

**WESTCOTT PARISH COUNCIL**

Barry Malki – Clerk

clerk@[westcottparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@westcottparishcouncil.gov.uk)

[www.westcottparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.westcottparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 at 7:30pm at Westcott Cricket Club**

**Attendees**

Cllr Sue Pusey (Chairman) (SP), Cllr Grahame Pusey (GP) Cllr Tony Wilkinson (TW), Cllr Kevin Ready (KR)

**Part One**

**60. Apologies**

Cllr Sue Lacey (SL), Cllr Jo Hooper (JH), Cllr Hilary Vitkus (HV), Cllr Ashley Waite.

**61. Open Forum**

Reverend Caroline Wainman gave an update on the status of the Church, and noted her intention to raise her profile within the Parish.

Over the previous six months plaster began to drop from the Church ceiling, increasing following potential water ingress. This had led to a temporary closure of the church on health and safety grounds, with a halt on services. Currently, there is a delay on repairing the ceiling pending the results of a bat survey. Rev. Wainman noted that the small congregation meant that the cost of running the church was supported by a small number of people. At some point, the viability of the church will need to be addressed, and there is potential that it becomes redundant. Rev. Wainman confirmed that this was not on the agenda at the moment, and plans were still in place for the Christmas Carol Concert.

Rev. Wainman noted that she was happy to support future events run by the Council.

SP asked for an update on the school, as Rev. Wainman is a Governor. Rev. Wainman reported that there was an approaching multi-agency meeting to discuss the status and future of the school following an “Inadequate” rated by Ofsted. She noted that the high-turnover of temporary/interim Head Teachers meant that parents had lost confidence in the school. KR asked what the current capacity of the school was, compared to peak capacity. Rev. Wainman confirmed that peak capacity was around 100 pupils, but the current intake was around 40.

**62. Declarations of Interest**

None

**63. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023**

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

**64. Clerks Report**

BM gave an update on the following items.

- 1) Streetlights – now repaired after two visits on September 26<sup>th</sup> and September 28<sup>th</sup>. We have a named, dedicated liaison now. SP reported that the next lamp along from Station Cottage was not working. BM to report.

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- 2) Burial Ground – following recent benchmarking, realised that we didn't have accessible guidelines for memorials etc, and a memorials form. These have drafted for discussion alongside benchmarking in November.
- 3) All meeting dates are now appearing on the Cricket Club calendar (following the Club not being opened last month).
- 4) Parish Council Emails. Four Cllrs are live. SL needs to try a different laptop, email wouldn't work on Work Laptop. KR and TW asked to have the email information resent.
- 5) Arboricultural Survey needs to be approved. £480 (inc Vat) by Devey Tree Care. SP proposed the figure. GP seconded. Cllrs agreed.
- 6) Soft Surfaces in Milton Keynes. Responded to survey, asked for two quotes (full replacement and patching). Awaiting price likely to be around £1000. The patching works can be claimed on the insurance, with an excess of £250.
- 7) Dog Waste bins. Bucks Council no longer dealing with Supplier. Options are to wait for new supplier, or to order directly. Kingfisher Direct £249 (+VAT) not including installation. Westcott Cricket Club to discuss extra bin at next committee meeting. SP asked to table at next meeting after feedback from Bucks Council.

### 65. Reports.

#### I. Burial Ground & Churchyard

See Clerk's Report

#### II. Website

SSL certificate had been updated.

#### III. Village Green

SP noted that there would be a litter pick on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 10:30am

#### IV. Charities

No update

#### V. Buckinghamshire Council

Cllr Waite had sent through the following points:

- There was no date set for the Greenway Meeting, but that the route was closer to being agreed between stakeholders.
- The fires on the Waddesdon Estate had been reported to Environmental Health. Waddesdon Estate had responded to Environmental Health, but Cllr Waite had had no sight of the response. The farm manager had reported the fires as a "mistake" and that it wouldn't happen again, noting that the fields had now been given over to livestock. BM to contact Environmental Health for more information.

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- Ashendon Road repairs to start in September, currently awaiting the license approval.
- Bucks Recycling had received the results of the traffic survey.
- Father Christmas would be attending Westcott on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December.
- The “I’d Like To Borrow” initiative was looking for donors.
- The HGV Strategy would be discussed by the Cabinet before the end of the year (unclear whether municipal year, or calendar year)

VI. Speed Watch

No update

VII. Cycleway

No update

VIII. Bucks Recycling

No update

IX. Other

None.

### 66. Finance

Cllrs reviewed the accounts distributed by the Clerk.

### 67. Planning Matters

None

### 68. Tree Planting

SP updated, following correspondence from JH, that the erection of posts and planting of trees along the edges of the road would have a significant impact on the services in the areas. As a solution, JH has priced the installation of boulders, which would cost approximately £6k.

TW was not in favour of boulders and suggested that a height restriction on the road may be a useful barrier to larger vehicles.

### 69. Tree Survey and Wet Pour Update

See Clerk’s Report.

### 60. Westcott Email Update.

See Clerk’s Report.

### 61. Seniors’ Christmas Lunch.

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BM confirmed that there was £248 in the accounts towards the Lunch. SP suggested taking the residents to the Bucks Railway Museum for £25 per head with a cap at 30. SP proposed contributing £500 under S137. GP seconded. Cllrs agreed.

**62. Parish Planning Surgeries**

BM gave update on the proposed Parish Planning Surgeries, which allow Cllrs to liaise with Officers on planning issues. BM to circulate future dates when received.

**63. Urgent matters of note**

SP noted that Wescott was hosting the next Community Board Meeting.

BM to put together specification for Grass Cutting Tender.

**64. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm**

**Part 1 of the meeting closed at 21:00**

-----End-----

**Date Agreed:**

**Signed:**

**Position:** – Chair/Vice Chair/Councillor