

Westmeston Parish Council

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 6.30 pm at Westmeston Parish Hall

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Councillor Tessa Haughton.
2. **Declarations of interest:** None.
3. **Election of Vice-Chairman:** Deferred to the next meeting.
4. **Public questions:** None.
5. **Minutes of the previous meetings held on 11th July 2023:**

RESOLVED: The minutes of the previous meeting on 11th July 2023 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

6. Financial matters:

- (a) **RESOLVED:** Payment of the following invoices including the corrected amount of £105.00 for Church Corner maintenance:

Payee	Reason	Amount
Cathy Mills	Church Corner maintenance May (23 rd), June & August 2023	£105.00
Cathy Mills	Additional email storage	£8.09
Paul Vidler	Clerk's pay	£889.10
HMRC	PAYE	£222.40
Paul Vidler	Clerk's expenses	£15.30

(b) Quarter 1 Budget Report and Bank Reconciliation:

NOTED: Members noted the Quarter 1 Budget Report and Bank Reconciliation.

7. Planning:

- (a) **Planning appeal: SDNP/22/04495/FUL at Field to The East of Garden House, Westmeston Place, Lewes Road:**

RESOLVED: Members resolved to submit the comments made on the planning application for the erection of an enclosed, free standing shed the subject of the appeal, and comment that, should the appeal be dismissed, the Parish Council would object to the shed being relocated to another position on the site.

(b) Blackdog Farm east of Lewes Road: To receive update.

NOTED: Members noted there was no further update on Blackdog Farm.

(c) My Little Farm, Streat:

RESOLVED: Members noted the operation of My Little Farm, close to the parish boundary, has resulted in noise, disturbance and increased traffic movements and adversely impacted on Westmeston residents living nearby. Concerns were also raised about the impact of social events being held on the site. Members resolved to support Streat Parish Meeting in seeking a resolution to these issues.

(d) Applications for planning permission and listed building consent:

LW/23/0486 & LW/23/0487 Gallops Farm, Streat Lane

Replacement of existing single storey extension to north side elevation and west elevation, with extended single storey extensions to north and west elevations and provision of new dormer to remaining existing extension. General repairs and restoration to Listed Building.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to comment as follows:
Westmeston Parish Council makes no comment on this application.

(e) Responses to planning applications:

NOTED: Members noted the following responses had been made since the last meeting.

SDNP/23/02627/LDE Flint Cottage, Lewes Road (lawful development certificate)

Erection of yurt to rear.

No comment made.

SDNP/23/03004/HOUS Bushbaby House, Spatham Lane

Two storey extension to the North-Eastern elevation alongside refurbishment of the existing dwelling, relocation of existing garage, new hard and soft landscaping and new mechanical and electrical services including removal of oil tank and replacing with ground source/air source heat pump, installation of external lighting.

Westmeston Parish Council notes the proposals will increase the resulting floorspace by more than 30% of the existing dwelling, contrary to Policy DS1 of the Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston Neighbourhood Plan. However, the house is not close to neighbouring properties and WPC raises no objection to the application.

SDNP/23/03203/FUL Larchfield, Spatham Lane

Demolition of existing dwelling and replacement with a single storey, 3no bedroom house with associated parking and landscaping.

Westmeston Parish Council makes no comment on this application.

(f) Green Infrastructure Study Consultation:

RESOLVED: Members noted the lack of green infrastructure in the parish outside the National Park and resolved to make no comment.

(g) Inter Parish Working Group on Housing/Eton College Site/Lewes District Council Local Plan: To receive updates.

NOTED: Councillor Vincent Tickner reported there were no further updates. Councillor Tickner will report back on a meeting about the Lewes District Local Plan being later the same evening as the council meeting.

8. Ditchling Parish Council Traffic Committee:

NOTED: The meeting on 6th September 2023 was cancelled. Councillor Cathy Mills will attend the next meeting when re-arranged.

9. Rural Verges as Wildlife Corridors – Trial of Early Season Reduction in Rural Grass Cutting: To agree response to East Sussex Highways.

RESOLVED: Members noted that whilst the reduction of verge grass cutting had benefits to wildlife and was effective in some locations, it had restricted visibility for walkers, horse riders and drivers in other locations. It was resolved for members to provide details of locations in the parish where reduced grass cutting had positive and negative impacts, prior to submitting a response the East Sussex Highways.

10. Any other information for noting:

NOTED: Councillors Cathy Mills and Vincent Tickner will attend the SDNPA Parish meeting on 4th October 2023.

11. Date of next meeting: 14th November 2023 at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 6.55pm.