

# Westmeston Parish Council

## Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 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 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> January 2023:**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the previous meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were agreed as an accurate record of the meetings and were signed by the Chairman.

5. **Financial matters:**

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

| Payee                        | Reason   | Amount  |
|------------------------------|--|---------|
| Cathy Mills                  | Reimbursement for website hosting                              | £78.00  |
| Westmeston Parish Hall Trust | Hire of hall for traffic meeting 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 | £20.00  |
| Paul Vidler                  | Clerk's pay January to March 2023                              | £889.30 |
| HMRC                         | PAYE   | £222.20 |
| Paul Vidler                  | Clerk's expenses January to March 2023                         | £22.95  |

(b) **2022/23 Quarter 3 Budget Report and Bank Reconciliation:**

**NOTED:** Members noted the 2022/23 Quarter 3 Budget Report and Bank Reconciliation.

6. **Annual Risk Assessment:**

**RESOLVED:** Members resolved to agree the 2023 Annual Risk Assessment.

7. **Planning:**

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

**RESOLVED:** The shed opposite Westmeston Place, for which application SDNP/22/04495/FUL was refused, is still in situ. Members resolved for the Clerk to write to Lewes DC about its removal. Members noted the caravan at Blackdog Farm is still in situ.

(b) **To note the response made on the following planning application:**

**NOTED:** Members noted the responses made on the following planning applications since the previous meeting.

**SDNP/23/00502/LIS - Hayleigh Farmhouse, Streat Lane  
Refurbish and convert attic space to a bedroom.**

No comment.

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

**NOTED:** Councillor Vincent Tickner reported he was unable to attend the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 between the Inter Parish Working Group and Maria Caulfield MP. Plumpton PC and East Chiltington PC have submitted comments on the consultation on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework.

**(d) South Downs Local Plan Review:**

**RESOLVED:** Members noted the assessments of facilities and open space in the parish circulated by the South Downs National Park Authority as part of the review of the South Downs Local Plan and resolved for Councillors Cathy Mills and Tessa Haughton to provide responses.

**8. Spatham Lane speed limit:**

**NOTED:** Members noted that after the 50% match funding, the cost of the works would be £13,600 plus VAT. Following payment, funding for 50% of this amount will be sought from Ditchling PC. The works are due to be carried out on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**9. Highways:**

**RESOLVED:** Members considered the letter circulated by Hadlow Down PC about highways maintenance in East Sussex and resolved in principle to support a collective approach with other parish councils in the county. Members noted that damage to verges in Spatham Lane had been reported to Network Rail by Councillor Cathy Mills and the surface water at the north end of Spatham Lane resulting from the lack of ditch clearance, raised by Councillor Mark Clark.

**10. ESCC Trial of Early Season Reduction in Rural Grass Cutting 2023:**

**NOTED:** Members noted the trial of early season reduction in rural highway grass cutting would continue in 2023.

**11. Parish Council Elections 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023:**

**NOTED:** Members noted the details about the forthcoming elections that had been circulated by the Clerk.

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

**NOTED:** Councillors Rob Mills and Cathy Mills had attended the ESALC Chairman's Forum on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023. A request for grant funding had been received from the Kent Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance Charity which will be considered at the next meeting.

**13. Date of next meeting:** 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 7.04pm.