



## Minutes of the West Dean Parish Council Meeting Thurs 14 October 2021 7:00pm, King George's Hall

Councillors present: Harry Urquhart (HU) – Chair, Bill Seabrook (BS), Andy Francis (AF), Jane Higgins (JH), Ben Rowe (BR), Cllr Richard Britton (Wiltshire Council), and Cllr Deborah Hook (WTPC).

Others present: Melanie Camilleri (MC) – Clerk/RFO and two members of the public.

**87/21 Apologies for Absence:** None

**88/21 Declarations of interest:** None

**89/21 Minutes** of the Meeting held on **Tuesday 10 August 2021** were unanimously approved.

**90/21 Public Forum**

**91/21 To receive a report from Cllr Richard Britton (Wiltshire Council)**

- His case work at the moment involves planning, enforcement, housing, Rights of way dispute, Flooding in Pitton.
- Wiltshire Council will be facing a budget deficit at the end of the financial year of £45M due to financial pressures from COVID. Total budget £400M of which they have discretionary spend over £360-370M.
- Work taking place on how better PCs and Area Board can work together.
- AF raised increasing concerns over the deterioration of Penn Farm Barns which are at risk of irrevocable damage. AF to discuss further with Cllr Britton/

**92/21 NDP**

Alan Bannister delivered the following update:-

- Meeting held on 06 Oct with TVBC's Sarah Hughes and members of the NDP Steering Group to discuss the examiner's 46 questions
- AB will formulate a response to these Qs by 22/10 (deadline is 25/10)
- Once his answers have been submitted, it's anticipated the examiner will issue a report 1<sup>st</sup> week Nov after which TVBC and WC will issue a Response Statement
- His aim is to hold the referendum early 2022 (before the end of TVBC's consultation on the updated Local Development Scheme which takes place Q1 2022)

HU expressed this thanks to Alan Bannister for all his ongoing hard work. This was echoed by all.

**93/21 Rec Ground/Play Area**

i) RoSPA Report received. Main considerations:-

- a. Replacement chain for swing. Action for AF
- b. General maintenance: C Mundy carrying out – see ii) below
- c. Surface covering (bark) doesn't meet safety standards in a number of key areas. MC reported that 11 tons of bark chippings were laid in Sept 2019. Bark chippings tend to have a life-span of 2-3 years.

Since Sept 2019 WDPC has set-aside £3K for Capital Spend on the Rec Grd, this amount alone will not stretch to meet the cost of resurfacing.

MC suggested that a more sustainable surface covering will in the longer term be more cost effective. MC is meeting Vitaplay onsite Fri 15 Oct 9:30am to discuss options

- ii) C Munday has provided a quote on maintenance work for the Rec Grd/Play Area. This was unanimously approved in principle with the exception of de-weeding the surface covering which MC asked to be put on hold pending her meeting with Vitaplay.
- iii) Funding: Funds can be raised through the WDPC 2022/23 Precept, request a contribution from WTPC, and apply for a SWAB Grant (deadline 10 Nov for the SWAB meeting 09 Dec). HU request that BR run a comms piece with the community on this matter due to the prospect of raising the Precept.

94/21

#### River Dun

- i) BR provided an update on the annual vegetation clearance and restoration plans:-

##### Annual Vegetation Clearance

- To be carried out on Saturday 13 Nov by a team of volunteers. Villagers will be invited to join. BR to post something on FB and Newsletter.
- BR to organise a Risk Assessment and Briefing Note to be delivered to the volunteers in advance of carrying out the work (covering preservation of wildlife as well as safety guidelines for the volunteers).
- BR to first organise the removal of a fallen tree upstream by East Bros, who he thanked for their cooperation.
- AF to arrange for the removal/disposal of the cleared vegetation.
- Budget 2021/22: Bacon rolls and hot drinks to be supplied in the Village Hall (funded by WDPC). Meaning not the full £1,000.00 required.
- Budget 2022/23: Set aside £1,000.00 in the event volunteers aren't available and the professional team to return.

##### River Restoration

- WWT will carry out the work at some point 2022 – after the River Group has approached SWAB for a Grant.
- 2021/22 Budget: WDPC has set aside £400.00 for Grant applications.
- £600.00 was transferred from the Village Hall's bank account to WDPC's bank account for this project. WDPC will be custodians of the funds.

95/21

#### Finance

- i) The Cashflow report and payments were unanimously approved

##### Bank balances

Treasurers Account 22 Sept 2021: £5,200.10

Business Bank Instant 30 Sept 2021: £11,616.64

Payee	Detail	Amount £ (incl vat)	Method
M Camilleri	Salary + offices expenses	730.90	S/O
Clive Francis	Grass Cutting (August x 2)	528.00	BACS
C Mundy	Replace gate post village rec grd	120.00	BACS
M Camilleri	Salary + offices expenses	730.90	S/O
Clive Francis	Grass Cutting (Sept x 2) + hedge cutting	828.00	BACS
Playsafety	RoSPA Annual Safety Inspection	99.00	BACS
H Urquhart	Printing Costs	81.60	BACS
M Camilleri	Office supplies	78.54	
Total debit		<b>£3,196.94</b>	

Receipts	Detail	Amount	Method
King George Village Hall	River Fund	600.00	
King George Village Hall	Defib Fund	50.20	
Wiltshire Council	Precept – 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment	3,000.00	

Total credit      **£3,650.20**

- ii) MC presented the first draft Budget 2022/23 for consideration. Key impact upon Precept will be the Rec Grd resurfacing project spend and Grant Funds available. Budget will be further considered at the Dec meeting with the aim of approving the Precept for 2022/23.

**96/21      Community Resilience Plan**

- i) AF reported that he was soon to collect salt/gel bags from Highways Dept (to be stored in the Village Hall).

**97/21      Heritage Phone box**

- i) The phone box has now been decommissioned
- ii) BR to seek views from the community via FB and Newsletter on its use

**98/21      Councillors' Reports: No additional reports made**

**99/21      Correspondence, AOB, and urgent matters**

- i) It was confirmed that MC maintains the website and uses the Newsletter to post Agenda and Minutes and Misc comms, BR looks after WDPC comms via WDPC and WD Village FB pages. BR also manages content on Parish Online.
- ii) Remembrance Day: JH reported that Christine Warry has been asked to do a reading on behalf of WDPC. The service will be conducted outdoors. MC to contact Pat Hargreaves regarding sourcing and payment of a wreath.
- iii) Carols on the Green: will take place on 22 Dec. £100.00 budget for tree and lights (AF to organise) and for wine.

**100/21      Date of next meeting**

The date of the next **West Dean Parish Council** meeting will be held on **Thursday 09 December 2021 at 7:00pm** in the **King George's Hall**

Being no further business, HU closed the meeting at 8:40pm.