

Westley Parish Council minutes

3 May 2017

Present: Chris Anderson (CA, Chair); Colin Clayton (CC); Gary Smith (GS); Jim Sweetman (JS); Steve McClellan (SM); Jen Larner (JL, Clerk);

Apologies: Alan Green

1/2017 Election of Chairman: Chris Anderson was elected chairman, proposed by JS, seconded by GS, agreed by all. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed and witnessed.

2/2017 Election of other officers: The following were proposed by GS, seconded by JS and agreed by all: Vice Chairman - Colin Clayton; Tree officer - Colin Clayton; Emergency officer - Alan Green; Responsible Finance Officer – Jen Larner; SALC contact – Jen Larner.

3/2017. Declarations of interest: None received.

4/2017. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

5/2017. Dates of meetings: The following dates were agreed for meetings in the coming year: 6 July, 7 September, 9 November, 4 January 2018, 1 March, 3 May (Annual Parish Meeting and Annual meeting).

6/2017. Report back on Love your Village spring clean: it was noted that 6 people turned up to help pick up 13 bags of litter. There was one complaint about foliage being cut back, but this had been dealt with by CA. It was agreed that having such an event is worthwhile, but that more work needs to be done to encourage others to participate, with clearer objectives set out.

7/2017. Update on village signs: JS reported that funding from Terry Clements' SCC locality budget had been agreed, but with elections tomorrow the new Councillor will have to approve this spending. This should cover all the cost of the signage. SCC is currently estimating the costs.

8/2017. Update on Highways report on Fornham Lane: it was agreed that MSM will contact SCC to see that they are chasing up the need for resurfacing. It is hoped this will be carried out before the September deadline of weather/temperature restrictions.

9/2017. Report back on Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Area Meeting: MSM reported back on this meeting, which had been well attended, with talks by Leah Mickleborough, monitoring officer for St Edmundsbury, Andrea Pittock of the Suffolk Community Foundation on grant funding opportunities, and Polly Kane on the BSE Masterplan.

10/2017. Finances: the RFO had circulated the accounts for the year ending March 2017, which shows an end of year balance of £3,475. The internal auditor will check all the end of year accounts in May. Income for this year – precept £1692. The following payments were authorised: clerk's Q4 salary £215.55, expenses £12.60, SALC payroll costs £18.

11/2017. Annual Return: the accounting statements and annual governance statements for the year ending March 2017 were approved, proposed by JS, seconded by GS and agreed by all. These were signed by the Chair and RFO as a correct record.

12/2017. Planning applications: DC/17/0617/CLE – Annexe 1 Westley Gardens, continued use as a dwelling. No objections raised.

DC/17/0675/HH 4 Bullens Close, two storey side extension. CA had been to look at this and talk to the owners. No objections raised.

13/2017. Correspondence received: copies of The Local Councillor, from SALC; funding request from the Voluntary Network.

Date of next meeting - Thursday 6 July 2017 at 7.30pm.