

Westley Parish Council minutes

9 January 2019

Present: Chris Anderson (CA), Colin Clayton (CC); Jim Sweetman (JS), Steve McClellan (SM), Mike Spenser-Morris (MSM), Gary Smith (GS), Ian Houlder (SEBC); Karen Soons (SCC), Jen Larner (JL) – Clerk, Clare Norris (Pigeon), Peter White (West Suffolk)

Not present: Alan Green

45/2018. Declarations of interest: none

46/2018. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2018 were approved and signed as a true record.

47/2018. Reports from County and Borough Councillors – Karen Soons had circulated her January report. She reported that Highways issues were generally improved from last year, and that the roundabout at Westley has been resurfaced. The consultation regarding SCC funding for the Citizens Advice Bureau is now open, till 23 January. It was agreed to write a response from the parish council disagreeing with the decision to withdraw any funding, on the grounds that it will discriminate against those people who most need free help and advice. Individual councillors are encouraged to respond too, and residents.

48/2018. West of Bury plans. Peter White outlined the latest developments. According to Pigeon's website, they have bought the land including the site earmarked for the hospital redevelopment but no planning application has as yet been submitted. Discussion followed as to where future plans for the hospital might lie. A new local plan is being started by West Suffolk which will take 3-4 years, so any decision by the hospital should be known by then. The strategic policy decision from previous years was reconfirmed, ie the importance of a buffer zone between Westley and Bury and the need for a relief road if there is any development. It was noted that Underwoods land hasn't been sold yet, but that part of it is licensed to the church for car parking and it is important that this be maintained.

49/2018. Finance – authorisation of payments: The balance in the bank is £2979.83. The following payments were authorised: JL salary November £79.49 and December £94.80 (includes back pay to April). It was noted that there is a national payrise with effect from April 2019 for clerks.

50/2018. Budget 2019/20. The draft budget had been circulated and was discussed. It was agreed that no money would be put into reserves this year, but that £500 donation would be given to the Westley club. The contingency funding was also removed, but £750 of possible election expenses added in. This means that the budget for 2019/20 is set at £3455. It was agreed to raise the precept to meet some of this cost, and that the precept would be set at £2192, which at a tax base of 96.24, means that the cost for a band D equivalent property will be £22.78.

51/2018. Standing orders. New model standing orders have been received from NALC, incorporating new legislation around GDPR. These had been circulated and were agreed, with the changes made by the clerk.

52/2018. Defibrillator. Colin Clayton reported that he had spoken to the British Heart Foundation. If our application is successful, we would be entitled to £600 towards the cost, leaving approximately £1100 to be raised for the defibrillator and casing. It was agreed to send a letter to all residents to inform them of this, ask their views and encourage fundraising. Colin will draft this.

53/2018. Planning applications. None.

54/2018. Correspondence. Collision data for the crossroads had been received via Karen Soons, showing 6 reported incidents where injury had occurred and the police alerted. It was noted that vegetation at the crossroads makes visibility poor and CA agreed to keep an eye on its growth as the

year goes on.

55/2018. Matters of urgency. It was agreed to remind villagers of the coming elections for parish councillors and encourage people to attend the next meeting with a view to standing.

Date of next meeting: 7 March 2019

Jen Larner
Clerk