|  |
| --- |
| **Westley Parish Council Minutes 14 September 2023**  **Present:** Jim Sweetman (JS); Colin Clayton (CC); Alan Green (AG); Mike Spenser-Morris (MSM); Paul Freeman (PF) and SCC Karen Soons (KS). KS left the meeting after the public session. |
| **27/2023** **Apologies:** Christine Mason (CM) Clerk |
| **28/2023 Co-option:** Paul Foreman paperwork to be provided at the next meeting. |
| **29/2023 To receive member’s declarations of interest in accordance with the Council’s Code of Conduct regarding items on the agenda:** None received. |
| **30/2023 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th July 2023:** Unanimously approved as a true record. To be signed by the Chair |
| **31/2023 Reports from District/County Councillors:** Cllr Soons’ General Report was available to councillors. |
| **32/2023 Public Participation:** The meeting opened informally at 7 PM. There were approximately 15 members of the public present giving their views on the hybrid planning application for land east of Westley. There were objections to the suggestion that a relief road might not be completed, concerns about noise and footpath crossings, and about the impact on the ecology of the area. There was a discussion about road closures and access and the need for a dense area of woodland as a buffer. There was concern about the lack of detail relating to further development of the rest of the site. JS thanked those attending for their interest and views expressed. |
| **33/2023 To receive the financial reports and authorise payments if appropriate:** Bank balance on 11 May 2023 stood at £4589.36; cheques drawn, clerks salary x 2 months £199.58; West Suffolk Council election recharge £81.91; Zurich Insurance £196. Balance as of 4th September 2023 £4311.45. There were no transactions in July/August. The annual payment of £250 for the churchyard maintenance was approved. |
| **34/2023 Updates from the previous meeting:**  a) It was noted that following the meeting with Matthew Fox of SCC Highways Department, the drains had not been jetted for the length of Old Church Lane as promised. SM to follow this up by contacting KS.  b) Solar panel array - a planning application has been made and is in progress. Westley PC was supportive of it.  c) Grass verges - AG to continue monitoring this issue.  d) Overgrown shrubbery obscuring pavement - residents of Burrells Orchard and CC to continue addressing this issue  d) October litter pick – CA has circulated October 15th and 22nd as possible dates. Final date to be confirmed by CA. |
| **35/2023 Planning Application DC/23/1196/HYB:** A draft response prepared by MSM and CA was approved and will form the basis of a meeting with Pete White of West Suffolk Council on Tuesday, September 19. This will be attended by JS, MSM and CA. JS will also prepare an abbreviated response focusing only on the planning application rather than the process which can be submitted to the website and shared with the village community. That will be circulated to councillors for approval.  There was further discussion of the suggestion that the new West Suffolk Hospital will include a link road to the village of Horringer. Were that to be completed that would add an additional traffic loading to a completed relief road and undercut any suggestion that a relief road might not be necessary. |
| **36/2023: Other Business**. The issue of travel coming through the village was raised and it was reported anecdotally that a village south of Sudbury now had a 20 mph limit. SM agreed to contact KS to see if she could identify this village with a view to discovering whether overall speeds had been reduced by the introduction of a lower limit. |
| **37/2023** **To consider any correspondence received:** No correspondence was noted |
| **38/2023 Date of next meeting:** 16th November 2023 at 7.30pm.  With no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm. |