

## **Westley Parish Council Draft Minutes**

**11<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**Present:** Chris Anderson (CA); Colin Clayton (CC); Alan Green (AG); Mike Spenser-Morris (MSM); Jim Sweetman (JS); Steve McClellan; Cllr Karen Soons (KS); Cllr Ian Houlder; Charlie Browne(CB); three members of the public.

**01/2023 Election of Chairman for 2023-24:** Proposed by CA, seconded by MSM that Cllr Jim Sweetman be elected Chairman for the year 2023-24. CA was thanked for his contribution to the Parish Council during his long-term role of Chairman.

**02/2023 To sign the Declaration of acceptance of Office and Register of Interests:** Paperwork was duly signed. The ROI document to be forwarded to councillors after the meeting.

**03/2023 Declarations of Interests:** None declared.

**04//2023 Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023:** Unanimously approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

**05/2023 Reports from District/County Councillors:** Report from KS to be circulated. IH reported there was a disappointing 30.8% overall turnout in the recent District Council elections. Congratulations were given to both KS and IH for being re-elected.

**06/2023 Public Participation:** No matters were raised by members of the public.

**07/2023 To receive the financial reports and authorise payments if appropriate:** Bank balance at the end of the financial year stands at £2808.94 with no cheques outstanding. Balance as of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 stands at £4988.94. Expenditure nil income £2180 (precept).

**08/2023 Surface water issue:** Being progressed by KS by way of a face to face meeting with Highways. Charlie Browne to be thanked for the work he has carried out so far in clearing the drains at the farm entrance.

**09/2023 Grass verges:** AG raised the issue of the state of the verges caused by tractors/trailers/other vehicles driving too fast down the lane. To be discussed with CB.

**10/2023 Westley Club polling station review:** Two representatives from the Electoral Commission visited the Westley Club to further their investigations on the suitability of the Club being used for voting purposes. No outcome as yet.

**11/2023 Review of the King's Coronation celebrations:** The Parish Council gave a donation of £200 to the Westley Club to celebrate the King's Coronation. Free beer/prosecco were available for approximately thirty residents, and the whole event shared on the big screen.

With some beer left over, the Club was opened again on the Monday to continue the celebrations. A small beer reserve of about £70 will be put into Club funds.

**12/2023 Litter pick review:** With only one litter pick a year proving too much, it was proposed a second litter pick is undertaken in October. A date to be arranged nearer the time. Lessons on safety to be learned. An agenda item at the next meeting,

**13/2023 Correspondence:** Circulated as and when received.

**14/2023 Date of next meeting:** List of meeting dates were approved: July 20 September 21 November 16 March 21 May 16. With the solar array planning application imminent, Thursday 15 June to be kept free for an additional meeting if required. A list of re-elected parish councillors to be sent to CA for posting on the notice boards.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

With the planning application not yet verified by West Suffolk Council, an informal presentation was given by Charlie Browne regarding the installation of solar array on his land. Questions were invited.