

## Westley Parish Council minutes

9 November 2017

**Present:** Colin Clayton (CC); Alan Green (AG); Jim Sweetman (JS); Chris Anderson (CA); Mike Spenser-Morris (MSM)

Jen Lerner (JL, Clerk); Karen Soons (SCC); Ian Houlder (IH)

**Apologies:** Gary Smith, Steve McClellan

**34/2017. Declarations of interest:** None received.

**35/2017. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

**36/2017. Reports from County and Borough Councillors** – Karen Soons had circulated her October report. She updated us on her attempt to track down the traffic survey requested in the last minutes, with no success. It was agreed that the clerk will do an FOI request for it.

Ian Houlder reported on SEBC's purchase of the Old Post Office and its plans for the building, and on the plans for the Olding Road site. The Council is trying to get the electoral roll up to date and asked for help in ensuring people in Westley are on it. The proposed waste hub development is going to the Secretary of State due to continued opposition to it from Great Barton. A new academy is due to be built around Westley Middle School, largely for vocational studies.

**37/2017. Finance – authorisation of payments:** The balance in the bank is £3871.07. The following payments were authorised: Gary Smith (for bulbs for Love your Village day); Clerk salary £221.61; Clerk expenses £18.17; Insurance £201.39; Website hosting (CAS) £60.00; donation to churchyard upkeep £250.

**38/2017. Report from external auditor** – this includes an issues arising report, as the grant from SEBC was wrongly included in the 'precept' column, instead of in the 'other income' column. It was proposed by JS, seconded by AG and agreed by all that the report be accepted and approved.

**39/2017. Budget 2018-19** – the first draft of next year's budget had been circulated, and was agreed. This will be checked, and the precept set in January once the up to date tax base is known.

**40/2017. Village gates** – County Councillor Karen Soons updated us on this. She has huge demands on her locality budget and has the choice to honour the £4000 promised by Terry Clements last year for the gates, being aware of the need to deliver highway spending fairly and based on safety grounds across her area. She has not yet received a response on speed data and from the community warden. MSM reported that he had obtained 3 quotes from builders regarding signs, all of which fall comfortably within the £4000 budget. After discussion as to the best way forward, it was agreed that Karen will arrange a meeting with Jane Storey, interim portfolio holder and deputy leader of SCC, Terry Clements and MSM, to try and move this issue forward.

**41/2017. Update from Highways on the state of Fornham Road** - it was noted that some resurfacing had been done, not a thorough job but better than it was. The church had complained about the loss of the dropped level kerb by the churchyard, following the resurfacing, as the pavement and churchyard now flood in heavy rain. MSM agreed to chase this up with Guy Smith.

**42/2017. Improvements to verges** – the clerk had contacted Thurston and Great Barton parish councils as requested. No response had been received from Thurston, but Great Barton have no plans at present to use the community self help scheme from SCC, though discussions have taken place. It was suggested that Michael Underwood, who does such a good job of cutting the verges from the church to the crossroads on one side of the road, be asked if he would be willing to do the

other side too. The clerk will write to him.

**43/2017. Planning** – DC/17/2279/HH, 10 Becket Close, single storey rear extensions and chimney to side. No objection raised.

DC/17/2326/TPO, 9 Burrells Orchard, reduce crown of beech tree by 33%. No objection raised.

CA had requested, and received, the following updated information had been received regarding the land between Westley village and Westley estate. The hospital is doing major work which will take them another 12 - 18 months. At that point they will know if it is their intention to pursue Westley or to redevelop their current site. The hospital has always said that if they do move, that would not happen until around 2030.

An appeal is in on the recent refusal for the Marsden pub application for 'the teardrop' site.

Regarding the Westley residential site, discussions with a possible land developer have revolved around the relief road. SEBC's position remains that when any planning permission is granted for any amount of residential development a relief road is secured for the benefit of the village and the town centre. Before any planning permission is granted for any amount of residential development, a masterplan would be drafted, consulted on with statutory consultees and surrounding residents (both in Westley and Bury St Edmunds) and then formally adopted by the council, but such a process will not be undertaken unless the delivery of the road were secured.

**44/2017. Correspondence** – SALC Annual Report

**45/2017. Date of next meeting** – it was agreed to change the date of the next meeting to Thursday 11 January to allow for sufficient time to display the agenda after Christmas/New Year.