda 23/21 and the barrier of identifying houses as the BT database is out of date
- ii) John Camilleri delivered a report on availability of Ultrafast Fibre Broadband in West Dean. Key points:-
- Full Fibre is now connected both sides of the railway line
 - Not everyone can get it (check on <https://www.openreach.com/fibrebroadband/fibre-first>)
 - If you can't get full fibre and you want it, let him know and he will help
 - There is currently no cash from government to help and future funds are unlikely

36/21

River Dun

- i) HU summarised the position as follows:-
- The River Dun Management Report dated Nov 2020 was discussed at the WDPC meeting 18 Nov. The River Group's report dated Sept 2020 (Appendix E) presented Options 1-4 with Strengths and Weaknesses recorded under each option.
 - At the meeting 18/11 it was agreed that River Restoration return under the control of the PC.
 - Because of the key risks involved in any activity involving restoration, WDPC insist key stakeholder are consulted before WDPC can make a decision on which option to go with. Likewise, the long-term benefits and overall efficacy of any option to be outweighed by financial implications

- Nov Minutes 88/20 - DS to seek 'external validation' in writing for any proposals. DW approached WWT who attended a site visit on 09 March
- In Jan WDPC allocated funding in the Budget 2021/22: £1,000 to Annual Vegetation Clearance (Option 4) and £400 towards River Restoration grant application fees

ii) DS reported on the WWT site visit 09 March in connection with River Restoration. Their findings:-

1. The river is too wide, resulting in silt deposition and weed overgrowth.
2. The primary, river channel needs to be narrowed to improve flows
3. There is a range of options: **a.** encourage silt build up over time, with judicious planting **b.** narrow channel with bundles of wood to create berms **c.** build up banks and backfill using diggers etc.
4. WWT suggested option **b.** - to narrow the channel using tightly packed wood bundles, strategically placed on both sides of the river to improve flows and create meanders.
 - This will achieve our object within a couple of years.
 - Silt will be entrapped in the wood bundles, so will not wash away during high water flow periods.
 - This new, secondary channel bank and the existing secondary bank can be planted up with appropriate plants or left to seed naturally.
5. The work would be supervised by WWT and carried out by their team of volunteers, who would be indemnified. Interested residents would be welcome to join the team.
6. A topographical and vole survey would need to be carried out shortly before planned works to ensure the berms were not obstructing vole burrows or facilitate flooding
7. All permits and permissions etc. would be sourced by WWT on our behalf.
8. The cost of option **b.** would be around £4000.
9. Permits etc. could be obtained in time for planned work late summer 2021 this year, depending on funding being available.

CW expressed concerns with this proposed solution, advocating option 4 of the River report which is '*Do nothing bar weed control*' during the summer of 2021 in order to check whether nature and the river are already doing the job of narrowing it, which she thinks they are. She also proposed that if a decision is made in favour of **b**, parishioners generally should be consulted to see what the majority view is as some are known to oppose it.

After a lengthy discussion, the majority of councillors indicated agreement to proceed with the latest WWT proposal as reported by DS, subject to full scrutiny of their Report (to follow). This matter to be added to the April Agenda for a final decision to be made.

37/21

Biodiversity

- i) CW requested approval to clear brambles, plant wildflowers, extend uncut edges of hedges on the Rec Grd once lockdown restrictions lifted. This was agreed.
- ii) CW requested modifications to the way the grass is cut on the Village Green to allow wildflower areas, mowed sections allowing people to be able to walk up to the river, long sections to remain over the winter. This was agreed - AF to meet with CW to map out sections for this purpose.

38/21

Footpath query from parishioner

- i) CW outlined the history of WDPC's application to Hampshire County Council to have this right of way included on the Definitive Map. This path is known to have been in use for over 100 years. When County Definitive Maps were coming into being in the early 1950s it was included in the draft maps of both Wiltshire and Hampshire but, unlike the Wiltshire length, the Hampshire length did not go forward to the final version. This was not known to WDPC or the people of the village who continued to use it for many years. It only came to light following a query about the state of the stile on the Wiltshire length. On the advice of HCC, evidence of its use in the 1950s at the time of its omission was gathered and was submitted to HCC in 2006 with an application for it to be added to the map. Due to the number of applications pending at HCC our application did not reach the top of the list for consideration/decision until 2016. We were then invited to submit additional evidence of use covering all or any periods and a substantial collection of such evidence was forwarded to HCC in December 2016. This led the officer then dealing with it to approach the owners of some of the land over which it passes to see if they were willing to dedicate it on a voluntary basis as this provides a much quicker and easier way of resolving the issue. He has pursued this for some time but if he was unable to obtain this consent the coronavirus restrictions of the last 12 months may well have prevented him from following the alternative which is to explore all available evidence himself and interview people who have given user statements before submitting a report to the relevant committee of HCC for decision. The officer was on leave when an update was requested last week but this will given at the April meeting.

39/21

Maintenance work

- i) It was resolved by a majority to use Hampshire Pest Control to tackle the mole infestation on The Green. Quote £180 approved. AF to action.
- ii) Lengthsman jobs: report provide by AF. MC also reported that WTPC are entering into a new contract 2021/22 so this service will continue.
- iii) The paint for the footbridge (job for the Lengthsman) can be classed as materials and taken from the Lengthsman balance. WTPC have agreed to action.

40/21

West Dean Village Website, Parish Online, and WDPC Social Media

- i) CW proposed the addition of information and of a map relating to the registered common land and village green areas on to the Website and Parish Online. Councillors to compile list of this and all other items to be added to the Website and Parish Online
- ii) Due to SH's absence, handover of Parish Online, Website and Social Media deferred to the April Agenda

41/21 Finance

- i) It was resolved unanimously to approve the Cash Flow Report and authorise payments.

Bank balances

Treasurers Account 16 Feb 2021: £5,601.72

Business Bank Instant 09 Feb 2021: £1,113.62

Payee	Detail	Amount £ (incl vat)	Method
M Camilleri	Monthly gross salary	483.99	S/O
M Camilleri	A4 paper and ¼ printer cartridges	49.99	BACS
Total debit		£639.68	

42/21 Correspondence, AOB, and urgent matters

- i) Resolved unanimously that West Dean Parish Council will issue the Nomination letter for Trustee of the Brooke, Evelyn and Thistlewaite Charity
- ii) CW reported that weeds and other objects had been cleared from the bridge and then thrown over the bridge! No Councillors were aware of who had done this.
- iii) Dates of West Dean Fete: 4 Sept 2021 and 4 June 2022
- iv) Councillors to select a date before 07 May 2021 for the Annual Parish Meeting which will be held remotely via video conference

43/21 Elections 06 May

- i) Councillors to observe Purdah 11 March – 6 May
- ii) Reminder that nomination papers must be submitted between 29 March and 08 April (any working day 10-4). Essential to book an appointment to deliver the papers by hand due to CV19.

44/21 Next Parish Council Meeting

It was agreed that the next West Dean Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 13 April at 7:00pm** by video conference.

Being no further business, HU closed the meeting at 9:40pm.