



West Dean Parish Council

By Order of Jane Higgins Chair and Acting Clerk

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12 July 2023

**Minutes of the
WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**
held on **Monday 10th July 2023 7pm**
in the **King George's Hall**

- 46/23** **Apologies for Absence.** There were no apologies for absence
- Present.** Wiltshire Cllr Richard Britton, Cllrs Camilleri, Biddulph, Seabrooke, Higgins, Taylor, Mosely and Urquhart and 9 members of the public. PC Harry Murphy was present from 7.40pm
- 47/23** **Declarations of interest.** None declared
- 48/23** **Minutes.** The Minutes of the EGM held Monday 5 June were approved
- 49/23** **Public Forum.** A member of the public talked about the footpath to the east side of the Glebe Farm site which is on the agenda at 55/23. She had taken a scythe to it in June, but it has already grown back. Perhaps a working party from the village would be able to keep the brambles under control? JC will also approach Principal Estates about some maintenance. There was a question about which Council is responsible for repairs to Rectory Hill, where the county boundary runs down the middle of the road. Evidently the patching that has been done is poor, and neither Hampshire nor Wiltshire Councils will own the responsibility.
- 50/23** **Correspondence.** The acting clerk is unable to get access to the clerk's email. Mel Camilleri (former clerk) responded to a request to forward important correspondence. There were three bills to pay – 2 months' worth of grass cutting at £810 per month to Clive Francis and the bill for the new planters on the green £164.94 to Anne and Mike Hand. Cheques were signed to pay these outstanding bills. There were the renewed insurance policies. There had also been a planning application by Charlie Evans of 6 Moody's Hill to cut the overhanging branches of a sycamore from a tree rooted in the conservation area. The date of objection was past, but Mr and Mrs Holland on whose land the tree is rooted were notified at this meeting. Cllr Camilleri hand-delivered some correspondence, which on scrutiny after the meeting were found to be bank statements and a letter from our auditor notifying us that he is retiring.
- 51/23** **Update on Glebe farm** Cllr Camilleri reported that we are still waiting for the plans to be lodged with TVBC. He reported that our request that the more modest houses should be reserved for local people had been forwarded up the command chain in the Planning Office.

52/23 Land Supply – SHELAA – Cllr Britton has forwarded some information on the Local Plan for Wiltshire which will shortly be out for consultation. It will be important to respond. It will also be important to update our NDP sooner rather than later, so that it cannot be too easily ignored by the planners. However, all goalposts could be moved by the government in the future. The sites on the SHELAA in the West Dean Parish area have all been deemed unsuitable.

53/23 Update on Emergency Plan Cllr Higgins and Cllr Camilleri will be meeting representatives from the Village Hall Committee on Tuesday 11 July to collaborate on updating the village Emergency Plan, to make it workable for all and less burdensome for the Village Hall Committee, who took the brunt of the work during the last long power outage.

54/23 Repairs to footbridge. Cllr Higgins has been in touch with West Tytherley Council and also with the lengthsman's manager, to make sure the repair to this dangerous hole is part of his work load. Cllr Camilleri will also take this up with WT Parish Council.

55/23 Repairs to play equipment Cllr Moseley has found a repairer for the play tunnel. Chris Townsend who has worked at the park before can undertake the work. *Update since the meeting– The work will cost £125 and Cllr Moseley will contact Chris to give him the go-ahead, since there are safety concerns. The cost of this should be covered by the contribution of £250 that we receive annually from West Tytherley PC, which is due this month.*

55/23 Footpath behind Glebe Farm This topic had essentially been covered in the public forum

At this point **PC Harry Murphy** arrived and we welcomed him to his new role in the Neighbourhood Team for the Police. He will try to get to as many PC meetings as he can, and will be working from time to time in the Village Hall. If his car is parked outside, members of the public are welcome to go and meet him.

There has been one reported crime where a horsebox collided with a letterbox on 30 June. The driver of the vehicle pulling the horsebox did not report it.

The public meeting closed at 7.45pm

The following items were discussed in closed session

56/23 Employment matters

The appointment of a new Parish Clerk, Amanda Owen was approved, proposed Cllr Biddulph and seconded Cllr Taylor. Her salary and conditions of employment were discussed

57/23 Correspondence between Cllrs Urquhart and Camilleri. This was aired, and there was no firm conclusion as to further action by the PC.

58/23 Date of next meeting

The date of the next Meeting for **West Dean Parish Council** will be held on **Monday 18 September 2023** at **7:00pm** in **King George's Hall**