

Westley Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

03/05/17

Present: Chris Anderson (CA, Chair); all councillors except Alan Green; Jen Larner, Clerk (JL), Cllr Ian Houlder (SEBC), Police representative (SNT), Terry Clements (SCC), Karen Soons (prospective SCC candidate) and 5 Westley residents.

1. Apologies: Alan Green

2. Minutes: The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on 10 May 2016 were noted.

3. Chairman's Report – Chris Anderson summarised the work of the Parish Council over the previous year:

West of Bury development – any decision by the hospital on possible move is at least 20/30 months away. A site promoter is currently looking at the area, but no developer. He reassured villagers that any news will be communicated immediately.

Village gates – JS outlined the background to the plans and the current situation. Report attached to minutes. Thanks were given to Terry Clements for funding this.

Westley Bridge, Newmarket Road – it was noted that the parish council had been heavily involved in discussions to try and reduce potential traffic problems during its closure. Thanks were given to Cllr Mike Spenser-Morris for his input.

Fornham Lane – the resurfacing on this road carried out last year has not lasted and the parish council is keeping up the pressure on SCC to redo it this year. Parishioners were asked to use the SCC online reporting tool to help with this.

Love your Village – it was noted that 13 bags of litter were collected in the recent Spring Clean. Discussion took place regarding the state of verges, and of litter picking.

Vehicle Activated Signs – these are shared with two other villages in rotation.

Westley Middle School – concerns around litter along the footpath resulted in a visit to the school by the Chairman, and an agreement that the school will arrange regular litter picking.

4. St Edmundsbury District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Ian Houlder reported on the locality budget he will have next year, the latest development on the waste hub at Hollow Road, and the possible change by the Boundary Commission to recognise ongoing talks between Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury councils to form one council, West Suffolk.

5. Police Report – we heard that the team now consists of 11 PCSOs (2 in Bury St Edmunds looking at parking issues) and 3 PCs. There were 3 crimes in Westley last year, all at Home Farm, on derelict property. Police reports on crime are no longer sent out to parish councils, but are available on the police.uk website. Dwelling burglaries are on the increase, particularly in rural areas. It is important to report anything suspicious.

6. Suffolk County Council – Terry Clements reported on his retirement from SCC, and new post as Mayor of St Edmundsbury. He has this year committed locality funding to provide a new lawnmower for the Church grounds maintenance, and for the new village signs planned. He pointed out that he is happy to continue to support Westley in whatever way he can.

7. Any other issues raised – the issues of the inadequate footpath were raised, and villager were invited to send letters to SCC pointing out the importance of this path, and its health benefits such as active walking. It was agreed to put this issue on the July agenda.