

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19th March 2024 at 7:30pm at Westcott Cricket Club

Attendees

Cllr Sue Pusey (Chairman) (SP), Cllr Grahame Pusey (GP), Cllr Sue Lacey (SL), Cllr Jo Hooper (JH), Cllr Kevin Ready (KR), Cllr Tony Wilkinson (TW).
Ward Councillor – Cllr Ashley Waite,

Part One

127. Apologies

None

128. Open Forum

One member of the public reported that the village notice boards were in poor condition and needed cleaning or replacing.

One member of the public raised concerns about the speed of traffic proceeding through the village, and suggested that that the speed should be restricted to 30mph from the roundabout. SP reported that this had been looked into before but had been rejected due to the lack of residential properties at that part of the village. SP noted that it would be put on the agenda for future discussion.

One member of the public reported that there had been a good turn out for the litter pick on the previous Sunday.

129. Declarations of Interest

SL noted a non-prejudicial interest in Item 143 as a member of Westcott Cricket Club.

130. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19th December 2024

Cllrs asked that the following changes be made.

- That Tony Wilkinson was in attendance.
- Cllr Waites report – Road closure by Crown in Cuddington for Thames water not resurfacing.
- Village Clean up – that the Cllrs agreed to cover the costs.
- Urgent matters – Not SP but JH who mentioned a problem with lack of dropped kerb on High Street not Burnham Road.
- Dog Bins - GP to look at compatibility with current bin fixings.
- Cricket Club – holds yearly barbecues but had three last year.

Cllrs resolved that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting.

131. Clerks Report

BM noted that issues would be picked up under agenda items.

SP asked BM to contact Nigel Gough of the Environment Agency regarding the fires at Waddesdon

Manor.

132. Reports.

I. Burial Ground & Churchyard
No update

II. Website
No update

III. Village Green

SL reported that a lorry had been driven on The Green.

IV. Charities
No Update

V. Buckinghamshire Council

Cllr Waite noted the following points:

- The Bucks Council budget had been agreed, with a 4.99% increase in Council Tax.
- That the Bernie Bus project was growing and they were engaging with additional users to increase trips.
- I'd Like to Borrow project was launched at Quainton Railway Centre
- Id Like to Borrow a Bike looking for bike donations and volunteers to set up a repair café.
- The HS2 closure had been miscommunicated and it was the first closure of a planned 8 or 9, which are booked in pairs to allow a contingency day. Only the contingency day had been notified in this instance.
- The following road closures:
 - 20/3 - 21/3 past Policott two way lights for patching.
 - 24/3 - Upper Winchendon opens after the closure.
 - 25/3 - 26/3 - closure of Winchendon Road to Cannons Hill – Chersley.
 - 17/5- 24/5 HS2 closure.
 - 28/5 - 17/6 A41 lights for substation work.
 - 24/6 - 27/6 A41 patching overnight closure Blackgrove road.
- Household support fund extended by six months for Helping Hands
- The changes to Planning guidelines including the removal of timeframes for holding Housing Stock.

VI. Speed Watch
No update

VII. Cycleway
Cllr Waite reported that the sticking point in the project was the route through Waddesdon Estate,

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but that the process needs to happen soon due to the restrictions of the funding.

Cllr Waite to invite Ben Feeney to the next weekend to update on the project.

VIII. Bucks Recycling

No update

IX. Other

SP reported that the Village Clean Up went really well, and the turn out was good.

SP updated on the meeting with the Venture Park, noting the following

- That several management changes which has caused delays in dealing with issues. The new management will hopefully address the unsightly entrance to the park.
- There was an application for a meeting room/café within the Venture Park next to the innovation centre.
- The second bund at Bucks Recycling was still waiting to be handed over.
- That Paul Phipps had stated that only 1 in 3 lights are used at night. The site ecologist is still unhappy with the levels of lighting at night. Nigel McKenzie to ask individual businesses what they can do to minimise lighting. SP to invite ecologist to a future meeting.

SL noted that freight postcodes had now been changed on the Venture Park website. GP noted that the What Three Words information had also been added.

SP noted that the sewage treatment planning is to be extended.

SP noted that Thames Water would be taking over the water supply of the following streets:

- Burnham Road.
- Raven Crescent.
- Linnet Drive.

133. Finance

Cllrs reviewed the accounts distributed by the Clerk up-to-the date of the meeting.

BM gave an update on HMRC noting that the obsolete security details had now been changed.

BM gave an update on Unity Trust Bank noting that they had said that there was Dual Authority on the online banking, meaning that only one cllr needed to authorise and that WPC would need to ask for Triple Authority to change it. SP asked BM to revert back to the bank as she didn't believe this had always been the case.

134. Planning Matters

- 24/00803/APP – 19 Burnham Road – Loft Conversion/Roof Extension. Cllrs had no objection.

135. Enhancements to the Green

BM reported that he had sent out the specs for quotes. BM to share quotes ahead of April meeting.

136. Village Green

BM presented the quotes for the tree survey.

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TW proposed accepting the Whole Tree Company quote.

SP seconded

Cllrs agreed.

BM updated that he had a site meeting with Caloo regarding the different options with wet-pour.

TW suggested asking about other materials.

137. Streetlighting Upgrade

BM updated on the quotes for the upgrade to the streetlighting.

SP asked BM to look into additional sources of funding to cover the costs.

138. Dog Waste Bins

TW to pick dog bins up from SP and investigate fixings.

139. Faith Beaumont Charity Representation

SP proposed TW remaining as the Faith Beaumont Charity Representative

JH seconded.

Cllrs agreed.

TW agreed to remain as WPC representative.

140. Westcott School Consultation.

JH and SP had met with Greg Smith MP to discuss, and had submitted a response on behalf of WPC. The MP has been in contact with Bucks Council on this matter. Bucks Council could make a compulsory purchase, but the low numbers, and low birth rate, mean that they couldn't make a compelling business case. The consultation is now closed, but responses submitted during the next six-week phase could still be taken into account. There had been 40 responses so far.

JH stated that she felt it was a fait accompli.

Cllr Waite noted that the school's Faith basis made the situation financially complex and part would revert to Crown Estate, but other parts could be sold.

JH noted that there was currently no catchment school for children in the village.

Cllr Waite to liaise with JH on the issue.

141. Casual Vacancy

BM updated on the Casual Vacancy process noting that the Council was now in a period of Public Notice to call an election until 9th April 2024.

142. Annual Parish Meeting

SP suggested asking the Venture Park ecologist to be a guest speaker, with refreshments at 7:00pm and meeting start at 7:30pm.

BM to make a poster for the noticeboards and the website.

143. Cricket Club Funding

Cllrs discussed the application for funding from the Cricket Club, and stated that they would like to engage with a representative of the club at a future meeting.

BM to invite a representative.

144. News Items

CLLrs asked for the following items to be put into a piece for the newsletter:

- That WPC have been engaging with the MP on the School Consultation.
- That there will be a Tree Survey.
- That the quotes for enhancements to the green are being requested.
- That the council are looking to upgrade the street lighting.

145. Urgent matters of note

JH reported that spoil had been dumped at Gypsy Bottom next to Watt Bridge Cottage.

SP noted that the following streetlights were currently not working.

- Second light on Lower Green.
- Near to the entrance to Raven Crescent.
- First past The Green on the High Street.

SL reported that rubble had been dumped opposite Cripps Farm and that the verges had been damaged.

SL reported that she had made a complaint to Bucks Recycling on 28th Feb but had had no response.

TW reported that there were night flights of drones being reported. SL noted that the planning had stipulated that there wouldn't be flying outside of buildings. SP to liaise with Venture Park.

146. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 30th April 2024 at 7.30pm.

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 21:26

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Date Agreed:

Signed:

Position: – Chair/Vice Chair/Councillor