

MINUTES OF WESTMILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN WESTMILL VILLAGE HALL ON 20th February 2019 AT 7.30PM

Councillors: Michael McRae (Chairman)
Diane Bowtell

Raymond Partridge
Anne Downes

Officer attending: Bernadette King (Clerk and RFO)
Present 6 members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

19.110. Apologies received from Cllr. House and Cllr. Pickup.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

19.111. Cllr. McRae declared an interest in matters relating to the Greg Trust in his capacity as a Trustee of the Greg Trust.

MINUTES OF MEETING

19.112. The minutes of the WPC meeting held on the 5th December 2018 were signed as a correct record after a note re the review of the Risk Assessment was added.

FINANCE

19.113. Finance Report and payments for approval.

The finance report was noted and the cheques before Council were signed. The list of payments and the finance statement are an appendix to these minutes. The Council also authorised the payments for

- litter picking for the months of February, March and April 2019, the payment to increase to in line with inflation from April 2019; proposed by Cllr McRae and seconded by Cllr. Bowtell
- Clerks salary for the next quarter; to increase from April 2019: proposed by Cllr Bowtell and seconded by Cllr. Partridge.
- payment to J. James for the Westmill newsletter.
- EON bill November 2018-February 2019
- HAPTC subscription due in March 2019.
- Ink cartridge for WPC laptop, reimbursed to the clerk.
- Grass cutting in April 2019; to increase in line with inflation from April 2019.

19.114. Barclays Bank

The clerk informed the Council that the Barclays branch in Buntingford will close in May 2019.

PLANNING

19.115. No planning applications have been received.

19.116 Cllr. Downes will contact East Herts Enforcement Officer re the structure erected on Cherry Green Lane land which has been refused planning permission but is under appeal (3/18/0918/FUL).

HIGH SPEED BROADBAND

19.117. Cllr. McRae. Informed the Council that Cherry Green is now connected to the HSB.

RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW

19.118. Cllr. Partridge will circulate to all Councillors the Risk Assessment he has produced;

Councillors are to reply within 14 days of receiving this. An updated review will then be discussed at the next meeting in May 2019.

19.119. Cllr. McRae is to organise a visual inspection of the large lime tree on the village green to inform Cllr. Partridge for the review.

19.120. Cllr. Downes proposed that the ownership of the bus shelter should be discussed at the next WPC meeting, as it is part of the review.

VILLAGE SIGN

19.121. A parishioner representing the The Art Exhibition Committee presented some ideas that they have regarding the design, installation and maintenance of a new village sign. A discussion of these followed. Cllr. McRae thanked the committee for the information presented and proposed that a decision be deferred to the next meeting when all Councillors would be present and the Conservation Officer has been contacted. This was agreed.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

19.122. Cllr. McRae explained that all WPC Councillors term of office terminates in May 2019 and he outlined the process of applying for the role of Councillor for the next 4-year years. The timetable for these elections was given. The clerk will receive information on 18th March which she will circulate to all Councillors and post on the village notice board.

INDEPENDENT LIVING INITIATIVE

19.123. Cllr Downes led the discussion on this initiative and she proposed that the advisory leaflets be distributed within the village after discussion with Cllr. Bowtell.

GREG TRUST REPORT.

19.124. Cllr. McRae updated the Council on the work of the Greg Trust within the village. The report is attached to these minutes.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME.

19.125. Mr. D. Downes thanked the Council for allowing Sgt. Wallace to give a presentation prior to the meeting. He updated WPC on development of this scheme within the village; information leaflets have been delivered to all villagers: new signs erected and an information meeting is being planned. Cllr. McRae thanked him for his work.

HIGH STREET LIME TREES.

19.126. These trees were pollarded in December as agreed at the last meeting.

WPC MINUTE BOOKS 1894-1984.

19.127. These are now in the Herts Archive in County Hall, Hertford and their reference number is CP107.

FLY TIPPING

19.128. Cllr Downes has reported all fly tipping incidents to East Herts and has been pleased with their prompt responses. Fly tipping on private land is the responsibility of the landowner.

GB SPRING CLEAN

19.129. Cllr. McRae proposed that WPC get involved with this event, taking place in Westmill on April 6th 2019. Cllr. Downes seconded it. The clerk will register WPC interest in this event and publicize it.

COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE

19.130. A weekly service(Friday) from Westmill to Buntingford is now in place. Cllr. McRae reminded all Councillors to advertise this service in order to ensure that it continues.

CORRESPONDENCE

19.131. Noted and attached to the minutes.

MATTERS NOT PREVIOUSLY NOTED.

19.132. Cllr. Partridge led a discussion on the use of the village notice board. He proposed that all notices should be displayed for 4 weeks only and that a new sign should be made disallowing the use of staples. Cllr. Bowtell seconded and all agreed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

19.133. A parishioner pointed out the dangerous trees on Aspenden Rd. Cllr McRae will contact Highways. Cllr. McRae also proposed that all trees included in the Risk Assessment should be checked and this to be recorded in the minutes.

19.134. A parishioner requested a recycling bin for the recreation field, Cllr McRae will let the Greg Trust know of this request.

The meeting closed at 9.37pm

Date for next meeting

Wednesday 15th May 2019 at 7pm.

There will be 3 meetings on this date, Annual Parish Meeting, WPC AGM and the usual WPC meeting.

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