

# Westmeston Parish Council

## Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 6.30 pm at Westmeston Parish Hall

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Councillor Mark Clark.

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

3. **Election of Vice Chairman:**

**RESOLVED:** To elect Councillor Vincent Tickner as Vice Chairman.

4. **Public questions:** None.

5. **Minutes of the previous meetings held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024:**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the previous meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 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	Additional email storage	£13.94
Cathy Mills	Church Corner maintenance 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	£35.00
Westmeston Parish Hall Trust	Hire of hall for meeting 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	£10.00
Paul Vidler	Postage stamps	£17.60
Lewes District Association of Local Councils	Subscription 2023-24 and 2024-25	£40.00

(b) **NS&I Account:**

Councillor Rob Mills is the only signatory to the NS&I savings account, for which the current interest rate is 1% per annum. The amount deposited is currently £1,426.02.

**RESOLVED:** For Councillor Cathy Mills to be added as a signatory to the account, for the account to be closed and for the amount deposited to be transferred to a new savings account with a higher interest rate.

7. **Planning:**

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

**NOTED:** An enforcement notice has been served requiring the removal of the shed and reinstatement of the land opposite Westmeston Place to its previous use. The notice takes effect on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024, with a two month compliance period. There was no further update on Blackdog Farm.

**(b) SDNP/24/02361/LIS Hayleigh Farmhouse, Streat Lane**

**Removal and replacement of entrance door, courtyard door and single door and sidelight. Internal alterations to North Extension, instead of the previously approved demolition of the extension. Replacement of external window to courtyard, removal of low level wall to kitchen. (Amendment to Applications SDNP/22/05336/LIS and SDNP/22/05335/HOUS)**

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to comment as follows:

Westmeston Parish Council makes no comment on this application.

**(c) Submitted responses to the following applications:**

**NOTED:** Members noted the responses made on the following application since the previous meeting:

**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.**

Westmeston Parish Council objects to this development on the following grounds.

The development is wholly inappropriate for a rural location adjacent to the South Downs National Park and the Dark Sky Reserve, operating 15 hours each day between 07.00 and 22.00. It will lead to a significant increase in car journeys, increased noise, light pollution, degrade the habitat for wildlife and detrimentally impact on landscape views from footpaths. It is a development more appropriate for an urban or suburban location and will not enhance the rural landscape. The development is contrary to the following policies of the Lewes Local Plan Part 2 (LLPP2) and the Ditchling Streat and Westmeston Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

The development is outside the planning and settlement boundaries. The development is not small scale and will have considerable adverse impact, contrary to LLPP2 policies DM1 and DM11 and NDP policy DS1.

The development fails to protect the distinctive character and quality of the countryside, contrary to LLPP2 policy DM1. It will intrude into views of the landscape and is a floodlit facility adjoining a Dark Sky Reserve, contrary to LLPP2 policy DM25 and NDP policies CONS 2, CONS 6 and CONS 8.

Access to the development is served solely by a narrow dangerous country lane used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The bus service to the lane is infrequent and realistically journeys to the development will be by car. The application details a significant increase in journeys which would be detrimental to highway safety, contrary to LLPP2 policy DM11.

Car parking for the development is proposed on the current overspill car park which is currently often full. This area suffers from water logging. If the development is successful there will be a need for further car parking.

Padel is a noisy game because of the hard racket and the use of the hard walls of the court. The noise has been described as being like constant gunfire. The development would result in significant levels of noise and disturbance to local residents and the rural setting of the site. We note that the padel court at Withdean sports complex in Brighton has been served a noise abatement order. The development is contrary to LLPP2 policy DM11.

Given the location of the site adjacent to the National Park and the adverse impacts of the development, the parish council requests the South Downs National Park Authority is consulted on this application.

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

**NOTED:** The South Downs National Park Authority has commenced an early participation stage of the review of the South Downs Local Plan. Councillor Vincent Tickner is to write to the Inter Parish Working Group about contacting the recently elected MP, James McCleary.

**8. Weald to Waves nature recovery corridor:**

**RESOLVED:** Whilst Westmeston is not within the core corridor, members resolved to support the initiative and for the Clerk to confirm this in writing, copying in Plumpton Parish Council.

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

**Dogs on public footpaths:** Members noted there had been recent instances of uncontrolled dogs frightening pedestrians on public footpaths in the parish. Councillor Cathy Mills is to contact the East Sussex Rights of Way Officer.

**Wapple Way:** Members noted that the proposed meeting with Plumpton College about forestry issues along Wapple Way had been postponed and that Councillor Cathy Mills had written to the college about community relations and a new date for the meeting.

**Land East of Lewes Road:** Members noted that a gated entrance to Lewes Road had been brought into use to the camping site. The Clerk is to write to Lewes DC Planning and East Sussex Highways.

**10. Date of next meeting:** 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 7.15pm.