

WESTMESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on Monday 10th June 2024 at 6.30 pm
at Westmeston Parish Hall

Present: Councillors Cathy Mills, Mark Clark, Joyce Dudeney, Clare Farrands, Rob Mills and Vincent Tickner

Paul Vidler, Clerk

8 members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Councillor Tessa Houghton.

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

3. **Election of Vice Chairman:** Deferred to the next meeting.

4. **Public questions:** None.

5. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th May 2024:**

RESOLVED: The minutes of the previous meetings on 14th May 2024 were agreed as an accurate record of the meetings and were signed by the Chairman.

6. **Financial Regulations:**

RESOLVED: To agree the adoption of Version 5 of the Financial Regulations.

7. **2023/24 financial statement including the schedule of payments, receipts, bank reconciliation and variances:**

RESOLVED: To agree the 2023/24 financial statement including the schedule of payments, receipts, bank reconciliation and variances.

8. **Exemption from a limited assurance review by the external auditor for the financial year 2023/24.**

RESOLVED: To agree exemption from a limited assurance review by the external auditor for the financial year 2023/24. The Certificate of Exemption was signed by the Responsible Financial Officer and Chairman.

9. **Annual Governance and Accountability Review 2023/24:**

(a) **Report from internal auditor:**

RESOLVED: To receive and note the report from the internal auditor.

(b) **AGAR section 1 Annual Governance Statement:**

RESOLVED: To approve the AGAR section 1 Annual Governance Statement which was signed by the Chairman.

(c) **AGAR section 2 Accounting Statements:**

RESOLVED: To approve the AGAR section 2 Accounting Statements which was signed by the Chairman.

10. Financial matters:

(a) **RESOLVED:** To approve payment of invoices.

Payee	Reason	Amount
Cathy Mills	McAfee subscription renewal	£195.99
Cathy Mills	Church Corner maintenance May 2024	£70.00
Business Services at CAS Ltd	Annual insurance renewal	£355.23
Paul Vidler	Microsoft subscription renewal	£148.32
Paul Vidler	Clerk's pay	£941.30
HMRC	PAYE	£235.20
Paul Vidler	Clerk's expenses	£15.30
Mulberry Local Authority Services Limited	Internal audit	£195.00

It was noted that payment of the invoice for the McAfee subscription renewal was approved at the previous meeting. However, a cheque was not issued as insufficient signatories attended the previous meeting.

11. Planning:

(a) **LW/24/0354 Land Adjacent to Mid Sussex Golf Club, Spatham Lane**

Provision of 4no. padel courts (Class F2) with ancillary office unit and casual seating area, provision of vehicle parking area, bicycle storage and soft landscaping.

Roderick Pryde, a local resident, raised concerns that a padel courts development was a good idea, but in an inappropriate location; the lighting would impact on the local area and the South Downs National Park; noise generated by the development would damage the local environment; the development would impact on wildlife and ancient woodland; and Spatham Lane and the access road to the golf club would be inadequate for the predicted traffic levels.

Trevor Hollingum, a local resident, raised concerns that the development would be unsustainable; given its location; the main mode of transport by users would be by private motor vehicles, not by bus or walking; would not enhance the environment for future generations; and would be a noisy, intrusive development.

Jenny Bainbridge, a local resident, commented that the site was close to and would impact the national park, but the South Downs National Park Authority had not been consulted on the application.

Bethan Hollingum, a local resident, raised concern about the proximity of residential properties which would be impacted by the padel courts.

Councillor Clare Farrands raised concerns that the courts would be visually intrusive; would be an urban type development in a rural location; would have a substantial impact to those living nearby; increased traffic density created by the development would go against the efforts to reduce traffic in Spatham Lane; and would impact on health, quality of life and the South Downs National Park.

Councillor Joyce Dudeney considered there was no need for a countryside location for padel courts; the development would not preserve or enhance the area; and would result in noise disturbance and light pollution to the Dark Sky Reserve.

Councillor Rob Mills agreed with the comments of other members and residents and was against the development.

Councillor Mark Clark considered the proposals to be wholly inappropriate, being adjacent to the South Downs National Park and the Dark Sky Reserve; would generate significant traffic and degrade wildlife; would be more appropriately located in an urban area; would not enhance the countryside; and referred to a Noise Abatement Noise issued in respect of the padel courts at Withdean sports complex in Brighton.

Councillor Vincent Tickner raised concerns about the rural location of the padel courts; and their impact on the locality.

Councillor Cathy Mills considered this to be a large inappropriate application; the padel courts would be open for 15 hours a day, later than the golf club; there were no toilet facilities provided; the application site is the golf club overflow car park, which is often full at weekends and further parking would be needed for the golf club if the padel courts were constructed; the courts would be visible from two public footpaths; the padel courts would impact on noise and lighting levels and wildlife; and traffic generation would impact on highway safety in Spatham Lane, particularly to horse riders and pedestrians.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to object to the application and for Councillors Cathy Mills, Mark Clark and Rob Mills to agree the final version of the comments for submission to Lewes DC.

(b) LW/24/0355 The Old Wheel Cottage, Eastern Road, Wivelsfield

Front/side single storey ground floor extension with single storey first floor extension to rear and fenestration alterations.

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

12. First aid training:

First aid training will be arranged for residents later in the year. **RESOLVED:** Members agreed to fund 50% of the cost, with the other 50% provided by the Parish Hall Trust.

13. Any other information for noting:

Land to the East of Lewes Road: Members noted that vegetation clearance had taken place revealing a gate to the site from Lewes Road and raised concerns on the grounds of highway safety if the access was used on this 60 mph stretch of Lewes Road. Planning permission was refused in 2019 for the keeping of horses on the site and erection of a stable block. The Clerk is to contact Lewes District Council planning enforcement.

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

Meeting closed at 7.34pm.