

WESTCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Barry Malki – Clerk

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www.westcottparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 09th July 2024 at 7:30pm at Westcott Cricket Club

Attendees

Cllr Sue Pusey (Chair) (SP), Cllr Grahame Pusey (GP), Cllr Sue Lacey (SL), Cllr Jo Hooper (JH)

Ward Councillors – Cllr Ashley Waite

Officer of the Council – Barry Malki

Part One

30. Apologies

Cllr Kevin Ready (KR)

31. Open Forum

One Member of the Public reported a pot hole on Lower Green. SP recommended reporting on Buckinghamshire Council's Fix It page.

One Member of the Public raised the issue of grass cutting, noting that it was impacting resident with mobility issues. SP stated that BC had informed that the grass would be cut on 08/07/24 but it hadn't happened. Cllr Waite reported that the work was scheduled for week commencing 22/07/24. SP informed the resident that WPC would be looking into taking over responsibility for the grass cutting.

One Member of the Public reported that they would like to see Westcott issues raised in the WWW newsletter. BM reported that he had been sending items by email, but they weren't being included. BM to phone the WWW to investigate. The resident would also like to see more updates on the website and the Facebook page. JH suggested tabling Communications on the August agenda.

One Member of the Public asked for an update on the school closure. SP reported that BC wouldn't give any information out until the decision had been published.

One Member of the Public reported an issue with speeding traffic and lorry movements. TW noted that there were moves to close the road to HGVs. The resident asked if there were any traffic calming measures available. TW noted that WPC had tried before but the data collection required to make a case was prohibitively expensive.

One Member of the Public stated that they would be keen to see more visibility of WPC's proposed spending as it wasn't clear from the documentation available. TW outlined the budget setting process and how that informed the precept.

32. Declarations of Interest

None

33. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2024

It was resolved that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

34. Clerks Report

BM noted that report items would be covered in the agenda.

35. Reports

- I. Burial Ground & Churchyard – No update. SL agreed to tidy the war graves.

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- II. Website – BM noted that he had been making updates to the website and had set up a Clerk Facebook Profile
- III. Village Green – No update
- IV. Charities – TW reported that there had been a meeting of the Faith Beaumont charity. No grant decisions were made, but a governance review had begun.
- V. Buckinghamshire Council – Cllr Waite reported:
 - that there had been a lot of delays at BC due to the general election.
 - The stretch of road from Westcott to Ashendon had three road closure licenses between July and December, but assured Cllrs that it wouldn't happen.
 - Balfour Beatty have had resourcing issues which is affecting services.
- VI. Speed Watch – No update. TW gave an update on the process for volunteers to undergo training. SP noted that more volunteers from the village were needed.
- VII. Cycleway – JH reported that there was no update from BC as they are waiting for a decision from Waddesdon Estate.
- VIII. Bucks Recycling – SP reported that she had received an email from Bucks Recycling with a revised management plan and would find out when the next liaison meeting is.
- IX. Other – JH noted that there was a meeting on 19th July regarding the land behind Lower Green, but that there had been no mention of devolution. JH to posit the question before the agenda is published.

36. Finance

Cllrs noted the financial report and asked that it be published with the agenda.

37. Planning Matters

- 24/01909/APP - 46 Lower Green Westcott Buckinghamshire HP18 ONS - Householder application to raise roof height of the existing garage / side extension. Installation of 14 solar panels to south facing roof slope, removal of 2 chimney stacks and replacement of rear windows with french doors.

Cllrs had no comment.

38. Village Green Enhancement

JH updated on revisited quotes as the original quotes had all included posts that were too high. To date, only one contractor had returned a revised quote. BM to keep chasing other quotes.

39. Devolved Grass Cutting

SP asked Cllr Waite to provide maps for grass cutting areas for potential devolution. Cllr Waite to send information over.

SP asked the Cllrs if there was an appetite for taking responsibility of the grass cutting. Cllrs agreed to look into costs and financial implications. JH suggested asking Ashendon PC for their devolved grass cutting costs. Cllr Waite suggested asking Berryfields PC. SL stated that the verges were wide, and wouldn't need doing completely.

40. Tree Works

GP to meet with another contractor on site to get a further quote.

41. Wet Pour Strategy

SL suggested making the overall area of wetpour smaller to save money and provide a more rural aspect.

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TW noted that different surfaces had been looked at previously.

SP to speak to Cllr Waite regarding the playground at Berryfields.

BM to look into other options for surfacing.

42. Westcott Venture Park

SP reported that a hedge had been planted across the former entrance but that the concrete blocks remained. There had been no response from the site manager regarding flooding or HGVs, but they had claimed that Bucks Recycling were responsible for much of the light pollution. The circuits to Hangar 5 have been shut off, but Cllrs reported that it had had no impact. TW suggested getting photo evidence.

43. Westcott Cricket Club

SL stated the Council needed an advertised policy and process for funding, including attendance of a meeting.

JH suggested putting more information on the website that sets out criteria and sets expectations, and potentially signpost people to other funding sources.

CL believes that the WCC representatives should have been invited from the start

JH and SP to liaise with BM to provide a response from the Council.

44. Annual Parish Meeting

SP suggested 13th May for APM. Cllrs agreed.

45. News Items

BM to report the following:

- School Closure
- Grass Cutting Deadline missed
- Possible Road Closures
- Quotes for various works

46. Urgent matters of note

JH reported that there was a meeting on 12th July to decide the fate of the school, but noted that there had been no further communication from BC or the ward Cllrs. JH stated that it was important to record the WPC had been fighting against the closure, but the decision was a fait accompli from the start. JH asked that it be an agenda item in August.

BM reported on the Rural Housing Enabler programme and that there were a series of meetings for more information. BM to send links to meetings.

SL asked about the Dog Waste Bins. TW reported that they were in hand and would be erected shortly.

47. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 20th August 2024 at 7.30pm

Agreed

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 21:19

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Date Agreed:

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Signed:

Position: – Chair/Vice Chair/Councillor

DRAFT