

# Westmeston Parish Council

## Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.30 pm at Westmeston Parish Hall

**Present:** Councillors Rob Mills (Chairman), Cathy Mills (Vice-Chairman), Mark Clark, Joyce Dudeney, Clare Farrands, Tessa Haughton and Vincent Tickner  
Paul Vidler, Clerk  
One member of the public was present

1. **Apologies for absence:** None.

2. **Declarations of interest:** None.

3. **Public questions:** None.

4. **Minutes of the previous meetings held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022:**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the previous meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were agreed as an accurate record of the meetings and were signed by the Chairman.

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

**RESOLVED:** To agree the adoption of Version 3 of the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Members' Code of Conduct.

6. **Financial matters:**

**RESOLVED:** Payment of the following invoices:

Payee	Reason	Amount
Cathy Mills	Church Corner maintenance May and June 2022	£70.00
Ditchling Streat & Westmeston PCC	Hire of Westmeston Church	£10.00
Paul Vidler	Clerk's pay April to June 2022	£799.25
HMRC	PAYE	£199.80
Paul Vidler	Clerk's expenses April to June 2022	£25.29
Paul Vidler	Microsoft subscription	£135.36
Lewes District Association of Local Councils	Subscription	£20.00

7. **Planning:**

(a) **Consideration of planning applications:** Training for members on the consideration of planning applications was provided by the Clerk before the meeting. Members considered the paper circulated before the meeting on the future consideration of planning applications by the Parish Council.

**RESOLVED:**

i) To agree the following when considering planning applications:

- Consider and make comment at a council meeting on all applications where the meeting date falls within the expiry date for comments.
- Consider significant applications with an expiry date for comment falling outside the dates of council meetings at an extraordinary council meeting. The significance of an application being determined by the lead members for planning based on the scale and impact of the proposals, issues raised and public interest.
- Comments on other applications with an expiry date for comment falling outside the dates of council meetings to be considered by, and comments agreed by, the lead members for planning. The comments on such applications to be reported at the next council meeting.
- The above being subject to the following: Within 7 days of the date of notification to members of a planning application by the Clerk, a member may raise a comment on a planning application for consideration by the lead members for planning or request a planning application is considered at an extraordinary council meeting.

ii) To agree for the Clerk to produce a guidance note on relevant planning policies in the development plan when considering planning applications in the parish.

- (b) **Development opposite Westmeston Place, east of Lewes Road and Blackdog Farm east of Lewes Road:** Members noted that an application for prior approval for the shed at Westmeston Place had been submitted and the case planning investigation at Blackdog Farm had been closed.

**RESOLVED:** It was resolved to keep these matters under review and to report back to the next meeting.

- (c) **To agree a response to the following applications for planning permission:**

**LW/22/0442 Thomsetts Farm, Hundred Acre Lane**

Demolition of single storey outbuildings and the erection of a part two-storey, part one-storey outbuilding with car port with supported two storey access steps and associated landscaping.

Members noted the whilst the property is outside the National Park it is visible from the road and the resulting building would be larger than the existing. Concerns were raised about the increase in size and footprint of the buildings and the proposals being an overdevelopment, together with their impact on the oak tree on the edge of the road.

**RESOLVED:** A vote was taken to object to the application with 2 members in favour, 2 members against and 3 abstentions. It was agreed on the Chairman's casting vote to object to the application for reasons of overdevelopment and impact on the oak tree, to request a condition for tree protection measures, for the Clerk to draft comments and for members to agree the final wording prior to submission to Lewes DC.

**LW/22/0445 Lone Oak Farm, Spatham Lane (in Ditchling Parish)**

Hip to gable end roof extension to both sides and erection of two-storey front extension with creation of front balcony and alterations to fenestration on all elevations.

Members noted the long and involved planning history of the site and the polythene tunnel screening the building from the road could be removed, making the building more visible. Members raised concerns about the increase in the mass and volume of the house, together with its design appearing like an urban house in the countryside, being an overdevelopment and having a detrimental impact on its countryside location.

**RESOLVED:** Members resolved to object to the application for reasons of overdevelopment, design and impact on the countryside location, for the Clerk to draft comments and for members to agree the final wording prior to submission to Lewes DC.

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

Members noted the letter from parishes to Lewes district councillors requesting Lewes DC collaborates with neighbouring planning authorities and campaign against current excessive housing targets and the response from the Leader of Lewes DC and Lewes DC Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure. Councillor Rob Mills attended a meeting of the Inter Parish Working Group on Housing on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at which concerns were expressed about the resources required to respond to appeals against the refusal of planning permission for significant housing schemes.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to keep these matters as a standing agenda item.

- 8. Church Corner Planters:** Councillor Cathy Mills reported the timber planters at Church Corner were in poor condition and required replacement.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to the replacement of the planters and for details and costs to be considered and agreed at a future meeting.

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

- 10. Date of next meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm.