

**MINUTES OF WESTMILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN WESTMILL VILLAGE HALL ON
28th August 2019 AT 7.30PM**

Councillors: Michael McRae (Chairman)
Diane Bowtell
Winston Pickup

Raymond Partridge
Anne Downes

Officer attending: Bernadette King (Clerk and RFO)
Present 2 members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

19.162 None received.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

19.164 Cllr. Pickup declared an interest in St. Mary's lychgate appeal.

MINUTES OF MEETING

19.165. The minutes of the WPC meeting held on the 15th May 2019 were signed as a correct record.

FINANCE

19.166. **Finance Report and payments for approval.**

The finance report was noted and the cheques before Council were agreed. 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 August, September, October and November, 2019.

-Clerks salary for the next quarter.

-Grass cutting for September and October (if needed) 2019.

-Stationery expenses to be reimbursed to clerk.

-Bus shelter repairs.

19.167. The clerk is to investigate BACS payments from the Barclays account.

PLANNING

19.168. This planning application was noted. 3/19/1170FUL - Change of use from courtyard building and stables to residential use. No objections raised.

19.169. Cllr. Downes is kept updated by 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).

VILLAGE SIGN

19.170. Cllr. Partridge informed the council that the project is in the planning stage and the funds (from the Art Exhibition Committee) are in place.

REVIEW OF BYWAYS IN WESTMILL PARISH

19.171. Mr. Chris Hall of Trail Finders Fellowship, has contacted WPC to outline their plans for the use of trail bikes on these roads, Gt Munden059/Cottered 047. Currently these byways are not open to vehicles but are due to be reviewed by Herts County Council, (this review is undertaken every 10 years).

After discussion all agreed to support the Cherry Green group opposed to these plans. WPC to be represented by Cllr. Pickup who will liaise with this group and collect any objections from villagers. Cllr. McRae has written an article for the village newsletter which outlines these plans and invites responses from residents.

LITTER

19.172 Melanie Mason is the new litter picker, WPC have asked her to wear a high vis jacket when she is working.

19.173. Cllr. Downes is to research more suitable bins to replace those located by the playground and the defibrillator cabinet.

HIGHWAYS

19.174. Cllr. Downes has asked Highways to resurface Cherry Green Lane, (Townsend to the junction with Aspenden Rd.) due to state of disrepair of this stretch of road. Highways have said that it is to be actioned but no date has been given yet. Cllr. Downes will keep in contact with Highways over this issue.

19.175. The bus shelter now been repaired and a window installed. Cllr. Mc Rae has also undertaken some maintenance work on the environment surrounding the shelter.

19.176. Cllr. McRae has asked M. Foskett to repair the uneven grass areas on the High Street; this work will be undertaken in the Autumn.

RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW

19.177. Cllr. Partridge presented the updated Risk Assessment and it was amended as appropriate, after discussion. The final copy will be put on the website and a copy kept by the clerk.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME.

19.178. Cllr. McRae thanked Mr. Dennis Downes for his work in organising the Open Day on Saturday 22nd June 2019. It was very successful in informing the village on Police and Safety issues. Mr. Downes has written to thank Sgt. Duncan Wallace for his input into this event.

19.179. Mr. Downes informed WPC that only 1 criminal incident in Westmill has been recorded in the past 3 months.

19.180. Due to some anti- social behaviour observed in the children's playground Cllr. McRae has posted a new notice in the playground outlining the correct usage of this area. If any incidents are observed Mr. Downes reminded everyone that they can contact the police on the phone number 101(details of this are in the Neighbourhood Watch information leaflet delivered to all dwellings in Westmill.)

ST MARY'S LYCHGATE

19.181. Cllr. Pickup outlined the problems with the lychgate and after discussion WPC agreed to donate £500 to the repair fund. This was proposed by Cllr. McRae and seconded by Cllr. Bowtell.

GREG TRUST REPORT.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

19.183. Noted and attached to the minutes.

PARISH CLERK/RFO POSITION

19.184. The clerk informed the Council that she will continue in the position for the moment. The role has been advertised by HAPTC, on the village noticeboard and in local newsletters but no responses have been received yet.

DISPOSAL OF OLD LAPTOP

19.185. Cllr. Pickup will deal with this out of date device, ensuring that all data is deleted.

MATTERS NOT PREVIOUSLY NOTED.

19.186. Cllr. Bowtell has received complaints from several parishioners about the level of noise from the Sword Inn Hand generated by wedding celebrations and the beer festival. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr. McRae will contact the owner to discuss these issues.

19.187. Cllr. Bowtell raised the issue of the speed limit through the village. Cllr Downes will contact Highways about this issue. Cllr. Bowtell is to contact Welwyn and Hatfield council re 20mph sign usage in villages.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

19.188. A parishioner commented on the noise issue in the village and it was suggested that a few councillors should approach the pub owner to discuss resolutions.

Cllr. McRae thanked everyone for their input.
The meeting closed at 10.00pm

Date for next meeting

Wednesday 4th December 2019 at 7 30pm.

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