

# WESTMESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on  
Tuesday 12th November 2019 at 7:30 pm at Westmeston Parish Hall

## Present

**Councillors:** Rob Mills (Chairman), Cathy Mills (Vice-Chairman), Mark Clark, Clare Farrands, Tessa Haughton and Vincent Tickner.

**Officer:** Nick Wiltshire, Clerk to the Council.

**Public:** One.

**48. Apologies for Absence** – Apologies had been received, and with the reasons outlined, were accepted from Cllr Kendal Golding.

**49. To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10th September 2019 (previously circulated)**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th September 2019 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

**50. Declarations of Interest: Item 56.** Planning Application [SDNP/19/04853/FUL](#) – Cllr Rob Mills declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of Westmeston Jubilee Pathway Trust.

*The Meeting was suspended at this point to allow a member of the public to speak.*

**51. Public Forum & Questions:** The Chairman welcomed Mrs Marianne Hickman to the Meeting and invited her to speak. Mrs Hickman stated that she had concerns about Planning Application [SDNP/19/04853/FUL](#) regarding traffic and access onto Lewes Road as well as flood risk, and will be submitting an objection.

*The Meeting resumed following the conclusion of the member of the public's statement.*

**52. Financial Matters:**

Payment of the following invoices was approved:

*NS Wiltshire – Clerk's Salary 9 weeks as per invoice: £585.00 Cheque no. 000148.*

*Clerk's Travel expenses as per invoice: £19.90 Cheque no. 000149.*

*The item shown as Clerk's expenses as per invoice: £9.00 was an error.*

(a) The bank reconciliation for the period 1st April to 31st October 2019 (copies to follow). A report from Cllrs Mrs Cathy Mills and Mark Clark (Internal Audit members) following an examination of financial records was **Deferred**. The examination will now take place from 7:00 pm prior to the next Council Meeting on Tuesday 14th January 2020 and this will be reported to that meeting.

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(b) Budget for 2020/2021: The draft provided was discussed and agreed and will be circulated. *(Note: Lewes District Council require the agreed precept figure to be submitted by January – but changes to the budget can be made at the January meeting of WPC, if members wish).*

**53. Beacon Parishes Neighbourhood Development Plan Implementation:**

Planning Joint Lead Cllr Mark Clark reported that he had received an email. Cllr Vincent Tickner mentioned a Planning training event and expressed interest in attending.

**Resolved** - That Cllr Tickner attend the Planning training event.

**54. Beacon Parishes Traffic Group.** Cllr Rob Mills (Chairman) reported that this Group were involved in a public meeting in Ditchling following concerns expressed on a Facebook Page about HGVs travelling through that village. This reflects the unease expressed by Westmeston Parish Council regarding HGV movements on roads in the locality, given that it has been working on this issue and raising concerns about this particular traffic issue for some time. It was reported that the local East Sussex County Councillor is working with Highways on this matter.

**55. Spatham Lane Speed Limit:** Cllr Rob Mills (Chairman) reported that sadly it was down to money that this project would be successful. Only with sufficient funds being obtained would it be possible to physically reduce the speed of vehicles using this road and change driver behaviour.

**56. Planning Matters:**

**Land On The East Side of Lewes Road, Lewes Road, Westmeston**

**([SDNP/19/04853/FUL](#))** - Change of use of land to permit the keeping of horses and erection of stable block with improved access to the Lewes Road.

**Resolved** – That the application for the change of use of land to permit the keeping of horses & erection of stable block with improved access to the Lewes Road be recommended for refusal.

This is based on concerns expressed regarding the effect of lighting at the site even if this were simply to be used early in the morning or on dark evenings; a risk of groundwater flooding due to a large area of hardstanding with seemingly little mitigation; & the layout & density of the proposed buildings being such that any natural beauty of the site will not be conserved or enhanced, but a loss of public visual amenity is unclear.

It is noted that the owners of this property have generously continued to enable and support a permissive way for walkers across this land between the stiles. As there is an intention to construct gateways for pedestrians crossing the proposed driveway entrance/exit, mention should be made of the installation of appropriate signage giving due warning to pedestrians of the existence of traffic entering & leaving.

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**Turners Cottage Lewes Road Westmeston BN6 8RH ([SDNP/19/05054/TCA](#)) -**  
Proposed felling of six ash trees for safety reasons.

**Resolved** – No objection.

Residents throughout the village had been spoken to by a member of the Parish Council regarding these Planning Applications, which helped Members when coming to a view.

**57. Church Corner:** Cllr Cathy Mills (Vice-Chairman) reported that new bollards are in place; however, regrettably the County Council would not install a barrier. The Monday Club had another successful litter pick. Mowing has now stopped for the season.

**58. Items for information only.**

**Meeting dates 2020:**

Tuesday 14th January  
Tuesday 10th March  
Tuesday 12th May  
Tuesday 14th July  
Tuesday 8th September  
Tuesday 10th November

**59. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14th January 2020 at 7:30 pm.**

The meeting closed at 9:30 pm.

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