

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 22nd August 2023 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).

Ward Councilors – _Cllr Ashley Waite,

Part One

45. Apologies

Barry Malki

46. Open Forum

No updates

47. Declarations of Interest

None

48. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2023

Minutes were confirmed to be an accurate record of the meeting.

49. Clerks Report

SP read out the Clerk's Report noting the following items

Extra Cut of Churchyard

Blades have quoted £90 + vat for an additional cut in August. If Cllrs agree, then the cut will take place on 29/08. Overgrowth has apparently settled compared to last month.

Action - clerk to arrange for one-off additional cut approved by council at meeting.

Street Lighting Repair

Apparently repair works have been under an eight-week delay. Workers attending w/c 28th. Survey of lighting has been carried out.

Action - clerk to check works have commenced as at 28/08/23

Dog Waste Bins

After further investigation, the "lockable" aspect of the dog waste bins refers to the front panel of the bin, not the lid. The type of bin supplied (and installed) by bucks is this:

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Front Opening Dog Waste Bin with Chute

The cost is £347.52 per bin.

The cheapest I found this product from a different supplier was £219.99 + vat (£263.99) for each bin, without fitting (or delivery). I haven't priced fitting for two bins, but I suspect it would be more than £160. Additionally, we would have two pints of contact of there was a problem (with either the bin, or the fitting).

My recommendation would be to go with the Bucks Council supplied bins. The amount has already been agreed, so I can press go as soon as the Cllrs give me the OK.

Action - approval to replace dog bins Ashendon road & The Green purchasing from Bucks council. Clerk to write to Westcott Cricket Club to ask it to purchase the requested bin. Once installed Westcott PC will add the bin to its collection and pay for the collection of waste.

Wet Pour

Have chased contractor for prices/timescales etc. The work could be covered by insurance, but would incur an excess fee and possibly increase premium (although this is likely to be cheaper than the cost of the wet pour).

Action - clerk to enquire & confirm that repairs will be covered by insurance (or not).

Action Tracker and Planning Tracker

These will be hosted online as live docs so that Cllrs can see real time updates. If preferred, they can be password protected, although the information is generally not sensitive.

Action - Approved in principle by Council. Clerk to set up and communicate updates as relevant.

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Emails

Awaiting responses from three Cllrs as to the status of using Westcott emails. If people are unable to access the emails, we can find a way to support them, but need to know where people are with the emails.

Action - In place by next meeting; Clerk to inform all councillors. (JH volunteered help with set-up if required.)

Burial Benchmarking

See separate report.

Action - clerk to revise with more research on fees charged by local parishes only.

50. Reports.

I. Burial Ground & Churchyard

See Clerk's Report

II. Website

ACTION – BM to renew SSL certificate. JH to advise.

ACTION – JH to update BM about new system with auto renew.

III. Village Green

SP proposed a formal thank you to PC Fenemore for attending and serving the S61 notices when the travellers were on site. – clerk to confirm this was done as not discussed at the meeting.

See minutes, ITEM 55, for further information.

IV. Charities

No update

V. Buckinghamshire Council

Cllr Waite noted the following points:

- 'Land behind Lower Green' proposal to devolve land to Westcott Parish Council for community use WILL NOT be considered by Bucks Council until April 2024.
- Greenway Extension to Westcott - Bucks Council (BC) has funding in place for the extension of the route to Westcott. Waddesdon Estates (WE) have not decided on the route for the extension. Once Waddesdon Estates decide on the route then planning permission will be applied for by BC/WE. Once the route has been agreed between WE & BC it will be prepared for planning approval. The route will be presented to Westcott Parish Council and residents for comments at this stage. No future Greenway Committee meetings are in the diary.

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- “I’d Like to Borrow” _lending library service is going well and picking up momentum.
- 10,000 Can Challenge to launch in September.
- ‘Bernie the Bus Runabout’ due to launch.

VI. Speed Watch

No update

VII. Cycleway

See update from Buckinghamshire Council.

VIII. Bucks Recycling

SL reported that BR were contacted about noise on the 21st July at 8am.

IX. Other

None.

51. Finance

Cllrs reviewed the accounts distributed by the Clerk.

52. Planning Matters

- 23/02228/APP - 4 Linnet Drive Westcott Buckinghamshire HP18 0PB - Householder application for single storey front and rear extensions
Comment: The Cllrs Object to this application on the grounds that it is not in keeping with the street scene as it extends beyond the building line of the adjacent properties. It is unclear from the submitted drawings how the size of the two proposed extensions relate to neighbouring properties. The Parish Council ask for accurate drawings and measurements for this to be submitted for consideration.
- 23/02021/APP - Building 426 Westcott Venture Park Westcott Buckinghamshire - Demolition of a dilapidated building and the erection of 4no. light industrial units with associated parking and hardstanding
Comment: Cllrs wish to remind the Officer that WVP had agreed to consider more suitable colours to fit with the environment rather than the ‘industrial grey’ in the application.

- The Skylight windows on the angled roof of the single storey extension at the front of the house are out of character with all neighbouring properties.

53. Information Commissioners Office Update for Parish Councils.

Renewed for this year. Continue to review and renew based on best practice for local councils.

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54. SID Issues

No response has been received from the company that the SIDs were purchased from. SP to chase up.

55. Enhancements to The Green

16/08/23 – Scot Gear of RGL Surveys undertook a survey of The Green to identify the locations of underground utility cables. This is the email received from RGL:

"I have traced Power and BT along the area suggested for new posts/trees.

I have sprayed marker paint on the ground to indicate the line of both BT and Power. They both also have small flags indicating the position, BT in Blue and Power in White. I have not traced any other services but see nothing obvious above ground to suggest there are services there. I have not recorded their location on a plan, and I would suggest doing this as the flags should be removed to avoid interference from children and mowing.

As previously suggested, this gives an indication of the services that I have traced, and I would suggest a desktop utility search for all services (statutory records) to understand if any other services may cross the site. In addition, a Topographic survey followed by a full utility trace including GPR would be best practise."

The position of the services were then measured and plotted by JH (See plan). The resulting measurements were shared at the meeting. Both the BT & power cables are very close to the edge of The Green where it meets with School Lane and the access road to Charleston. This makes digging along the boundary edge for tree planting or construction of a low fence, installation of posts or a bund potentially hazardous unless the next steps survey suggested by RGL is done.

Updated suggestion is to plant native species trees in a natural randomised planting formation at the top end of The Green (Area A) which will improve biodiversity, provide more shade and infill large open spaces. A solution to prevent vehicular access along the remainder of The Green will be sought from professional contractors. SL to provide JH with contact details of a recommended contractor.

56. Seniors' Christmas Lunch.

Approved. SP to contact caterer and agree a workable date.

57. Urgent matters of note

JH was approached by the resident of High Street, adjacent to The Green. They expressed worry about the size of the large tree close to their property. It was resolved discuss at the next meeting with Clerk to find a company* to survey the condition and any works required to the trees on The Green, Burial Ground and churchyard.

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58. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 3rd October 2023 at 7.30pm

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 21:00

-----End-----

Date Agreed:

Signed:

Position: – Chair/Vice Chair/Councillor

DRAFT