

## Westley Parish Council minutes

7 September 2017

**Present:** Colin Clayton (CC); Alan Green (AG); Jim Sweetman (JS); Gary Smith (GS)

Jen Larner (JL, Clerk); Karen Soons (SCC)

**Apologies:** Chris Anderson, Steve McClellan, Mike Spenser-Morris, Ian Houlder. Meeting chaired by Colin Clayton.

**24/2017. Declarations of interest:** None received.

**25/2017. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

**26/2017. Reports from County Councillor** – Karen Soons had circulated her August report. She updated us on the cabinet vote on the consultation regarding home-school transport which is next week, and could have an impact on rural transport. She was asked about the report on traffic modelling that was carried out a couple of years ago and agreed to forward the outcomes.

**27/2017. Finance – authorisation of payments:** The balance in the bank is £4724.38. The following payments were authorised: ICO annual registration £35.

**28/2017. Report from external auditor** – this has not yet been received due to a query regarding the council revenue grant. The clerk explained that this had wrongly been noted in the precept box on the annual return, so will be listed as a qualified issue.

**29/2017. Village gates** – County Councillor Karen Soons updated us on this. It was confirmed that the £4000 allocated from Terry Clements' locality budget was for design only. This is being kept in abeyance and Karen will investigate how long this will be held for. Despite efforts by both Karen, MSM and Terry Clements, there seems to be no way forward other than paying £8000 for both gates. MSM and JS are planning to go to the next SCC meeting and plead our case. Andrew Cuthbertson (External funding officer, SCC) is holding an information day on grants from SCC in October and Karen will forward details of this to the parish council.

**30/2017. Update from Highways on the state of Fornham Road.** MSM had circulated a report on this. A small part of the road was resurfaced last week, leaving a pile of gravel which was then swept up the next day from the road (but not the pavement). The remainder of the road was not completed. Karen Soons agreed to pass on the contact of the community warden, whose job it is to inspect work done.

**31/2017. Improvements to verges.** The clerk and MSM had both requested from Guy Smith (SCC) details of ownership of the verges. Though no details have been received, it is likely that most verges belong to SCC, who cut them once a year. Details had been circulated of the Community Self-Help Scheme for Minor Highway Maintenance that SCC has set up. Great Barton and Thurston parish councils are looking into implementing this scheme, with the intention of appointing an outside landscape contractor to do the work. It was agreed that the clerk will make contact with these parish councils to see what progress is being made. A response had also been received from Chedburgh Parish Council, who use volunteers co-ordinated by a part time handyman to do work around the village.

GS will talk to CA to arrange a date for this autumn's Love your Village event, and it was agreed that up to £50 can be spent on daffodils for this.

**32/2017. Planning** – no planning applications had been received.

**33/2017. Correspondence** – Copies of The Local Councillor magazine; notification of the next Police and Crime Commissioner public meeting, on Tuesday 12 September at Southgate Community Centre at 7pm.

**Date of next meeting** – Thursday 9 November 2017 at 7.30.

