

Westmeston Parish Council

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th November 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:** None.
- 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 12th September 2023:**

RESOLVED: The minutes of the previous meeting on 12th September 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:

Payee	Reason	Amount
Cathy Mills	Church Corner maintenance September & October 2023	£70.00
Paul Vidler	Clerk's pay	£1,045.30
HMRC	PAYE	£261.20
Paul Vidler	Clerk's expenses	£15.30

(b) **Quarter 2 Budget Report and Bank Reconciliation:**

NOTED: Members noted the Quarter 2 Budget Report and Bank Reconciliation.

(c) **2024/25 budget and precept:**

The draft budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk explained the variations in the proposed expenditure compared to 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. Members voted this be retained in the 2024/25 budget, with five members for, one against and one abstention.

RESOLVED: To agree an expenditure budget of £12,955 for 2024/25 and set a precept of £13,000.

7. Planning:

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

NOTED: Members noted the appeal on land opposite Westmeston Place was undetermined and there was no further update on Blackdog Farm.

(b) Responses to the following applications:

(i) LW/23/0558 Mid Sussex Golf Club, Spatham Lane

Installation of solar panels.

RESOLVED: Members agreed on a vote of five members for, one against and one abstention to comment as follows:

Westmeston Parish Council supports this proposal, submitted by a local business in the parish. Should the application be approved, it is requested that natural screening be provided to ensure the solar panels are not visible from neighbouring properties, local footpaths and the South Downs scarp.

(ii) SDNP/23/03808/PA14J Westmeston Parish Hall, Lewes Road

Installation of 12 x 435 solar panels on the roof of the hall, fitting of a Tesla Powerwall 2 battery inside the hall.

NOTED: Members noted this application had been withdrawn.

(iii) SDNP/23/04192/TCA Rectory Cottage, Lewes Road

T1 Chestnut - Lift by approx 3.5m high of ground level. T2 Yew - Lift by approx 3.5m high of ground level.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to comment as follows:

Westmeston Parish Council makes no comment on this application.

(c) Response to the following application:

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

SDNP/23/04191/TCA Church Cottage, Lewes Road

T1 Yew – Fell. T2 Ash – Fell. T3 Ash – Fell.

Westmeston Parish Council makes no comment on this application.

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

NOTED: Councillor Tickner reported he attended the Lewes District Council Cabinet meeting at which the Lewes District Council Local Plan was discussed. Officers recommended that the Eaton College site proposals should not be included as a potential housing development site. Consultation on the Local Plan would be between 29th November 2023 and 8th February 2024. Councillors Tickner and Farrands will draft an initial response for consideration at the next meeting.

Councillors Tickner and Farrands will attend the South Downs Local Plan Review East Sussex Parishes workshop on 28th November 2023.

8. Ditchling Parish Council Traffic Committee:

NOTED: The date for the re-arranged meeting is awaited following the cancellation of the meeting on 6th September 2023. Councillor Cathy Mills will attend the next meeting.

9. Spatham Lane Speed Watch:

NOTED: Members noted that checks of the site and equipment were made on the morning of the meeting in Spatham Lane outside the Mid Sussex Golf Club. Given the length of time since the initial training, members considered further training would be required on the use of the equipment.

10. B2116 Lewes Road:

Councillor Haughton outlined her concerns about the speed of vehicles and recent accidents along the B2116 Lewes Road between the approach to Church Corner from the east and the existing 40 mph limit at the junction of Spatham Lane. Members agreed with these concerns.

RESOLVED: To investigate the introduction of an extended 40mph speed limit along the B2116 Lewes Road.

11. Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts:

NOTED: Members noted that no change was proposed in the review by Lewes District Council to the polling place, Westmeston Parish Hall, and polling district for residents of the parish.

12. Springett & Campion Educational Trust:

RESOLVED: To agree Councillor Tessa Haughton as the Westmeston Parish Council nominated trustee to the Springett & Campion Educational Trust

13. Any other information for noting:

NOTED: Members noted the passing of Harold Rowling, the former Chairman of Westmeston Parish Council, and recorded their appreciation for the significant contribution he made to the parish during his lifetime including the establishment of the parish council, Parish Hall, Jubilee Pathway Trust, Westmeston Conservation Area and The Monday Group.

14. Date of next meeting: 9th January 2024 at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 7.35pm.