

Westcott Parish Council

Amanda Ludlow – Clerk

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www.westcottparishcouncil.gov.uk

Meeting Minutes

29th July 2025 1930hrs at Westcott Cricket Club

Attendees

Parish Councillors

Cllr Sue Pusey	Chair	SP	Cllr Jo Hooper	JH
Cllr Tony Wilkinson	Vice Chair	TW	Cllr Sue Lacey	SL
Cllr Grahame Pusey		GP	Cllr James Sisk	JS

Officer of the Council

Amanda Ludlow	AL
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Agenda Point		Person /s to action
	Part One Meeting opened at 1930hrs.	
40	Apologies for Absence Cllr Ashley Waite – report sent and handover given to SP	
41	Open Forum SP welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and explained the proceedings of the meeting to all present. 1 member of the public was in attendance.	
42	Declarations of Interest None	
43	Approval Of Minutes No amendments - SP signed final filed copy.	
44	Matters Arising (not contained in the agenda) NOTED. Spreadsheet of actions list shared ahead of the meeting. Disclaimer for non-intended recipients to be added to the footer of all emails. SID's to be updated with new software	 AL GP

	Not suitable for HGV access signs have been put up at either end of the village AW to follow up AV estates – within the reports	
45	Clerks Report RECEIVED Circulated to all Councillors ahead of the meeting 1. Action points tracker spreadsheet updated and shared and sent ahead of the meeting. See 25-26 tab for this Council Years actions inclusive of last year's outstanding actions. 2. Burial Ground 1 memorial agreed to be erected on the grave of Mr and Mrs Howell 3. Thames Valley Police Ongoing communications between Susan Goodway and myself. An issues or concerns that are non-urgent should be sent to: waddesdonNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk Police and Crime bulletin shared with all for July 4. Waddesdon, Westcott and Winchendon Newsletter. Not printed in August 5. Westcott Church Reverend Caroline will attend the meeting in September to talk about raising funds for the church roof. Verbal estimate for ceiling repairs of £10k to 20k. 6. AGAR and external Audit External Audit submitted 25.06.25. receipt of documents received. Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance & Accountability Return to be announced Tuesday 17th June and commence from Wednesday 18th June until Friday 29th July. 7. Defibrillator Defibrillator training booked for the 2nd September at 1930 at the Cricket Club. St Johns Ambulance will be delivering the training for a donation to their funds. Advertised on website, Facebook and notice board. Paediatric and adult pads and spare batteries at the Cricket Club. Gary to be the main lead for topping up equipment and checking monthly.	

8.	Land ownership / drainage / Riparian Ownership	
	Land owners contacted by post. Names and addresses given by Bucks Council Devolution team.	
9.	Land at Lower Green	
	Email sent to Asset Management team on 30th June to invite them to a meeting. New person allocated – Paul Redstone – see agenda item	
10.	Street Lighting	
	Street light number 16 in Lower green was attended to in February but requires a new Lantern. Still awaiting a quote as this will involve UKPN as is a hanging lantern.	
11.	Westcott School buildings	
	No response received from Gordon Joyner	
12.	General Refuse and Dog Waste collection	
	Agreement signed and sent.	
13.	WPC Insurance	
	Pre renewal insurance questionnaire received from Gallaghers. Completed and returned and awaiting quote. Unable to request quotes until 30 days before expiry. Insurance renewal due 31st August 2025	
14.	Bucks Funding Search	
	On the advice of Ashley Waite, I have signed up for this funding search engine for Bucks. I will review and identify those funds / grants applicable to us throughout the year and share with all.	
15.	Westcott, Winchendon and Ashendon meeting re WVP and light pollution	
	Following contacts given by Ashley Waite, Ed from Winchendon and Venetia from Ashendon are happy to meet. Date and time tbc – Cllr Waite wishes to attend	
16.	Litter Station	
	Litter stations have been delivered to Bucks Council. Will follow up and we need to agree siting of the wall mounted station	AL
17.	Highways devolved services update request	
	Email received from Highways on the 22nd July requesting further information regarding the actual costs of devolved services. To be submitted by the 22nd August.	AL

	18. Local Election Recharge Mat Bloxham – Electoral Services Manager has been in contact regarding the Bucks Council recharge for the recent election. An invoice will be sent in August for Westcott Parish Council to pay £135 19. Holiday planning Please could all councillors let me know when you are on holiday and therefore unavailable to be contacted moving forwards.	AL
46	Reports RECEIVED I. <u>Burial Ground & Churchyard</u> Nil to report II. <u>Church and School</u> SP looking into listing of the school. GE Street and the Victorian Society to be researched into further. School hedge overgrown and impinging onto the pavements again. AL to send photos to Oxford Diocese III. <u>Website / email</u> - Agendas and minutes to be posted as PDF's IV. <u>Village Green</u> - Watering rota in process - Post that had been removed and reinserted the wrong way but no longer fitted has been refitted by Decorare. - Bucks Tree Officer email response sent to all. - Mulch / old woodchip to be sourced for new planting from September V. <u>Charities</u> Meeting for Faith Beaumont charity to be held 4th August. VI. <u>Buckinghamshire Council</u> Cllr AW absent due to holiday but he sent the following report which was read out by SP: Highways Blue HGV signs - have been ordered and installed at the a41 and Winchendon Hill, Combined with the white text sign	SP AL AL AL

	Green A41 signs - still ordered and chased Diversion routes - Email has been sent to the licensing team, to determine what circumstances traffic will be diverted through Westcott and Ashendon Freight Strategy - An email has been sent to Thomas Broom, the Cabinet Member for Highways to discuss the restart on the Freight Strategy. Fleet Marston Bridge - This is a complicated piece of work involving several teams and will need to be scheduled and chased before the bad weather comes High Street, Westcott - next to raven crescent 18/8 - 29/8 UKPN Bicester Road A41 - 7/8 - 9/8 Thames water opp Newhouse farm A41 overnight - resurfacing at Ludgershall 4/9 - 16/9 Ashendon High Street - 15/9 - 19/9 closed for re patching Other: AVE land - still awaiting feedback from Graham Cole at AVE following the board meeting at the end of June. Bucks Council - at the request of the chair, I have chased Paul Redstone at Bucks Council resources to move this along, I have also copied in the cabinet member Robert Carrington who will chase for a response Westcott Venture Park - Light Pollution - Ongoing issue, but reached out to Upper Winchendon and Ashendon who are keen to get involved with a combined campaign to get the lights turned down Westcott School – No further feedback Environment: Fly tipping – none to report Planning: Local Plan - The new plan for consultation will go out in September 2025 which will allow residents to comment on the next steps of house building across the county. The final plan will hopefully be in December 2026 after which there will be a period of examination with the final adoption of the plan in 2027 Littleton Green - Still hasn't been scheduled at strategic sites yet. The current numbers are 436 with 285 objections and 148 supporting. Ravens Crescent - Housing and planting of trees, there is a planting scheme with 10 additional trees and a hedge, this has been approved by the BC tree officer Ryan Lloyd Milwaukee Sign - I emailed Kirstie Elliott the planning officer for this sign to request that illumination is only for daytime only. Which has been agreed, But the sign is very large. 25/01544/AAD	
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	Bucks recycling - An email has been circulated regarding the result of the enforcement action against Bucks Recycling. The council has accepted while the building as a result of its size and location is deemed to be a perm structure as does require planning. Due to the location, and size the council has deemed that if planning was applied it would likely be successful. As enforcement is a service that is non statutory, budgets for enforcement are very limited so the conclusion is just to allow the building to stand with no further enforcement action which would be a direct legal cost to the council with no avenue to recoup any of those costs moving forward. The counter argument to this, there is no penalty for bad behaviour which is unacceptable and allows for future issues to surface. I have discussed this issue at length with the cabinet member for planning enforcement which is councillor Michael Bracken. This involved the unacceptable end result and the issues which a parish would have in representing and defending this issue to their residents. He is more than happy to take an email from the parish to discuss the issue further. Michael.bracken@buckinghamshire.gov.uk HS2 Station Road - North Tie In. Currently six weeks behind due to finding a UKPN cable which was not supposed to be there. North Tie in will reopen on the 1st September 2025 South Tie In, will start post September 2025 once agreement has been sorted with Network Rail Network Rail, they are currently occupying the overflow car park of the railway centre with a view to reestablishing the points and taking out the centre arch of the station road bridge. This is to take waste trains to great moor and will have a long term view of trains going from Aylesbury to connect to east west rail Timing is key, as access to the relevant parts needs to be coordinated between HS2, EKFB, NETWORK RAIL & THAMES WATER VII. <u>Speed Watch</u> Request for volunteers made at APM and in Waddesdon Newsletter VIII. <u>Bucks Recycling</u> SP to email Michael Bracken and Chris Manda. Planning submission for retrospective planning discussed. IX. <u>Venture Park</u> No response to regular emails sent by SP regarding sewerage, lighting. Drones etc. SP to call and gain Nigel's contact details X. <u>Other</u> Meeting regarding the Waddesdon Greenway to be held on 18th September 10 – 11. WPC to be represented. TPO email from Bucks Council discussed. This was guidance only and WPC can decide regarding trees to request TPO's to be put in place.	SP SP AL
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47	Finance Report NOTED Cllrs noted the financial report sent prior to the meeting. Bank accounts as at 29.07.25 <table><tr><td>Current Account</td><td>£8245.95</td></tr><tr><td><u>Savings Account</u></td><td><u>£21686.96</u></td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>£29932.91</td></tr></table> Payments to be made: £204.96 for AL Salary £151.90 for EON streetlight maintenance £1179 for Blades grass cutting £120 for HUT SIX web site management – annual £120 for Decorare post fixing £22 for P Land Hammerite paint – details now received £135 Bucks Council recharge for elections All present agreed these payments. WPC insurance – no quotations until 4 weeks prior to renewal. Last year was £873.11. This year to include the new trees, hedging, posts and gates on the village green. Quotations to be circulated to all and agreement made for insurance provider prior to the next meeting as due on the 31st August 2025 SL and GP reviewed 5 invoices and bank statements and agreed a true record.	Current Account	£8245.95	<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>£21686.96</u>	Total	£29932.91	
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48.	Planning Matters Planning Register shared prior to the meeting. 25/01691/APP Householders Application Lower Green – no objections sent 04.07.25 25/01876/APP Westcott Cricket Club – nets – no objection sent 04.07.25 25/01610/APP Householder application for 8 raven Crescent – no objections 25/02207/VRC Bucks Recycling – variation of condition 1 relating to application 21/04720/APP. Opposed due to not enough information of the process requested for us to make a decision on. ie chemical processes, increased smells, toxicity of gases released etc.							
49	Land at Lower Green Update Email received from Paul Redstone, Head of Property for Bucks Council. SP called as AL on leave but no response or call back. AL to follow up. AW – to discuss with AVE at a scheduled Board meeting with new directors (delayed due to elections)	AL AW						

50	Unauthorised temporary building – Bucks recycling, Westcott Venture Park Email received from Adam Pegley - Senior Compliance And enforcement officer for Bucks Council on the 23rd June. Shared with all councillors ahead of the meeting. Lengthy response detailing legal challenges and the councils decision to address our questions. In summary: How long is a temporary structure allowed to be in situe before being removed? Given the above, whilst we have carefully considered the impact of the above on residents it is considered the polytunnel causes limited planning harm and as such in accordance with 7.1.3 of our enforcement plan further action will not be taken in relation to this matter. It is well screened, not at odds with its surroundings (situated close to the waste operation structure) and supports Environment Agency objectives. Whilst we fully appreciate the concerns raised by residents, the facts from the site visit as above reduce the wider planning harm of the breach such that pursuing formal enforcement action would in our view be unlikely to be successful. Can an environmental health visit then trigger additional buildings without planning permission? Additional buildings would still be subject to the same planning considerations as given above, even if recommended by Environmental Health, as these considerations would not replace the planning process. How can a business found to be storing potential carcinogenic waste inappropriately continue to do so and report on it 4 months later as still to be resolved? A recent site visit confirmed that plasterboard was not being stored within the new structure and as mentioned above, the material being stored inside the structure (precious metals) is being stored at the request of the Environment Agency. The site will continue to be monitored to ensure compliance with the planning conditions moving forward and any additional concerns and evidence can be reported to the Council. What route(s) does the Parish Council go through to report continued breaches of a commercial premises that directly impact the community across 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? Environmental Health have a number of request and report forms, dependant on the issues raised, see Contact environmental health Buckinghamshire Council Planning Enforcement can investigate further alleged breaches of planning control, those can be reported at Report a planning breach Buckinghamshire Council The site continues to be monitored and will be visited and compliance with relevant conditions checked.	
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	End of email Fully discussed and all agreed the response did not address the initial questions, however it appears planning is now permanent.	
51	To NOTE Councillor Vacancies 1 vacancy for a parish Councillor. AL to put up a new poster to state this and add to Facebook	AL
52	Drone Flying Email read out to the Council from Tim Orchard by SP Firstly, please through, you may I tender my apology for tomorrow's meeting? My wife Trish and I took a late opportunity to take one of our balloons to Italy in order to join my (balloonist) daughter for the week. Hence, I am away from Westcott. I have made a total of seven representations to the self-declared "leader" of the group of drone operating firms based in the Venture Park. I have pushed for a meeting of each / all of those firms in order to discuss general public safety and also liaison with the (occasional) use of my airstrip. On successive planned dates for such a meeting either two or several of those concerned declined attendance at a late stage, thus making such a gathering not worthwhile. Most recently I have written to express my dismay at the apparent disregard for wishing to meet to discuss both aviation and public safety (my view, of course, as nothing has been proven to be unsafe ... yet). I again await some consensus to find a suitable opportunity. I mention that I have prefaced all of my discussions with the fact that I am constantly reporting any progress both to Waddesdon Estate and also to the Westcott Parish Council. Such "weight" apparently has little influence! I apologies that so far my endeavours have brought nought; I will continue, however. Kind regards Tim Orchard	
53	Urgent matters of note Planning enforcement to be contacted regarding the conditions on the donkey field being breached – hard core still present and shipping container remaining on site. School hedge urgently needs cutting – AL to contact the Oxford Diocese	AL AL

	Defibrillator training to be held 2 nd September at 1930hrs. All attending to notify AL.	
54	Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 9 th September 2025 at 1930hrs at Westcott Cricket Club	
	Part 1 of the meeting closed at 2054 hrs	

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Date Agreed:

Signed:

Position: – Chair/Vice Chair/Councillor