

MINUTES OF WESTMILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 30 November 2022 AT 7.30PM in Westmill Village Hall

Councillors: Michael McRae (Chair) Bernadette King Anne Downes Ray Partridge
Officer attending: Sarah Kubica (Clerk and RFO)

Present: 1 member of the public

Present: County Cllr Jeff Jones District Cllr Andrew Huggins

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

22.072 Apologies from Cllr Beaven and Cllr Pickup noted and approved by those present

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

22.073 Cllr McRae and Cllr King declared an interest in matters relating to the T&M Greg Trust in their capacity as Trustees of the T&M Greg Trust

MINUTES OF MEETING

22.074 The minutes of the WPC meeting held on 24 August 2022 were proposed by Cllr Partridge and seconded by Cllr King and approved as a correct record

UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT ON CHERRY GREEN LANE (CGL) UPDATE

22.075 Cllr McRae spoke recently with Sara Saunders East Herts Head of Planning. The applicants have been given the opportunity to amend plans in response to issues raised by East Herts. A further amendment with a deadline for comments of 28 November was received and WPC has responded. A decision in early December is anticipated. If approval is recommended then the application will go to Development Management Committee (DMC) but not guaranteed to be heard at the next scheduled DMC on 11 January. Cllr Huggins spoke to Sara Saunders today and reiterated that the application is currently under officer consideration. Cllr Huggins elaborated on the role of the DMC when questioned by Cllr Downes and confirmed that if the planning officer recommends approval, this will automatically go to DMC for decision because Cllr Huggins has requested this hearing. The DMC is a panel of 12 who represent EHC. Cllr Downes asked why EHC seem to be very accommodating to the applicants in terms of amending plans, as an individual would not be afforded the same opportunity and Cllr Huggins explained that if this reaches a Court Appeal, EHC could be assured that no points have been missed, providing enough information to build a legal case. Cllr Downes commented on the difficulty of a council having to dramatically increase the provision of pitches for a transient community who may choose to relocate to any part of the country at any time.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

22.076 A short discussion on litter picking arrangements took place.

FINANCE

22.077 Councillors received up to date bank ledger information by email from the RFO prior to the meeting.

22.078 RFO circulated information on payments expected to February 2023. The list of payments is an appendix to these minutes.

22.079 Budget proposal was circulated and a separate full council meeting for the discussion and approval of the budget will be held at 3pm, 11 January 2023 in the village hall due to budget complexity.

COUNCIL'S NEW PROVISION FOR BIN EMPTYING AND STREET CLEANING

22.080 Cllr Huggins confirmed that there would be no information regarding new litter pick arrangements while EHC and HCC final budget decision was outstanding. Cllr Jones agreed that it seemed likely the litter pick grant would end and that alternative arrangements were likely.

LIME TREES

22.081 Cllr Downes has been quoted £1300-£1700 to dead wood the village green Lime tree and was told that the tree looked healthy and not in urgent need of maintenance. Cllr King asked if the 18 lime trees aligning the high street could be pollarded less often than every 2 years due to budget constraints. Cllr McRae responded that pollarding less often may adversely affect the shape of the tree which retains a heritage characteristic of the village.

NEW PC 2023 PUBLICISING AND ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO STAND

22.082 Cllr King and Cllr Downes will meet with the clerk on 9 January to draft a leaflet to encourage residents to get involved and stand for council.

KEY ROLES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

22.083 Cllr McRae identified the key roles and responsibilities to be aware of: Planning, Highways, Risk Assessment, Defibrillator & kiosk inspection/report on WEBNOS, manage noticeboard, Christmas Tree, maintenance of 18 lime trees including disposal of cuttings assisted by Westmillbury Farm, village green maintenance/grass cutting, litter picking, bin emptying, condition of main street, parking/traffic speeds in village, approve and authorise payments, liaise with; GT regarding village facilities; local businesses; Police; district councillor.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

22.084 Dec 2 'Light the night' Christmas Tree lighting 6pm, 'A Christmas Carol' Half-cut Theatre at St Mary's 7.30pm, Dec 23 Carols on the Green 6.30pm

PLANNING

22.085 Current planning applications/decisions attached as an appendix to these minutes

HIGHWAYS

22.086 Cllr Downes reported fault in October on southbound exit to A10 where road has cracked and sunk creating a dangerous dip. Cllr Downes today spoke to highways and fault had been allocated as a pothole rather than a change in road condition. Cllr Jones to follow up. Cllr McRae reminded Cllr Jones that village signs have yet to be replaced.

RISK ASSESSMENT

22.087 Nuisance parking on the village green highlighted and additional bollards funded by a grant suggested.

POLICE REPORT/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

22.088 PCSO Karen Broad not available for the meeting today

GREG TRUST (GT)

22.089 Cllr McRae updated all present that a structural engineer has inspected and repairs to the Village Hall roof and improved insulation in village hall cottage are scheduled for summer 2023 after obtaining permission as these are Grade II listed. The grazing field has new fencing and tree work will be carried out along the allotment track to lift the canopy and also to remove 3 dead pines in the playground. GT will celebrate its 100 year anniversary in 2023 and a local field once owned by Mary Greg will return into GT ownership in this anniversary year.

CLERK/RFO REPORT

22.090 Clerk attended training on Parish Council elections, key 2023 dates: 5 April statement of nominations, 4 May polling day, 9 May change of Council. Clerk also attended the town and parish planning forum and provided a brief summary.

MATTERS ARISING

22.091 None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

22.092 22 February with 17 May, 13 September, 29 November 2023 proposed

MEETING CLOSE

22.093 The meeting closed at 9.23pm. Cllr McRae thanked everyone for their contribution

Cheque/DD	Item Description	Amount (VAT incl)	Payee
Payments since last meeting 24 August 2022			
BACS	LITTER AUGUST	97.50	M.MASON
BACS	LITTER SEPTEMBER	97.50	M.MASON
BACS	LITTER OCTOBER	97.50	M.MASON
BACS	CLERKS SALARY JUL-SEP	250.00	S KUBICA
DD	WEBSITE & EMAIL AUGUST	9.60	IONOS
DD	WEBSITE & EMAIL SEPTEMBER	9.60	IONOS
DD	WEBSITE & EMAIL OCTOBER	9.60	IONOS
BACS	GRASS CUTS SEPTEMBER x1	51.00	M FOSKETT
BACS	GRASS CUTS OCTOBER x2	102.00	M FOSKETT
BACS	DONATION FOR MEETING ROOM USE	25.00	ST MARYS
BACS	DEFIBRILATOR MAINTENANCE SUBS	151.20	CHT
BACS	CHRISTMAS TREE	125.00	PARKINS DANE END
BACS	DONATION	25.00	ST MARYS
BACS	CLERK ELECTION TRAINING	30.00	HAPTC
Payments expected to February 2023			
DD	WEBSITE & EMAIL JANUARY	9.60	IONOS
DD	WEBSITE & EMAIL DECEMBER	9.60	IONOS
DD	WEBSITE & EMAIL NOVEMBER	9.60	IONOS
BACS	EXPENSES OUTDOOR TREE LIGHTS	50.00	J BEAVEN
BACS	CLERKS SALARY OCT - DEC EST	300.00	S KUBICA
DD	ELECTRICITY DISCONNECT	235.00	EON NEXT
BACS	GRASS CUTS LATE OCT/NOV	102.00	M FOSKETT
BACS	LITTER NOVEMBER	97.50	M.MASON
BACS	LITTER DECEMBER	97.50	M.MASON
BACS	LITTER JANUARY	97.50	M.MASON
BACS	PC ELECTIONS ADVERTISING TO RESIDENTS	25.00	ESTIMATED
BACS	DONATION	1000.00	GREG TRUST
BACS	DONATION	200.00	ST MARYS
BACS	LIME TREE POLLARDING EST	600.00	T FULLER

Planning Application Consultation	Location	Deadline/ Decision Date	Description/Comments	Decision	LPA Appeal Ref
3/21/2509/FUL	Land at Cherry Green Lane	28/11/22	Change of use of the land for 2 Gypsy and Traveller residential pitches, accommodating the siting of 2 mobile homes, 4 touring caravans and 2 dayroom/amenity buildings, alongside the formation of an access road, areas of hardstanding, provision for foul water drainage and widened site entrance onto CGL	Amendment to Highways, Ecology, Landscape Pending	N/A
3/22/0971/FUL	Land East of Wakeley Farm	20/06/22	Change of use of the land for the siting of 3 glamping cabins. Hard surfacing for parking areas (retrospective)	Pending	N/A
3/22/2003/LBC	Coles Hill House	25/10/22	Demolition of timber framed and timber boarded outhouse	Pending	N/A
3/21/0909/LBC 3/21/0908/FUL	Knights Hill Farm	31/10/22 31/10/22	Convert agri building to 3 bedroom dwelling. Demolition of ancillary outbuildings/stairs. Install new walls, internal stairs. Change of use.	Grant consent with conditions	N/A
3/21/1792/LBC 3/21/1791/FUL		09/08/21 10/08/21	Change of use of a group of agricultural farm buildings into 4no. dwellings and associated works	Pending Pending	
3/22/0345/FUL	Land at Whatbarns	15/09/22	Erection of an agricultural grain store building to replace the temporary grain store	Grant consent with conditions	
3/22/1914/ARPN 3/22/1915/ARPN	Barn 1 Gaylors Farm Barn 2	27/10/22	Change of use of agricultural barn to C3 (residential), to create 1 dwelling Change of use of agricultural barn to C3 (residential), to create 3 dwellings	Prior approval required and granted with conditions	
3/22/1531/LBC	The Pilgrimage 7 Pilgrims Row	22/08/22	Replacement and lowering of kitchen floor with limecrete	Pending	