



Meeting of West Dean Parish Council

Tuesday 09 February 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), Sarah Hurst (SH), 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 one member of the public

14/21 Apologies for Absence: None

15/21 Declarations of interest: None

16/21 The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 12 January 2021 2020 were approved and signed.

17/21 Public Forum

18/21 To receive a report from Cllr Devine (Wiltshire Council)

- Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub remains in place for those people who may need additional support (originally set-up at the start of the pandemic in March 2020). Access the hub for help. <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/support-from-wellbeing-hub>
- Severe Weather Emergency Provisions triggered <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/Severe-weather-emergency-provisions-triggered>
- Budget briefing on 23 Feb. 1.9% increase in Wiltshire Council Tax, £15p.a increase for the Police Precept
- Cllr Grants being considered at next SWAB 11 March.
- The mobile library has been restored.

19/21 Planning

21/00756/TCA: Lintrathen, Rectory Hill, West Dean, SP5 1JL

Proposal: 1 x Laburnum tree (dead) – fell, 1 x Acer tree - prune

Resolved unanimously to SUPPORT this application

20/21 Elections 06 May 2021

i) MC reported:-

- a. the government still plan for the elections to take place on 06 May 2021, encouraging postal votes.
- b. Publication of notice of election due Mon 29 March
- c. WDC has 7 seats. Nomination papers must be submitted between 29 March and 08 April (any working day 10-4)
- d. IF 7 nominations from eligible candidates, all will be automatically elected.
- e. IF less than 7 nominations from eligible candidates, all will be automatically elected, and vacancies subsequently filled by co-option.
- f. IF more than 7 nominations from eligible candidates, an election will be triggered.

ii) Purdah Period runs 11 March to 06 May. MC will send councillors full details on guidelines over activity during this period

- iii) IF all 7 (or at least 2/3rds) members elected, as the Clerk is CiLCA qualified, WDPC can declare they have the General Powers of Competence, delivering freedoms over WDPC activity. MC will send councillors full details including examples of what other councils have achieved under GPC.

21/21

Maintenance work

- i) Lengthsman jobs – update on jobs completed delivered by Cllr Andy Francis. New jobs to be added:-
- a. Painting the footbridge. The Lengthsman will do and AF asked Cllr D.Hook for a financial contribution from WTPC as the footbridge is in Hampshire
 - b. Rec Grd wooden edges need replacing. CW has the wood. AF will ask the Lengthsamn to do
- ii) Parish Steward scheduled to attend 17 Feb, 17 March, 15 April

22/21

Street Lighting

- i) CW was able to confirm with evidence the three lights around the village green and the one on Rectory Hill opposite St.Mary’s Church were bought and installed by WDPC. WDPC are responsible for their maintenance and Wiltshire Council pays for the electricity.
- ii) The two outside the West Dean Club (opposite Tower House) were installed by Defence Estate in 2007. There was never any suggestion that they were to be handed over to WDPC. As they are situated in Hampshire, WDPC would not wish to assume ownership. West Dean Club recently discovered they were paying the electricity of one/both? of these lights. MC had suggested West Dean Club get in touch with their supplier to establish further historical information. No response from the West Dean Club as to the outcome to date. CW suggested that West Dean Club could look at their Lease Agreement as to responsibility over payment of utilities. SH will update Parish Online with this important information.

23/21

Broadband

- i) It was unanimously agreed that on behalf of the Parish Council, DS will write a letter to our local MP with the view to gaining support for providers to deliver Broadband to those households whose access falls below the minimum government’s commitment (legal right of speeds of at least 10 Mbps)

24/21

Emergency Plan

Updated Plan presented by Cllr Jane Higgins, who thanked everyone for additions and contributions. Publication of the Plan discussed and agreed, including which parts to whom, and redaction of personal data due to GDPR.

25/21

Strategic Planning

- i) Consider the Strategic Planning document prepared by Cllr Harry Urquhart and Cllr Sarah Hurst: *deferred until F2F meetings resume.*

26/21

Finance

- i) AF proposed, seconded by SH and resolved unanimously to approve the Cash Flow Report and authorise payments.

Bank balances

Treasurers Account 06 Jan 2021: £6,270.71

Business Bank Instant: £1,113.62

Payee	Detail	Amount £ (incl vat)	Method
M Camilleri	Monthly gross salary	483.99	S/O
Matthew Rowe	Carols on the Green	60.00	BACS
R B Gruzelier	Christmas Tree	25.00	BACS

Total debit | **£568.99** |

- i) It was unanimously resolved to approve a £100 financial contribution towards replacement laptop for Clerk purchased by West Tytherley PC.
- ii) S137 (LGA 1972) limit for 2021/22: £8.41 per electorate.

27/21

Correspondence, AOB, and urgent matters

- i) Wiltshire Council's Local Plan and Gypsy and Travellers Plan consultations:-
 - a. future development including housing, infrastructure and land for employment may be built in your area in the next 15 years
 - b. develop planning policies to help tackle climate change
 - c. allocate land for travellers in sustainable locations to meet their permanent and temporary accommodation needs up until 2036
- ii) Penn Farm Barns (Grade II listed). AF thanked Cllr Devine for his support with engaging Wiltshire Enforcement in this matter.
- iii) Census 2021. Agreed to promote within the community by Social Media (FB), Noticeboards, and website.
- iv) NALC announcement: MC reported that the government have no plans to extend remote meetings regulations beyond 07 May 2021 – meaning physical Parish Council meetings to resume w.e.f 11 May 2021. Considerations to:-
 - Potential to hold the April meeting at the end of April
 - After 11 May, fewer and shorter meetings. Postpone issues, where possible, for when things are safer to convene F2F
 - Schemes of delegation could be explored (3 councillors)
 - Venue to be CV19 compliantIt was agreed to reassess at the March meeting when hopefully the situation will be clearer.
- v) AF reported that Greg Gent has confirmed the dead Chestnut on the green should be removed. Greg will be producing a quote.

28/21

Next Parish Council Meeting

The date of the next **West Dean Parish Council** meeting will be held on **Wednesday 09 March 2021 at 7:15pm** by **Video Conference**

Being no further business, HU closed the meeting at 8:36pm.