

# WESTMESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 6.30 pm at Westmeston Parish Hall

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

- 1. Apologies for absence:** None.
- 2. Declarations of interest:** Councillor Haughton, as a Churchwarden at St Martin's Church, declared a prejudicial personal interest in the request submitted to the parish council by the Beacon Parish in connection with Item 5 (c).
- 3. Public questions:** None.
- 4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021:**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the previous meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October 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	Church Corner maintenance October 2021	£35.00
Paul Vidler	Clerk's pay October to December 2021	£799.25
HMRC	PAYE	£199.80

- (b) **NOTED:** The Quarter 2 Budget Report and Bank Reconciliation.  
(c) The draft budget and supporting documents had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Clarification was sought regarding the reduction in proposed expenditure for 2022/23. The Clerk confirmed this was a consequence of specific expenditure on office equipment and HR advice being included in the budget for the current financial year.

Councillor Tickner raised an objection to the inclusion of the proposed budget towards the death of a senior figure/Coronation/Jubilee expenses. Councillor Cathy Mills proposed and Councillor Joyce Dudeney seconded this be retained in the 2022/23 budget, which was agreed with five members for, one against and one abstention.

The request from the Beacon Parish to increase its grant in 2022/23 was considered. Members considered there was insufficient justification and unanimously agreed not to increase the figure above the circulated draft budget. Councillor Haughton withdrew from the room during the discussion and voting on this specific matter.

A survey on the condition of footpaths and bridleways will be undertaken in the new year and members were of the view that the Environment budget should be increased to enable

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improvements to be carried out to rights of way in the next financial year and unanimously agreed to increase the amount to £3000.

**RESOLVED:** To agree an expenditure budget of £13,000 for 2022/23 and set a precept of £13,000.

## 6. Planning:

### (a) **Development opposite Westmeston Place, east of Lewes Road and Blackdog Farm east of Lewes Road:**

The Clerk reported the building under construction and keeping of horses opposite Westmeston Place and a residential caravan at Blackdog Farm had been brought to the attention of Lewes District Council. To date, no response had been received.

**RESOLVED:** As these matters had been ongoing for some months, members agreed for the Clerk to escalate the matter to the Head of Planning at Lewes District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority if a response was not received by the end of November 2021.

### (b) **Applications for planning permission:**

#### **LW/21/0729 Land East of Ditchling Road, Wivelsfield**

Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for the erection of up to 96no. dwellings.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to comment as follows:  
Westmeston Parish Council objects to the proposals.

The Parish Council is concerned this development would adversely impact on the infrastructure and environment of the wider area and Westmeston in particular.

The capacity of the existing narrow rural roads in Westmeston and the impact generated by additional vehicles from the development would result in additional noise, disturbance and pollution and have a detrimental impact on road safety.

The development would result in additional pressure on the infrastructure and services in the area used by the residents of Westmeston.

The Parish Council supports Wivelsfield Parish Council in its objection to these proposals.

#### **LW/21/0811 & LW/21/0812 Gallops Farm, Streat Lane**

Conversion of 1no barn to dwellinghouse, demolition of modern barns and replacement with extensions (Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent).

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

### (c) **East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Local Plan – Revised Policies Consultation:**

The latest consultation of the plan identifies the Ditchling/Plumpton Soft Sand Reserve which extends across part of the parish. This is not a site allocation for extraction, but identification as a new

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safeguarded resource where development would not be permitted that would prejudice future extraction.

**NOTED:** Members noted the safeguarded resource.

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

Councillor Tickner updated members on major residential developments in Newick and Ringmer. No further meetings of the Inter Parish Working Group are currently planned prior to the submission of large scale residential planning applications.

**7. Spatham Lane speed limit:**

The Chairman reported the application for £17,500 match funding for the scheme had been agreed by the East Sussex County Council Lead Member for Transport and Environment on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021. An email will be sent to all residents of Spatham Lane advising them of the match funding decision.

**NOTED:** Members noted the agreement for the match funding and expressed their thanks to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for their efforts in pursuing the scheme and funding.

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

Following the resolution at the previous meeting to gift to the village a replacement community notice board, members discussed options for costs and materials.

**RESOLVED:** Members resolved for details of a timber and aluminium notice board to be brought back to a future meeting.

**9. Any other information for noting: None.**

The meeting closed at 8.08pm.

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