

# WESTMESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the council meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 at 6.00 pm via Zoom

**Present:** Councillors Rob Mills (Chairman), Cathy Mills (Vice-Chairman), Mark Clark, Clare Farrands, Tessa Haughton and Vincent Tickner  
Andy Beams, Locum Clerk

**1 Apologies for absence:** None.

**2 Declarations of interest:** None.

**3 Public questions:** There were no members of the public present.

**4 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021:**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and will be sent to the Chairman for signing.

**5 Financial matters:**

(a) **RESOLVED:** Payment of the following invoices:

Payee	Reason	Amount
St Martins Churchyard	Grant	£350.00
Springett and Campion Educational Charity	Grant	£200.00
Monday Group	Grant	£250.00
Westmeston Jubilee Pathway Trust	Grant	£350.00
Cathy Mills	Postage reimbursement	£6.70

**6 Data Protection, Freedom of Information and Subject Access Requests:** Cllr Clark had circulated a paper in advance of the meeting detailing the issues presented by a request and seeking approval from the council to engage professional support for such an event. Cllr Haughton confirmed that she may require similar support, although her email set up was different and easier to search for any relevant information.

Members debated the need for such support, acknowledging that as all councillors now actively use individual @westmeston.org.uk email addresses, future requests will be easier to manage.

The Locum Clerk emphasised that a request made to the council is the council's responsibility as a corporate body, rather than the responsibility of any councillor(s) directly impacted by the request. He suggested sourcing suitable support options for consideration at the next meeting, with a view to establishing a relationship with the chosen provider who could be engaged if/when any request is received.

**RESOLVED:** The Locum Clerk to obtain information from suitable specialists detailing how any support would be actioned and the cost of such work. To be presented to council for consideration at the next meeting.

**7 Planning:**

(a) To agree a response to the following planning applications

**Application SDNP/20/05860/HOUS** Cart Lodge, Hayleigh Farm, Streat Lane, Streat, BN6 8RU  
Erection of 1 x side and 2 x rear single storey extensions

Cllr Clark had circulated a report summarising the planning history and detailing the salient points of the current application.

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The Chairman thanked Cllr Clark for the detailed report and provided Members with some background to the family involved, stressing the important role the Parish Council should play in protection the interests of local people.

Cllr Farrands acknowledged the balance required in assessing applications based on planning rules with the need to protect local interests of residents and proposed that the correct response would be for the Parish Council to make no comment.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to respond with 'no comment' and requested the Locum Clerk make this response to the application.

**(b) To agree a response to the Lewes District Local Plan – Land Availability Assessment**

The Chairman reminded Members of the document and that there were no identified sites within Westmeston. Other Members raised concerns regarding the potential increase in housing targets being proposed by central Government, and how these make impact on future plans within the district.

Members acknowledged that there are active local groups campaigning against allocations assigned to neighbouring parishes and felt that as these campaigns progress the Parish Council should offer support where appropriate.

Of particular concern was the potential of future proposals outside of the defined settlement boundaries.

**RESOLVED:** Members asked the Locum Clerk to respond, acknowledging that there is no land identified within the Westmeston Parish boundary and seeking assurances that no future housing targets will be imposed outside of the settlement boundaries.

**(c) To note the minutes of the meeting of the Lewes District Association discussing the Local Plan**

Cllr Tickner had attended the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February, and the minutes had been circulated with the agenda for information. He re-emphasised the local groups being set up to object to proposals and reminded Members that the LDALC are currently looking for a new secretary. Cllr Tickner was thanked for attending the meetings and keeping the council informed.

**(d) To note the Lewes District Council changes to Planning Committee Meetings**

Members noted the proposed changed dates.

**8 Verbal updates on items for information:**

Rural verges - The Chairman reminded Members of the study and confirmed in addition to the Parish Council's comments, ten comments were received from residents, with nine in favour of the scheme and one against. The Chairman agreed to circulate the comments to other Members for information.

East Sussex Clerks meeting - The Locum Clerk attended the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February and had circulated a summary of the main points discussed. He emphasised that SSALC would cease to exist from 31 March and that the East Sussex Association were in the process of making alternate arrangements for member support services.

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council was agreed for **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm** with the Annual meeting to take place on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm**.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm

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