

Westley Parish Council minutes

5 January 2017

Present: Chris Anderson (CA); Colin Clayton (CC); Alan Green (AG); Gary Smith (GS); Steve McClellan (SM); Mike Spenser-Morris (MSM)

Jen Larner (JL, Clerk); Ian Houlder (SEBC); five members of public;

Apologies: Jim Sweetman (JS); Terry Clements (SCC)

47/2017. Declarations of interest: None received.

48/2017. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2016 were approved and signed as a true record.

Adjournment for reports from SCC, SEBC, public participation.

A report had been circulated by Terry Clements.

It was noted that the granite chippings left on the pavement between the church and Burrells Orchard and at the junction of Old Church Lane following partial road re-surfacing, have still not been cleared. The clerk will follow this up with TC to chase with Highways.

49/2017. Newmarket Road bridge proposed road closure: an update was given on the situation by MSM. Following consultation with a structural engineer, Dr Tellett, he has held two meetings with Colin Godfrey, head of Highways (SCC), one on site to see the plans and hear about the problems around strengthening the bridge. He reported that the construction of the south side of the bridge is different from that of the north side, as BT has 8 ducts running through the concrete, so preventing the same strengthening work as on the south side. The cost of removing these is too great. The south side cannot therefore carry heavy vehicles. MSM has suggested that leaving the south side open for cars only, and prohibiting heavy lorries while the work is carried out could be an option. We await a response from Colin Godfrey. It was agreed that MSM will copy Ian Gallen (SEBC Chief Executive) into the correspondence in the hopes of SEBC pressure on SCC to prevent a road closure that will be a nightmare for Westley and the whole of Bury St Edmunds.

Mike, and Dr Tellett, were thanked very warmly on behalf of the parish council for his persistence and hard work in following this up.

50/2017. Finance – authorisation of payments: The following payments were authorised: Clerk salary to end of December £208.43; HMRC to end of December £11.00; Community Action Suffolk (website hosting) £60 (replaces previous cheque - not sent as VAT not added).

The balance in the bank is currently £3534.51.

51/2017. Budget 2017/18: the budget for 2017/18 was confirmed as £2425.

52/2017. Precept 2017/18: it was proposed by CA, seconded by CC and agreed by all not to increase the precept from last year, so the figure remains as £17.50 per Band D equivalent household. The tax base is 95.14, slightly down on last year.

53/2017. Dog waste and litter: the issue of dog fouling on the lane to Westley Middle was raised again, and discussed. It was agreed to install signs asking dog owners to be responsible – CA and GS will investigate costs etc. It was also agreed that the Clerk will write to Westley Middle school regarding the litter inside the fence ie on school grounds.

54/2017. Signs for the village: JS had circulated a proposal for signs for the village, and a letter to be sent to SEBC and SCC regarding possible funding. Discussion took place regarding the main objectives for the signs – to replace existing ones, or to help with traffic calming? If the latter, then

positioning is vital, possibly nearer the chicanes, and this needs pointing out both in the proposal and to villagers. It was felt that white has more impact, and that using a manmade material would require less maintenance. SM agreed to discuss this with JS, and ask him to amend the proposal and letter accordingly. The letter will then be sent to possible funders. JS was thanked for his report.

55/2017. Planning applications and notifications: Traffic Regulation Order for proposed 50mph speed limit on the Newmarket Road consultation. Noted.

DC/16/2649/FUL – Land adjacent 6 Bullens Close, Hill Road. Detached garage with ancillary accommodation. No objection raised.

DC/16/2756/HH – Fencing, 1 Burrells Orchard. This was discussed at length, with concerns being expressed about the visual impact of a fence on this bend, as well as whether it is planned for beyond the property line, and who is responsible for the soft verge/hedge, which has caused problems for pedestrians. It was felt that even if the hedge is removed totally, some greenery needs planting on the road side of a fence, to soften the view coming into the village. It was agreed that CA will talk to the applicant regarding our concerns as a first step, before possibly submitting an objection.

56/2017. Correspondence: Copies of the Local Councillor from SALC.

Date of next meeting - Thursday 2 March 2017 at 7.30pm.