

Westley Parish Council Minutes

17th March 2022

Present: Chris Anderson (CA); Colin Clayton (CC); Alan Green (AG); Jim Sweetman (JS); Gary Smith (GS); Mike Spencer-Morris (MSM).

Christine Mason (CM, Clerk), County Councillor Karen Soon (KS); District Councillor Ian Houlder (IH)

Apologies: Steve McClellan (SMc)

Agenda item 10 was now heard

55/2022 Westley Middle School closure: A parent spokesperson was invited to address the meeting. It was explained Unity Schools Partnership is proposing to close two school sites on the south and east of Bury St Edmund namely Westley Middle and Horringer Middle. Only a brief consultation period has taken place and although there has been no further communication with parents, USP have sent their plans to the Secretary of State for approval. If both schools close this would result in parents facing a daily drive to and from Tollgate School.

Following full discussion, it was proposed and agreed that Matt Hancock MP be contacted to urgently intervene with the Secretary of State requesting a pause in this process thereby allowing all parties to look at the wider needs of primary schooling in the west of Bury St Edmunds. A letter on behalf of Westley Parish Council to be drafted by JS and circulated to councillors prior to sending. KS to arrange a meeting with Mat Hancock MP and Cllr Rachel Hood, Cabinet Member for Education, SEND and Skills.

56/2022 Declarations of Interest: None declared

57/2022 Minutes: The minutes of the Meeting held on 20th January 2022 were approved and signed as a true record.

58/2022 Public participation: No other members of the public were present.

59/2022 Reports from County and District Councillors: Report from KS was previously circulated and noted.

60/2022 Finance - authorisation of payments: There have been no financial transactions since the last meeting. The bank balance remains at £3,713.71

61/2022 Boundary revisions: As only Parliamentary boundaries, any outcome will not affect elected representatives on either council. The following comments were put forward by MSM:

a) Westley is strongly felt to be a satellite village of, and associated with, Bury St Edmunds and has no intrinsic affiliation with Haverhill.

b) The proposed boundary as presented would cut through the centre of the Land to the West of Bury St Edmunds designated in the local plan for development, the Pigeon site. It seems to me that the implications, already complex enough, of having two local authorities dealing with a split site would cause considerable difficulties.

MSM to contact David Nettleton for guidance regarding the parliamentary boundary. Suggested by KS comments should include community links / community collaboration. MSM to prepare the final document for submission to the Boundary Commission. Deadline 27th March 2022.

62/2022 Street Lighting: Vegetation now cut down and street light to be replaced a week on Friday. As first reported in November 2021, CA felt the amount of time it has taken for the work to be carried out was unacceptable. KS to be informed if this does not happen.

63/2022 Queen's Platinum Jubilee update: Two part village occasion, afternoon tea party in Burrell's Orchard at 3pm and from 7.00pm a Disco at Applebarn Courtyard. The events are free and open to residents, families, and close friends. A further meeting to be arranged, proposed dates to be circulated. To be part funded by the Parish Council (agreed £500 to be taken from reserves), the Westley Club and villagers themselves.

64/2022 Noise generated by off road bikers: No action to be taken unless further complaints are received.

65/2022 Spring Litter Pick: Sunday dates over the next six weeks to be circulated via Doodle Poll.

66/2022 Confirmation of meeting dates for 2022-2023: No change from third Thursday of the month.

67/2022 Correspondence: None.

68/2022 Date of next meeting: Thursday 19th May 2022.

Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm followed by the Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.