

# WESTMESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 6.30 pm at Westmeston Parish Hall

**Present:** Councillors Rob Mills (Chairman), Cathy Mills (Vice-Chairman), Mark Clark, Joyce Dudeney, Clare Farrands, Vincent Tickner  
Paul Vidler, Clerk  
No members of the public were present.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Councillor Tessa Haughton.
- 2. Declarations of interest:** None.
- 3. Public questions:** None.
- 4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021:**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the previous meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

**5. Financial matters:**

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

Payee	Reason	Amount
Cathy Mills	Email storage	£24.00
Cathy Mills	Church Corner maintenance July, August and September 2021	£105.00
Paul Vidler	Clerk's pay March to September 2021	£1,819.96
HMRC	PAYE	£454.80
Paul Vidler	Clerk's expenses March to September 2021	£62.22
East Sussex ALC Limited	Clerk's training	£54.00
Mulberry & Co	Clerk's training	£37.50

The amounts payable for the Clerk's pay and PAYE were amended to the figures above. The approval of payment of £35.00 for the ICO subscription was withdrawn, as this was paid by direct debit.

- (b) **NOTED:** The following payments made since the last meeting:

Payee	Reason	Cheque signed by Councillors	Amount
Cathy Mills	Litter picking traffic signs	Mark Clark, Tessa Haughton	£345.60
Mr P Anderson	Spatham Lane finger post	Rob Mills, Cathy Mills	£500.00

- (c) **NOTED:** Payments cannot be made by standing order to HMRC. To be brought back to a future meeting.

- (d) **NOTED:** The Quarter 1 Budget Report and Bank Reconciliation.

--

## 6. Planning:

### (a) Development opposite Westmeston Place:

The Clerk reported the building under construction had been brought to the attention of Lewes District Council on 15 May and no response had been received regarding the works.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed for the Clerk to escalate the matter to the Head of Planning at Lewes District Council.

### (b) Applications for planning permission:

**SDNP/21/04476/HOUS Underhill, Underhill Lane**  
Extension to existing open sided porch on east elevation.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to make no comment.

**LW/21/0693 Bunkershill Farm, Streat Lane**  
Conversion of barn to create home office and studio.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to comment as follows:  
Westmeston Parish Council has no comment on this application. Having regard to the location of Bunkershill Farm on Streat Lane, the Parish Council defers to Streat Parish Meeting for comment.

**LW/21/0699 Bunkershill Farm, Streat Lane**  
Rear ground floor extension and removal of existing first floor dormers and replace with hip end.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to comment as follows:  
Westmeston Parish Council has no comment on this application. Having regard to the location of Bunkershill Farm on Streat Lane, the Parish Council defers to Streat Parish Meeting for comment.

### (c) Comments made on applications:

**NOTED:** Members noted the comments made on the following applications since the previous meeting:

**LW/21/0359 Spring Farm, Hundred Acre Lane**  
Creation of agricultural storage barn for fodder and machinery.  
WPC comment: No comment.  
Application approved 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021

**TW/21/0054/TCA St Martin's Church, Lewes Road**  
Pollard an old lime tree.  
WPC comment: No comment.

**LW/21/0612 West Barn, Blackbrook Farm, Spatham Lane**  
Change of use from holiday let (C1) to residential dwellinghouse (C3)  
WPC comment: No comment.

**SDNP/21/03870/FUL Marigold Cottage, Spatham Lane**  
Retrospective planning application for temporary accommodation for a rural agricultural worker at Muller Bros Nursery.  
WPC comment: Objects to this application on the following grounds.

--

There is deep local concern about the use of the 'caravan' dating back years.

The local belief is that the business has been "non-functional" for a number of years. There is no evidence in the application that the business is operating and has any right to accommodation for a rural agricultural worker.

The application is very poor and lacks a clear argument and evidence. WPC wishes to have the opportunity to comment further on the application prior to its determination should additional supporting information be submitted.

In view of the local concern and the quality of the application, WPC objects to the application and asks the planning officer responsible to investigate it thoroughly.

**SDNP/21/04211/FUL & SDNP/21/04213/LIS      Spatham Farm Cottage, Spatham Lane**

Change of use of land to residential and creation of swimming pool with stone terrace, landscaping and planting.

WPC comment: No comment regarding the principles or design of this application. But in the light of the site access being to and from a fast, and increasingly busy lane, the Council considers that this aspect of the Site and Traffic Management Plan be given particular attention.

For example, if space on the site permits a proper turning circle must be created and signed. In the absence of a proper turning circle, any reversing into and from the lane should only be permitted with the use of a banksman.

Likewise, appropriate attention should be given to the routing of all traffic accessing the site.

**(d) Inter Parish Working Group on Housing/Eton College Site/Lewes District Council Local Plan:**

Councillors Rob and Cathy Mills attended the meeting organised by Chailey Parish Council with parishes affected by the Eton College proposals and Lewes DC planning officers on 6<sup>th</sup> July. No further information was forthcoming about the proposals. Councillor Tickner updated members on the preparation of the Lewes District Local Plan and reported no further meetings of the Inter Parish Working Group are currently planned prior to the submission of large scale residential planning applications.

**7. Lewes DC consultation on Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2022/23:**

**RESOLVED:** Following consideration at the previous meeting, members agreed to Members agreed to ratify no objection.

**8. Spatham Lane speed limit:**

The Chairman reported confirmation was awaited for match funding for the scheme and that this was to be considered by the East Sussex County Council Lead Member for Transport and Environment on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Members expressed their thanks to the Chairman for his efforts in pursuing the scheme.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed for an email to be sent to all residents of Spatham Lane following consideration of the funding of the scheme by the East Sussex County Council Lead Member for Transport and Environment on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

--

**9. Ditchling 29 Drove Project/Monday Group Stiles on Sussex Border Path:**

These items were considered together. Members considered the request from Harold Rowling for the Parish Council to support the application by the British Horse Society submitted in August 2020 to reinstate the path as a bridleway. Councillor Joyce Dudeney updated members on the route, features and condition of the path, which is in Ditchling Parish. Members were of the view that considering the length of time since the path was last used as a bridleway, the number of stiles along the route, its poor condition under foot, the twisting course of the path, land ownership and it would not be of benefit to horse riders in Spatham Lane, that they were unable to support the application.

Councillors Cathy Mills and Joyce Dudeney will be carrying out a survey of all rights of way in the parish and will bring a report to a future meeting.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed they were unable to support the application submitted by the British Horse Society and for the Clerk to write to Harold Rowling in response to his request.

**10. Notice board replacement – Church Corner:**

A request has been received from a resident to replace the small community notice board which is poor condition.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to gift to the village a replacement community notice board. Details and cost to be reported to a future meeting for approval.

**11. Telephone box refurbishment:**

Members expressed their thanks to Colin Hall who has tidied up the telephone box by installing shelves so that it can continue to function as the Westmeston book exchange.

**NOTED:** Members noted the improvement works to this valued community asset and requested the Clerk to write to Colin Hall expressing their thanks.

**12. Any other information for noting:**

Councillor Tickner raised the Boundary Commission review of Parliamentary Constituencies which proposes including the parish in a constituency including East Grinstead and Uckfield, rather than Lewes. He will report back further at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.23pm.

--