

Westley Parish Council minutes

11 July 2019

Present: Colin Clayton (CC); Jim Sweetman (JS), Alan Green (AG), Gary Smith (GS), Karen Soons (SCC), Jen Larner (JL) – Clerk. Meeting chaired by Colin Clayton.

Not present: Mike Spenser-Morris (MSM), **Apologies:** Chris Anderson, Steve McClellan, Ian Houlder (West Suffolk);

13/2019. Declarations of interest: none

14/2019. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2019 were approved and signed as a true record.

15/2019. Reports from County and Borough Councillors – Karen Soons had circulated her report. She encouraged any families with extenuating circumstances, or difficulties over the home-school transport arrangements to appeal. She is willing to help with this. She also reported on the current re-assessment of how SCC can best work with families with needs, so that the best help can be delivered. The A14 roadworks will include pothole filling, verge cutting, re-lining and, hopefully, litter picking. SCC has asked for partial lane closure for this work to be carried out, rather than total closure, and for the work to be done at night, not weekends. It was noted that traffic counting is being carried out in the village, and uncertain whether this is SCC or the developers. JS agreed to check on the box by the count, and, if not SCC, send details and photo to Karen.

The state of the road from the bridge past the chicane to the edge of the village was discussed, as this badly needs resurfacing. GS agreed to take photos and send to Karen, outlining why this needs doing urgently and how dangerous this is, particularly in heavy rain.

16/2019. Finance – authorisation of payments: The balance in the bank is £4682. The following payments were authorised: JL salary May £75.88 and June £81.93; HMRC £12.00; Churchyard donation £250; Trevor Brown (internal audit) £85.20. It was noted that the hall hire will rise from £6.50 per session to £10 per session with effect from February 2019. It was noted that reserves are a bit high proportionate to running costs, and it would be helpful to consider bigger projects to undertake in the village.

17/2019. Internal audit 2018/19. The internal auditor's report had been circulated. It was agreed and approved unanimously. It was agreed not to follow the recommendation (13.6) that the generation of electronic payments be separated from their authorisation. Thanks were given to Trevor Brown for his help.

18/2019. Defibrillator. CC had made an application to the British Heart Foundation which had been successful, and means we have to pay £600 for the defibrillator. This has now been ordered via the Westley club accounts. There have been three fundraising events to raise money for this and the cabinet. The Easter Egg event raised £300, the Bring and Buy sale £202, and the Barbeque £1500. The cabinet will cost £500, plus installation costs. CA and CC will organise this. JS agreed to set up a training programme – the defibrillator comes with DVD on CPR and use of the defibrillator, and some training mannequins. It was suggested that a small group of people form a defibrillator committee – maybe someone from each road. A volunteer is also needed to carry out regular maintenance checks on the equipment (eg checking pads, light, battery etc).

19/2019. Update on proposed development. Peter White of West Suffolk Council has confirmed that the Planning department does not consider Pigeon's application to be valid, Pigeon are arguing the case, so we await further news regarding the application.

20/2019. Planning applications. DC/19/1374/TPO – various work on trees at 6 Old Church Lane.

No objections raised.

21/2019. Correspondence. SSAFA letter and poster; SCC Rights of Way consultation has now started, going on till 20 September. This is to assess how to improve rights of way for cyclists, walkers, horse riders, disability access. It was agreed to put some evidence together of the overgrown state of the path to Westley Middle School and make a case for widening this to enable there to be a cycle lane. Photos will be taken, and the report finalised at the September meeting. The clerk will contact Karen Soons to see what information would be most beneficial.

Date of next meetings: 12 September

Jen Larner
Clerk