

WESTCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Barry Malki – Clerk

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www.westcottparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th August 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), Cllr Tony Wilkinson (TW).

Ward Councillors – Cllr Ashley Waite

Officer of the Council – Barry Malki

Part One

48. Apologies

Cllr Kevin Ready (KR)

49. Open Forum

One Member of the Public asked if there was any update on the School Closure. SP reported that the school would be closed on 31st August and there had been no further information, but that the Council were chasing for updates.

50. Declarations of Interest

None

51. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2024

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

52. Clerk's Report

BM noted that some report items would be covered in the agenda, but updated on:

- That there was a new contact for streetlighting repair and that they would be attended to by the 30th August. SP asked that the LED lighting should be on the October Agenda. BM to look at the rules regarding loan funding.
- SP noted that the pothole on Lower Green had been reported.

53. Reports

- I. Burial Ground & Churchyard – BM noted that there had been an application for a memorial stone, but the conversations had highlighted some discrepancies between the form and the guidance doc. BM to rectify documentation and to reference NAMM specifications for fixings.
- II. Website – No update.
- III. Village Green – see item 56.
- IV. Charities – No update.
- V. Buckinghamshire Council – Cllr Waite reported:
 - that the Village Connex bus service pilot had been launched, and if successful, would be rolled out across the country
 - That the Council was looking at options for cashless parking across the County.
 - Bucks Council had published its report on Housing Need and Housing deficit figures.
- VI. Speed Watch – No update.
- VII. Cycleway – No update.
- VIII. Bucks Recycling – SP had raised a noise complaint on the 19th and was told that the wrong

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equipment was being used for moving skips. Cllr Waite would revisit with the new enforcement officer.

- IX. Other – Cllr Waite reported that the Waddesdon Fires had been reported to the Environment Agency and there were now two case numbers for the issue.

54. Finance

Cllrs noted the financial report.

BM gave an update on the precept following Bucks Council's investigation of the 23-24 overpayment. The overpayment would be recouped out of this year's figure in the October installation.

55. Planning Matters

- 24/B0860/DIS - Plot 9000 Westcott Venture Park Westcott Buckinghamshire - Application for approval of details subject to condition 4 (drainage) 8 (whole life maintenance plan - drainage) relating to Planning Permission 24/00860/APP. **No Comment**
- 24/A0860/DIS - Plot 9000 Westcott Venture Park Westcott Buckinghamshire - Application for approval of details subject to condition 9 (soft landscaping) 11 (tree planting) 12 (hard landscaping) relating to Planning Permission 24/00860/APP **No Comment**
- 24/02273/ADP - Plot 9000 Westcott Venture Park Westcott Buckinghamshire - Application for approval of details subject to condition 9 (soft landscaping) 11 (tree planting) 12 (hard landscaping) relating to Planning Permission 24/00860/APP **No Comment**
- 23/A2021/DIS - Building 426 Westcott Venture Park Westcott Buckinghamshire - Application for approval of details subject to condition 3 (drainage) relating to Planning Permission 23/02021/APP **No Comment**
- 24/02278/APP - 19 Burnham Road Westcott Buckinghamshire HP18 0PL - Householder application for single storey front and side extensions **No Objection**
- 19/B2754/DIS - Land Adj Raven Crescent Westcott Buckinghamshire - Submission of details pursuant to Condition 5 (Arboricultural Method Statement) 7 (Hard and soft landscaping) 11 (drainage) 13 (charging points) 14 (materials) 15 (Details of all screen and boundary walls, fences and any other means of enclosure) relating to Planning Permission 19/02754/APP **No Comment**

JH noted that 24/01489/ALB had been approved

56. Village Green Enhancement

JH updated on revisited quotes noting that one contractor had pulled out, and the other would resubmit their quote in the next few days. BM to speak to Elaine Hassell regarding potential funding sources. Cllrs wish to display the plans on a board at the October meeting.

57. Defibrillator

JH reported that the school had offered their AED defibrillator to the Council but that the cabinet was not suitable for an external defibrillator. JH suggested applying to British Heart Foundation in October for a full set up, including cabinet. BM to contact ambulance service to see if they prefer unlockable cabinets. JH noted that the council need to liaise with the Cricket Club to discuss long-term maintenance of the cabinet and AED.

58. Casual Vacancy

Cllrs discussed the application from a local resident for co-option.

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SP proposed co-opting the resident.

TW seconded

Cllrs agreed.

BM to email the resident to invite to next meeting to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

59. Road Closures

GP reported that only seemingly random patches of tarmac were being repaired.

SP noted that the signage was inadequate and doesn't give enough notice.

Cllr Waite has found seven long-term road closures licenses in place, and has escalated the issue within the Council.

Cllr Waite reported that there was confusion about what was HS2 responsibility and what was Bucks Council responsibility. JH stated that the communications were inadequate. Cllr Waite felt that HS's communication was better than Bucks Council's.

SP reported an issue where two closures took place simultaneously causing severe issues. Cllr Waite stated that the issue was lack of internal communication after one job over-ran.

SP noted that residents accept that works need to happen, but communication needs to be much clearer.

Cllr Waite highlighted a civil suit being brought against HS2 regarding the risk assessment for blue light vehicles.

Cllr Waite reported that he was chasing for damaged and incomplete signs to be repaired.

60. Freight Strategy

SL stated that the strategy had been badly managed and had been four years in the making.

SP to send an official request to Cllr Waite to escalate.

SL reported that there had been a near miss with a tanker, and would send pics of vehicles in the village.

61. Land at Lower Green

JH reported that she had put the issue to the Cabinet Member for Communities. BM to invite Cllr Hussein to the October meeting.

Cllr Waite explained why there had been delays within Bucks Council

62. Devolved Grass Cutting

SP reported that the information sent from Bucks Council had not been useful as it didn't contain measurements or financial information

Cllr Waite reported that the costs couldn't be divulged until after the budgeting process

Cllr Waite to get measurements to WPC.

63. Tree Works

SP gave an update on the quotes for the tree works.

SP proposed awarding the work to Charles Connor

TW seconded.

Cllrs agreed.

64. Playground

Deferred to next meeting.

65. Westcott Venture Park

SP asked people to take pictures at night showing the extent of the light pollution.

SP reported that some lights had been deactivated, and she was still liaising with the management.

66. School Closure

Cllr Waite reported that 95% of the furniture had been donated to other schools.

Cllr Waite reported that he had been approached by a dance school, and a wellbeing centre and these proposals had been referred to the diocese.

SL and SP reported that they had been told that the Woodward Trust had refused to renew the lease.

Cllr Waite reported that after 31st August, the Council would have no further input.

Cllrs asked BM to conduct a land registry search to get a clearer picture of ownership.

67. News Items

BM to report the following:

- School Closure
- Possible Road Closures
- Quotes for various projects

68. Urgent matters of note

SL thanked TW for sorting the Dog Bins.

69. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 1st Oct 2024 at 7.30pm

Agreed

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 21:33

-----End-----

Date Agreed:

Signed:

Position: – Chair/Vice Chair/Councillor