

WESTCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held on 23rd August at 7.30pm in the Cricket Club Pavilion

PRESENT: Cllr Sue Pusey (Chairman) (SP), Cllr Anthony Wilkinson (AW), Cllr Jo Hooper (JH), Cllr Grahame Pusey (GP), Cllr Sue Lacey (SL), Cllr Hilary Vitkus (HV)

Officer of the Council – Barry Malki (Clerk) (BM)

67.22 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Ready, Cllr Caffery and Cllr Waite.

68.22 OPEN FORUM

One Member of the Public asked if there was any way to prevent Travellers from accessing the green. SP highlighted that there was a multi-phase approach being undertaken, with tree planting being the first phase. The second phase is likely to be a bund, but noted that it was not possible to install a fence, or posts.

One Member of the Public asked what would happen if trees were removed in order to gain access to the site.

JH noted that the removal of trees would constitute criminal damage, and would be within the remit of the police.

One Member of the Public asked why there had been a fire at the site.

One Member of the Public responded that the embers from a ground fire had been swept into a ditch before it was fully extinguished.

SP reported that, following a recent change in the legislation, the Council had complained about the recent temporary encampment on the basis that the group were obstructing the amenity. The instance was reported to the local MP to bring to attention of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The previous encampment involved a court order and cost over £2,000 in bailiff fees. The legislative changes should confer greater powers onto the Police, meaning that future bailiff action should be unnecessary.

JH felt that the Police response had been inadequate, despite the issue of the fire.

AW believed that the Police had failed their objective of crime reduction.

One Member of the Public asked if the tree planting project was being conducted with expert advice to ensure longevity.

JH reported that the trees had been sourced directly from an arboriculturist.

One Member of the Public felt that the traffic calming measures in the village weren't effective.

SP noted that the measures were for monitoring, rather than calming, although hoped that they would have an effect on people speeding.

One Member of the Public reported that there had been an accident in the village. An apparently drunk driver had thought the at limit in the village was 50mph.

SP reported that Speedwatch was to be resurrected when there were sufficient volunteers.

One Member of the Public noted that there were fewer lorries passing through the village recently.

One Member of the Public reported that there was an increase in dog-waste in the area, and that they felt

uncomfortable confronting perpetrating owners.

SP said she was unsure what the solution was, but that perhaps the signage could be refreshed.

69.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

70.22 MINUTES

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2022 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them as a correct record.

71.22 CLERK'S REPORT AND OUTSTANDING MATTERS

BM gave an update on access to various systems including banking, website, email etc.

72.22 APPOINTMENT OF CLERK

BM Introduced himself, and gave some background on his career and experience.

73.22 REPORTS

(i) Burial Ground & Churchyard

SP reported that the grass cutting contract was being monitored and appeared to be improving.

(ii) Website

JH has updated the website, but BM will take over.

JH will begin process to move all Cllrs over to a .gov.uk email address.

(iii) Village Green

SP reported that there were three burn marks now on the green and bags of waste that Cllr Waite had arranged for them to be collected.

SP reported deterioration of the play surface.

BM to obtain quotes for repair.

SP reported that the school wanted to use the green for sports activities.

BM to look into legalities.

(iv) Charities

HV reported that Beck and Fetto had a fundraising event on the Saturday.

(v) Buckinghamshire Council

SP reported that the council were looking to get funding from the Community Board towards anti-Traveller measures.

(vi) Speed Watch

SP reported that she needed to spend time on Facebook to raise interest and awareness of the Speedwatch programme, and was interested in getting the latest data from the monitoring device.

HV noted that the device monitors every vehicle, and believes that the data can be accessed remotely.

JH stated that it would be worth liaising with the Venture Park to raise speed awareness issues.

(vii) Cycleway

No update

(viii) Bucks Recycling

SL reported unusual vehicle sounds and wanted to investigate if this was to be attributed to Bucks Recycling.

JH confirmed that it was from the BR site.

(ix) Other

None

74.22 FINANCE

BM reported that as he had been unable to access the banking system, he was unable to provide an up-to-date financial position.

74.22 PLANNING MATTERS

22/02532/VRC

Cllrs Comments – The Cllrs were concerned about the reduction of affordable housing provision for those employed in the agricultural industries.

75.22 TRAVELLER UPDATE

SP noted that all items had been covered.

JH asked that the council gets clarification on the process from Mark Bowles.

76.22 WESTCOTT CLEAN UP

SP reported that she had made a post on Facebook, but asked others to share it.

JH noted that she had designed a poster that could be used online and in the notice boards.

78.22 TREE PLANTING

SL noted that the planting should take place when the soil is ready, following the dry spell.

JH reported that the Council was working with the School to plant the trees.

79..22 URGENT MATTERS OF NOTE

SL asked when the meeting with the Venture Park would be, regarding the concrete blocks.

SP noted that this needed to be put back on the agenda.

SL noted that lorries were cutting across the verge by the church at speed, and recommended investigating a 20mph limit there.

AW gave an update on the history of the Bucks Freight Strategy, which was trying to build a holistic picture across the county.

SP said the Council needed an update from Bucks.

SL asked if this could be on the agenda for the next meeting.

JH reported problems with the traffic flow at the roundabout.

AW believes that the roundabout is poorly designed.

JH has reported issues to TVP.

SP reported that the Bucks County Show coincided with the start of the new traffic management system at Berryfields, which was likely to cause issues.

80.22 NEXT MEETING Tuesday 4th October at 7.30pm in the Cricket Club Pavilion.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.30pm.

Signed (Chairman) _____ Date _____

DRAFT