

**MINUTES OF WESTMILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN WESTMILL VILLAGE HALL ON  
4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 AT 7.30PM**

Councillors: Michael McRae (Chairman)                      Diane Bowtell  
                                Winston Pickup    Anne Downes  
Officer attending: Bernadette King (Clerk and RFO)  
Present 2 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

19.189. Received from Cllr. Partridge

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

19.190. 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**

19.191. The minutes of the WPC meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019 were signed as a correct record.

**FINANCE**

**19.192. 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 December 2019 and January 2020.
- Clerks salary for the next quarter.
- Greg Trust annual donation of £2000 was approved.
- St. Mary the Virgin annual donation of £200 was approved.

**19.193. Budget proposal and precept submission**

After discussion an increase of 2% to the precept was approved by all, proposed by Cllr. Bowtell and seconded by Cllr. Downes. The clerk will send the precept demand to EHDC by January 15<sup>th</sup> 2020.

**PLANNING.**

19.194. 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 was under appeal (3/18/0918/FUL). The appeal has been rejected and the date for the removal of all structures and resultant materials on the land is now set at 7.2.20.

19.195. Cllr. Downes followed up complaints about the removal of trees and hedges at Woodside, with EHDC but the owners are not in breach of any tree protection orders.

**REVIEW OF BYWAYS IN WESTMILL PARISH (GT. MUNDEN 059/COTTERED 047)**

19.196. It was agreed not to wait for the consultation period proposed by Herts County Council but to send a letter of objection to the Traffic Regulation Order being lifted on these byways, asap. Cllr.

Mc Rae will draft a letter, citing traffic incidents that have been reported by members of the public recently which are in breach of the current regulations .

#### **LITTER.**

19.197. After research undertaken by Cllr. Downes and Cllr Pickup the bins have not been replaced but new lids securely fitted to the existing bins which ensures that they are now waterproof.

#### **HIGHWAYS**

19.198. Cllr. Downes has contacted Highways and HCC requesting road markings to slow the traffic down as there is a perceived risk of accidents happening in the village due to the increased amount of traffic. The presence of a nurse School and playground are also considered to be important factors. In their reply HCC have not recognised the need for these measures and therefore no further action will be taken. Cllr. Downes and Cllr. Bowtell are to pursue this matter further as the response was considered to be unsatisfactory. Highways have said that they will reinstate any markings that have been eroded due to road repairs eventually.

19.199. Cllr. McRae had asked M. Foskett to repair the uneven grass areas on the High Street; this work has now been completed by Mr. D. Mc Mullen.

19.200. The dangerous tree branches by the football pavilion have now been removed.

#### **RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

19.201. Cllr. Pickup proposed cleaning the benches on the Village Green in the Spring and then reviewing their safety as referred to in the Risk Assessment, this was seconded by Cllr. Bowtell and approved by all.

19.202. Two amendments to dates in RA to be made as incorrect.

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME.**

19.203. Mr. Downes informed WPC that there have been no major incidents in Westmill recorded in the past 3 months.

19.204. 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).

19.205 Sgt. Duncan Wallace, our local officer is to retire at the end of the year it was noted that he will be missed by the community due to his good service over the years.

#### **PROPOSED VILLAGE SIGN.**

19.206. Discussion of this issue was postponed until the next meeting when Cllr. Partridge will be present.

#### **GREG TRUST REPORT.**

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

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

19.208. Noted and attached to the minutes.

#### **PARISH CLERK/RFO POSITION**

19.209. 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.

**CASUAL VACANCY**

19.210. The clerk will advertise this vacancy, for a parish councillor, on the Village Notice board and website.

**FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH SWORD INN HAND OWNERS**

19.211. After discussion with Cllr. Mcrae the owner has agreed to make some changes to reduce the noise levels at proposed events. Cllr. Mcrae will put a list of upcoming events on the Village Notice board so that villagers will be aware in advance of them.

Cllr. McRae thanked everyone for their input.  
The meeting closed at 9.30pm

**Date for next meeting**

Wednesday 26th February 2020 at 7 30pm.

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