

WESTMESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Monday 24th May 2021 at 7.30 pm at Westmeston Parish Hall

Present: Councillors Rob Mills (Chairman), Cathy Mills (Vice-Chairman), Clare Farrands, Tessa Haughton, Vincent Tickner and Joyce Dudeney (from Item 7)
Paul Vidler, Clerk
1 member of the public (to Item 6)

1. **Election of Chairman:** Councillor Rob Mills was elected Chairman.
2. **Election of Vice Chairman:** Councillor Cathy Mills was elected Vice Chairman.
3. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Councillor Mark Clark.
4. **Declarations of interest:** None.
5. **Public questions:** The member of the public was welcomed to the meeting, who had no questions to ask.
6. **Co-option to councillor vacancy:** Following the resolution at the previous meeting to fill the casual vacancy by co-option, one application was received from Joyce Dudeney. The applicant's written statement was circulated before the meeting.

RESOLVED: The council agreed to duly elect Joyce Dudeney a member of the council. Following signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, Councillor Dudeney participated in the remainder of the meeting.

7. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th March 2021:**

RESOLVED: The minutes of the previous meeting on 16th March 2021 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

8. **Financial matters 2020/21:**

(a) **To sign section 1 of the AGAR - Annual Governance Statement 2020/21:**

RESOLVED: Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting pending receipt of the internal audit.

(b) **To sign section 2 of the AGAR - Accounting Statements 2020/21:**

RESOLVED: Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting, pending receipt of the internal audit.

9. **Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Members' Code of Conduct:**

RESOLVED: Members agreed to re-adopt the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Members' Code of Conduct without amendment.

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10. Representation on external bodies:

(a) Beacon Traffic Group:

RESOLVED: Members agreed to appoint Councillors Rob Mills and Cathy Mills as the Westmeston Parish Council representatives on the Group.

(b) Inter Parish Working Group on Housing:

(c) **RESOLVED:** Members agreed to appoint Councillor Tickner as the Westmeston Parish Council representative on the Working Group.

11. Chairman's annual report:

The Chairman gave thanks to the Locum Clerk, Andy Beams, for his input and advice over the last six months and welcomed the new Clerk, Paul Vidler. Thanks were given to Kendal Golding, who resigned as a member in January, for her contribution to the council. Joyce Dudeney was welcomed as a new councillor. The litter pickers who help keep the lanes and main roads tidy were thanked. The main activities of the council remain unchanged: traffic and road safety, including the Spatham Lane speed limit reduction/traffic calming scheme; development and planning in the parish; and impacts from potential large scale housing proposals in nearby parishes. Councillor Tickner was thanked for his involvement and keeping the council informed about the new housing developments.

12. Financial matters:

RESOLVED: Payment of the following invoices:

Payee	Reason	Amount
Tessa Haughton	Defibrillator pads	£64.73
Cathy Mills	Church Corner maintenance March 2021	£35.00
Cathy Mills	Church Corner maintenance April 2021	£35.00
Cathy Mills	Church Corner maintenance May 2021	£35.00
Andy Beams	Locum Clerk April/May 2021	£283.40
ESALC	ESALC/NALC Subscription 2021/22	£107.31

13. Planning:

(a) Development opposite Westmeston Place:

The Clerk reported the building under construction had been brought to the attention of Lewes District Council. An update would be sought for the next meeting.

(b) Inter Parish Working Group on Housing:

(c) Eton College Site:

(d) Lewes District Council Local Plan:

These items were considered together. Notes from the meeting between CPRE and Maria Caulfield MP on 10th May 2021 and the Inter Parish Working Group on 11th May 2021 were circulated before the meeting. Councillor Tickner reported a meeting was to be set up between the Working Group and Maria

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Caulfield. Members considered the council should support other parishes where housing developments are proposed, in particular the Eton College site, but there were currently several unknown issues, including Lewes DC housing numbers.

RESOLVED: Members resolved to support East Chiltington Parish Council and other concerned councils in respect of the Eton College site, including traffic and transport concerns.

14. Spatham Lane speed limit:

Members noted receipt of the letter dated 13 April 2021 from Ditchling Parish Council. The Chairman will circulate a draft reply to be considered at the next meeting.

15. Plumpton College Kickstart Community Projects:

Members noted the request for community projects in Westmeston and agreed that suggestions should be sent to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting.

16. Village Noticeboard, Church Corner:

RESOLVED: Members agreed that whilst the use of electronic communications had increased there was still a need for the noticeboard in the village and the Clerk should write to Colin Hall to thank him for the repairs he had undertaken.

17. Finger post north end Spatham Lane:

RESOLVED: Members agreed to the repair and refurbishment of the finger post, which is an important local feature in the parish, at a cost of £500.

18. Purchase of four further litter pick signs:

RESOLVED: Members agreed to the purchase of four additional signs, required to cover the increased area of litter picking, at a cost of £300.

19. Gallops Farm:

Members noted the information received from Streat Parish Meeting about the possibility of a new access being created across the common land following the recent installation of a new gate to Streat Lane and to keep a watching brief.

20. 2021/22 Council meetings:

RESOLVED: Members agreed the following dates for Council meetings for the remainder of 2021/22:

22nd June 2021, 13th July 2021, 14th September 2021, 9th November 2021, 12th January 2022 and 9th March 2022. The meetings would start at 6.30pm, subject to confirmation from Councillor Clark.

21. Any other information for noting:

(a) Thank you notes from grant recipients:

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Members noted thank you notes from the Beacon Parishes and Springett & Campion Educational Trust.

(b) Broadband:

Members noted that recent enhanced broadband in the village should improve connectivity.

The meeting closed at 8.47pm.

DRAFT

Chairman's signature
Date

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