# **WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL**

# MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 11th JANUARY 2023 AT 7.30pm

**ACTION** 

In attendance: Cllrs Corbett, Court, De Groot, Goacher, Graham, Odin, District Cllr Potter,
County Cllr Hunt

# Agenda Item 1: Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Slade, Kendall and Cochrane

Following discussions at previous meetings and concerns raised by the Council regarding the attendance of Cllr Cochrane as Council meetings, the Council decided **UNANIMOUSLY** after much discussion, not to accept the apologies from Cllr Cochrane on this occasion. The Council asked the Clerk to advise Cllr Cochrane that her ongoing absence from meetings had been noted and to urge her to attend the next meeting in March as she is a valued member of the Parish Council and one of only 2 representatives from the Chilgrove area.

Clerk

The other apologies were duly noted and accepted by the Council.

# Agenda Item 2: Code of Conduct

i. <u>Declarations of Interests</u>
 Cllrs Goacher, Graham and Court declared an interest in Item 8 on the agenda
 Cllr Goacher declared an interest in Item 4a and it was noted that he would report only on his conversation and take no further part in any decisions taken

ii. <u>Dispensation Requests</u> None

Agenda Item 3: Minutes – to agree and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 On a proposal by Cllr Court and seconded by Cllr de Groot it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 be approved. They were duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Clerk reported that she had received several emails from a resident regarding the publication of minutes of the Parish Council meetings. It had been confirmed that Parish Council minutes are a record of decisions taken and actions for the Parish Council or individual councillors. They are not a verbatim report of discussions. It was reiterated that until approved by the Parish Council, minutes are not published on the website. Members or the public are welcomed and encouraged to attend meetings and raise questions as appropriate. These questions will be responded to either in the meeting or after the meeting as practical and as appropriate residents will be kept up to date with any ongoing issues. This is done separately to the minutes and therefore delays to correspondence should not occur.

The Council agreed with the Clerk and the points raised by the resident were thought to have been addressed. It was noted that no particular question had been raised by the resident to the Clerk.

# Agenda Item 4: Matters brought forward from previous meeting:

#### a) Cemetery Maintenance

Cllr Goacher reported that as requested he had spoken to Chris Hints about the management of the James memorial plot and upkeep. Mr Hints had confirmed that he submitted an invoice on a yearly basis to the Estate Office and was paid for the ongoing maintenance on a yearly basis.

It was agreed that Ian Graham, representing the West Dean Estate, would look into this payment as it is not a matter for the Parish Council.

Cllr Graham

# b) Waste Bin update

Cllr Graham reported that nothing further had been received from the District Council and therefore a sign would be made for the bin and an additional directional sign sited.

Cllr Graham

c) Bus stop signage

No update. Cllr de Groot confirmed that he has spoken to both Highways and the bus company and will persist with this copying in Cllr Hunt as necessary.

Cllr de Groot

d) Selsey Arms update re placing as an asset of community value In the absence of Cllr Kendall, the Clerk reported that the application is ongoing and will be submitted by the end of January.

Cllr Kendall

e) Kings Coronation Planning

The Clerk confirmed that an allocation of £2000 had been put in the budget for this and other events. Cllr Court suggested setting up a working party to co-ordinate logistics for any event and said that she would liaise with the Selsey Arms and report back. It was noted that no beacons are being lit for this event.

Cllr Court

# Agenda Item 5: County Councillor Report and Questions – Cllr Hunt

Cllr Hunt updated the Council on the draft budget and said that this would be available in the public domain later in January.

It was reported that the grips on the Chilgrove road are still on the list to do and Cllr Hunt has continued to chase this with the relevant teams. In the meantime, Cllr Hunt reported that he has spoken on behalf of the Parish Council to Landbuild regarding an Operation Watershed project for the B2141 around the Crows Hall Farm area and provided the Clerk with further information for an application to be submitted should the Parish Council wish. The Council approved the application and asked the Clerk to proceed with the application, including requesting that she obtains two further quotations for the work from suitable contractors.

Clerk

Discussion took place around the involvement of Southern Water locally and it was noted that previously information was sent to the Parish Council regarding bore hole levels and water quality. These have not been received for many years now. Cllr Hunt has access to the bore hole levels and offered to forward these to the Council.

**Cllr Hunt** 

Cllr Hunt reported that the new speed limit policy had been approved shortly before Christmas and it is expected that this will now allow for the approval of a reduced speed limit application submitted by West Dean previously.

It was noted that the policing team has been reformed with West Dean now falling into the 'Inner Chichester' catchment. No mention is made of rural policing in the priorities given by the new team and it was noted that PCSO Lemm has also resigned. The Council expressed their strong disappointment in the current operations of the Police locally and it was noted that there is no engagement with the local communities. The Zoom calls set up by the Police on a monthly basis do little to address the day-to-day rural crime and concerns of local residents.

#### Agenda Item 6: District Councillor Report and Questions – Cllr Potter

The following report was submitted by District Cllr Potter:

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Little to report since your last meeting. The review of the District Local Plan is now almost complete and will be put to Cabinet and then to Full Council on the 24th for endorsement, and if agreed will then be open for public consultation for six weeks.

It will then go to the Planning Inspectorate for approval and, hopefully, adoption. Recent Planning Statements by Michael Gove have resulted in some last minute changes to the review which may prove to be helpful in reducing House building targets.

The next All Parishes Meeting Agenda has been circulated, it is scheduled to be a Virtual Meeting using the Zoom Platform at 5.30pm on the 6th February. I'm afraid the Agenda doesn't appear very exciting, a discussion concerning the Local Elections in May, and a presentation by Tony Whitty elaborating on the completed Local Plan and the opportunity to ask Questions, not necessarily on agenda items, but anything of concern. These could be tabled in advance of the meeting.

I have enquired of the Enforcement Officers the status of the Pool House in the grounds of Binderton House, but to date no response as yet. I will continue to chase.

I had a meeting with Philip Renwick last week to discuss the issue of offsetting Nitrate Production caused by new housing developments in the district and the mitigation potential of taking agricultural land out of production and the subsequent reduction of Nitrates entering the water courses which have an impact on the coastal waters in the Solent. An extremely sensitive subject which requires much research in these early stages of these schemes. The acreage involved at Chilgrove Farm is quite considerable and these separate schemes need careful monitoring to ensure that they are successful over a very prolonged period of time. Similar schemes have been agreed at Droke Farm in East Dean with John Holt. And that concludes my report.

Cllr Potter

In addition to his report Cllr Potter reported that in the case of the Pool House, the enforcement team had opened a new case as it was said that no action had been taken since 2010. Cllr Court clarified that an email exchange had taken place with Shona Archer in 2021 but no action had been taken. Cllr Potter to continue to follow this up.

Cllr Potter reported that a wildlife corridor is being set up between Kingsley Vale and West Dean. Much discussion took place around nitrate mitigation and water neutrality zones with regards to trees being planted by developers to offset nitrates. It was highlighted that 16 trees are being planted at Chilgrove Farm to offset nitrates but no further information was available.

Cllr Hunt noted that West Dean is not yet in the water neutrality zone yet but he expects that to change in time.

Much discussion took place regarding Southern Water and the problems being faced by several local parish councils as well as West Dean. Cllr Potter said he would bring this up with Southern Water who are attending a Scrutiny Committee next week – this is an online meeting and is available for parishes to attend however they will be unable to ask questions. Cllr Potter to forward the link. Cllr Potter also reported that the following telephone number is an additional helpline number by which to contact Southern Water 07720 092285

Cllr Potter

# Agenda Item 7: Traffic / Roads Update

#### a) Speedwatch Update

No update as it has been quiet recently although Cllr Court is hoping that more volunteers will come forward in the Spring. Last year 548 cars received letters following the Speedwatch Group monitoring

# b) SID Update

Cllr Graham confirmed that a new contractor has been approached to do the work on the posts which needs to be done in advance of the SID being used. The Clerk confirmed that following correspondence with the manufacturers, the SID is scheduled for delivery and installation by the end of January.

# Cllr Graham

#### c) Pavements

No update

#### **Agenda Item 8: Planning Update**

- Colworth Farm it was confirmed that following the previous applications in 2020 (approved) and 2021 (refused) a new application based on the 2020 application will be submitted. Cllr Corbett suggested that as this is based on the previously agreed application, that the Council should support this application
- West Dean Estate student accommodation it was confirmed that this has been verbally approved however the paperwork is still being processed

- Centurian Way extension Cllr Corbett reported that this is due to start and the schedule of works
  has been published. Ian Graham reported that the Estate has not been approached regarding a
  link over the top yet and there is still no clarification on how the connection will be made. It was
  noted that eventually the path will connect to a footpath at the Weald and Downland Centre.
- Pool House this was discussion elsewhere in the agenda

# Agenda Item 9: Finance

- a) To approve Clerks salary and expenses Appendix A
  - On a **proposal by Clir Graham** and **seconded by Clir Court** Clerks salary and expenses were duly noted and approved
  - The Clerk clarified that the increase pay in November was due to the adjustment of the salary scales by NALC and associated back pay as agreed by the Council previously
- b) To note and approve income and expenditure report Appendix B
   On a proposal by Clir Corbett and seconded by Clir Goacher the income and expenditure report as attached was approved.
- c) To approve the regular Bank Reconciliation Appendix C
   On a proposal by Cllr Corbett and seconded by Cllr Graham the Bank Reconciliation as attached was approved
- d) To review the budget for 2023-24 and set the Precept for 2023-24
  The Council reviewed and agreed the budget for 2023-24 and agreed to request a 5% increase in the Precept
- e) To consider appointing Mulberry & Co as the internal auditor for the 2022-23 accounts

  The Council agreed **UNANIMOUSLY** to appoint Mulberry & Co as the internal auditor for the 202 account

#### Agenda Item 10: Correspondence to note

Council acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

- a) New highways reporting tool
- b) Reform of neighbourhood policing team

Agenda Item 11: Matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda

Agenda Item 12: Any other matters for information only

**Agenda Item 13: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** 

The next meeting will be held on 8th March 2023

Agenda Item 14: Exclusion of Press and Public

# Agenda Item 15: Consideration of Clerks yearly salary review

The Council reviewed the Clerks performance and agreed **UNANIMOUSLY** to raise her salary to SCP 26 with immediate effect

Clerk

Clerk

# Meeting finished at 8.36pm Appendices and Attachments

**Appendix A** 

# **Clerk Salary and Expenses**

Clerks Salary 1 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 Net Salary £661.13 PAYE £56.00

**Total Net Outlay £717.13** 

Clerks Salary 1 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 Net Salary £491.35 PAYE £13.40

**Total Net Outlay £504.74** 

Paid by Standing order on last working day of the month

# **Clerks Expenses Paid after the meeting**

Date to be paid	Detail	Reason	Cost ex VAT (£)	VAT (£)	Cost inc VAT (£)
12/1/23	Working from home allowance (November)	As per contract	18.00	0	18.00
12/1/23	Working from home allowance (December)	As per contract	18.00	0	18.00
12/1/23	Mileage	Reimbursement of travel to November meeting @£0.45 per mile (20 milesx2)	18.00	0	18.00
Total			54.00	0	54.00

# Appendix B

	WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL						
	FINANCIAL REPORT 4/1/23						
	RECEIPTS						
FILE NUMBE	DATE	REF	PAYER	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT		
	PAYMENTS						
FILE NUMBE	DATE	REF	PAYER	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT		
48	30/11/2022	dd	HL O'Callaghan	Clerk Salary - November	661.13		
49	01/12/2022		Chi Payroll	Payroll - November	15		
50	01/12/2022	dd	HMRC	PAYE - November	56		
51	02/12/2022	dd	Microsoft	Office 365 Subscription	11.28		
52	30/12/2022	dd	HL O'Callaghan	Clerk Salary - December	491.35		
53	31/12/2022	dd	Microsoft	Office 365 Subscription	11.28		
54	03/01/2023	dd	Chi Payroll	Payroll - December	15		
55	03/01/2023	dd	HMRC	PAYE - December	13.4		
					1274.44		

# **Appendix C**

WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL							
BANK RECONCILIATION							
04-Ja	n-23						
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS							
Balance brought forward as at							
31/03/2022		£35,887.00					
Add Total Receipts		14,735.10					
Less Total Payments		(11,698.01)					
TOTAL		£38,924.09					
BANK							
Barclays as @ 4/1/23		32,716.01					
Santander as @ 5/12/23		6,208.08					
TOTAL		£38,924.09					

	AGREED 2022-23	Expenditure at 04/01/23	Expected Budget at 31/3/22		PROPOSED 2023-24 0%	PROPOSED 2023-24 5%
Balance b/f at 1 April	£35,887.00	£35,887.00	£35,887.00		£32,371.96	£32,371.96
Receipts						
Precept	£13,230.00				£13,230.00	
Council Tax Support Grant	£0.00		£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Cemetery Income	£0.00				£0.00	
Bank interest	£1.50				£3.00	£3.00
CDC Grant	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Grants	£250.00			speedwatch grant		£0.00
Miscellaneous Income	£0.00			filming	£0.00	£0.00
Vat recovered	£1,047.50		,		£800.00	
Total receipts for period	£14,529.00				£14,033.00	
Total receipts	£50,416.00	£50,622.10	£51,670.50		£46,404.96	£47,066.46
Payments  Constant Administration						
General Administration	5400.00	C4 25 00	64.00.00		6400.00	5400.00
Admin -Payroll	£180.00				£180.00	
Computer costs/ Website Hosting	£250.00		£200.00		£200.00	£200.00
DATA Protection Fee	£35.00		£35.00		£35.00	£35.00
Postage	£0.00		£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Stationery costs	£25.00		£25.00		£20.00	£20.00
Clerk expenses	£50.00		£50.00		£50.00	£50.00
Clerk Overtime/Training Hours	£0.00		£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Home office	£216.00	£144.00	£216.00		£216.00	£216.00
Employment Costs (Gross)	£5,692.96	£4,421.75	£5,692.96		£6,224.40	£6,224.40
PAYE contributions	£80.00	£121.00	£150.00		£100.00	£100.00
Insurance	£600.00	£581.23	£581.23		£600.00	£600.00
Audit fee	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00		£150.00	£150.00
Training (Clerk/Councillors)	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00		£100.00	£100.00
Valley Diary/Publicity	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00		£100.00	£100.00
Tueffic for and makely Groups follows	62 500 00	50.00	64 224 40	SID and	52,000,00	£2,000.00
Traffic/Speedwatch Group/SID	£3,500.00			SID COST	£2,000.00	
Cemetery	£2,000.00				£2,000.00	
Churchyard	£500.00				£550.00	
General Village Maintenance	£1,000.00		,		£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Table Tombs	£0.00 £700.00				£0.00 £700.00	£0.00
Street Lights Bin Emptying	£500.00				£500.00	
Salt Bins	£100.00		£100.00		£100.00	£100.00
Subscriptions	£136.24	£136.24	£136.24		£144.35	£144.35
Room Hire	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Notice board	£500.00				£250.00	£250.00
Neighbourhood Plan	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Events	£1,500.00				£2,000.00	£2,000.00
S.137 & S.142 payments	£0.00		£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Election	£0.00				£100.00	
Precept payments	£17,865.20				£17,319.75	£17,319.75
NHB grant	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
				taken from police speedwatch		
Grants	£0.00	£479.98	£479.98		£0.00	£0.00
Operation Watershed	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
VAT paid	£600.00	£733.54	£800.00		£600.00	£600.00
Total payments	£18,465.20	£11,698.01	£19,298.54		£17,919.75	£17,919.75
Surplus/deficit	-£3,936.20	£3,037.09	-£3,515.04	9	-£3,886.75	-£3,225.25