

Westley Parish Council minutes

7 March 2019

Present: Colin Clayton (CC); Jim Sweetman (JS), Mike Spenser-Morris (MSM), Alan Green (AG) Ian Houlder (SEBC); Karen Soons (SCC), Jen Larner (JL) – Clerk. One member of the public. Meeting chaired by Colin Clayton.

Not present: Gary Smith. **Apologies:** Chris Anderson, Steve McClellan

56/2018. Declarations of interest: none

57/2018. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2019 were approved and signed as a true record.

58/2018. Public session: the point was raised that in the new development plan from Pigeon, the relief road has been moved closer to the village, meaning that the proposed buffer zone would be narrower. It was noted that crossing the road is almost impossible.

59/2018. Reports from County and Borough Councillors – Karen Soons had circulated her February report. She reported that funding to CABs would continue next year. Ian Houlder reported that the precept for next year would be increased by approximately 4.5%. The amalgamation with Forest Heath to form West Suffolk will take place on 1 April, and the council taxes will be 'harmonised' over the next 7 years to make the two current district council precepts equitable.

60/2018. Report back from meeting/consultation with Pigeon on 4 February: the notes from this meeting are attached to these minutes. Delight was expressed at the excellent turn out for the public consultation, with villagers being well informed and asking good questions. Discussion took place regarding the buffer zone, and the need for sufficient native trees, properly planted and maintained. IH reported that the landscape plans have to be approved as part of the planning application. It was suggested that contact is made with the National Trust as there is historically a strong link, and concern about the sightline of the view from Ickworth House.

61/2018. Election process: discussion took place regarding how to encourage others in the village to stand for the forthcoming parish council elections on 2 May. It was agreed that another request will be circulated, with specific times given when one or more councillors will be present in the clubhouse to answer questions etc. Nomination papers were handed out, and CC has spares. They need to be returned to the Returning Officer at West Suffolk House by Wednesday 3 April, in person.

62/2018. Finance – authorisation of payments: The balance in the bank is £2808. The following payments were authorised: JL salary January £81.08 and February £81.08; JL expenses £9.45; hall hire for the past year (7 sessions) £45.50; SALC payroll £54. It was noted that the hall hire will rise from £6.50 per session to £10 per session with effect from February 2019.

63/2018. Internal audit 2018/19. It was agreed to appoint Trevor Brown to carry out this year's internal audit, at a cost of £100, plus travel costs shared with Wetherden Parish council.

64/2018. Defibrillator. It was noted that three responses had been received from the notification in the parish news. Suggestions were made regarding funding the cost of the defibrillator and cover and some ideas are in hand. CC will apply online, and put the technical details of the model selected in the newsletter. A question was raised regarding training and it was noted that BBC Suffolk is currently running training sessions, though these are not vital to be able to use the defibrillator as it's designed to be used by anyone.

65/2018. Planning applications. DC/19/0131/TPO – The Limes, Fornham Lane. Crown raise up to 5 metres, and reduce overall crown up to 40%. No objections raised.

66/2018. Correspondence. New, free, Suffolk Care Services Directory now available; response received from Cllr Richard Rout in response to our letter regarding CAB funding; Home Start information and request for volunteers; request re information on evacuee sent to Hall farm cottages; Connecting Communities bus information – bus passes no longer accepted.

67/2018. Matters of urgency. A vote of thanks was given to CA for his work as Chairman this year, and to the Clerk.

Date of next meetings: 9 May (NB Annual Meeting at 7pm, Annual Parish Meeting at 7.45pm).

Jen Larner
Clerk