



## Westhampnett Parish Council

Serving the villages of Westhampnett, Maudlin & Westerton

### **Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Westhampnett Parish Council held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 which took place in Westhampnett Community Hall commencing at 7:00pm**

**Present:** Cllr W Holden (Chairman), Cllr Plummer (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Ashcroft & Cllr S Burborough

**In attendance:** WSCC Cllr James, CDC Cllr Potter, Andrew Ball (Rolls Royce), Paul Richards (Locum Clerk) and 16 members of the public.

#### **29. Public Session.**

A member of the public referred to a closed footpath and asked when this might be opened. The Chairman advised the electrical works had required the footpath to be closed. Southern Electric reported that the footpath might be re-opened at the end of March.

**30. Apologies for absence** – Cllr S Hannafin, Cllr C McLeish and Cllr S James.

**31. Declarations of interest** - Cllr Burborough as an employee of Rolls-Royce.

**32. Co-option of a new Councillor** – as the applicant was not in attendance, this item was deferred to the next meeting. The Clerk was asked to contact the applicant and ask that they attend the meeting.

**33. Minutes** – Cllr Plummer proposed that the draft Minutes of the ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 23rd January 2024, circulated previously, be accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Ashcroft and **AGREED** unanimously. The Chairman duly signed the approved Minutes.

#### **34. Parish Newsletter.**

The Editors of the newsletter asked when WPC would like the next edition published. Cllr Ashcroft advised that a summer Fete would be planned for 28<sup>th</sup> July 2024, and that it might be a good idea to publicise this event via the newsletter. It was **AGREED** that the Editors prepare a newsletter for distribution in June 2024. The Editors also reminded Members that a planned Communications Meeting had yet to be rearranged. Cllr Ashcroft agreed to arrange this.

#### **35. Brief Q&A from County Councillor on matters affecting the Parish.**

WSCC Cllr Hunt referred to his report circulated to Members previously & attached at Appendix A.

- The Clerk was asked to post details of the “Adult Learning goes mobile with the Multiply bus roadshow” onto the website and email details to the site subscribers;
- Cllr Hunt also referred to the Westerton flooding. He has escalated this matter with the WSCC officers. It now has the highest priority for attention but is listed with many other urgent flooding repairs that need to be undertaken by the WSCC Team; and
- Cllr Hunt also referred to the proposed TRO 40mph speed reduction proposal on Kennel Hill. Members supported the proposal.

#### **36. Brief Q&A from District Councillor on matters affecting the Parish.**

CDC Cllr Potter referred to his report, circulated to Members previously & attached at Appendix B.

- He expressed his concern that Southern Water’s drainage and waste water plans were inadequate and contained no explanation of how new housing developments would be accommodated.

- In response to a request by an attending member of the public, the Chairman asked the Clerk to explain the proper conduct for a parish council meeting. The Clerk advised that a parish council meeting is a meeting held in public; not a public meeting. He advised that members of the public can ask questions on any matter on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting and, thereafter, may not speak during the parish council proceedings as per WPC Standing Orders. He further advised that the WPC Chairman had used his discretion to allow limited debate during the meeting with the public. Members agreed that meeting reports should be made available on the WPC website before any meeting however WSCC Cllr Hunt advised that his report was only made available the day before. Members referred to the planned Communications Meeting where engagement with the public and use of the website would be addressed.

### **37. Brief Q&A from Andrew Ball (Rolls-Royce) on matters affecting the Parish.**

Mr Ball introduced his colleague, Sue Nel who will be the local Community Relations Officer. He also confirmed that a community exhibition relating to the archaeological findings will be held in the Hall on a date to be agreed.

### **38. Planning Report.**

#### **a) New Planning Applications.**

- **CDC/23/02711/REM - Land Within The Westhampnett / North East Chichester Strategic Development Location (north Of Madgwick Lane)** - Application for the approval of remaining Reserved Matters (Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale) following Outline Planning Permission WH/20/02824/OUT for the construction of 165 dwellings and associated works and ancillary development.

**Members confirmed their objections to this application and asked Cllr Burborough to prepare the formal comments for submission to CDC.**

#### **b) Decisions by CDC.**

- **REFUSE** - CDC/23/02326/FUL - Land To The Rear Of 26 And 27 Coach Road, Westhampnett - Erection of a single storey new build house with private garden, parking court and associated works; and
- **PERMIT** - CDC/23/02395/FUL - Dovecote View, Claypit Lane, Westhampnett - Single storey extension to create new bedroom with alterations to two existing bedrooms.

#### **c) Other planning matters.**

- Cllr Burborough referred to several applications and agreed to provide comments for Members to consider;
- Members objected to the recent application for Hadley House. Cllr Burborough agreed to provide the necessary comments; and
- A meeting with the Temple Bar developers is to be scheduled.

### **39. Madgwick Park/Allotments Update.**

Cllr Plummer updated Members on progress. Having considered withdrawing from the land transfer, he proposed that Members now agree to continue with the transfer despite unresolved issues relating to boundary and unfinished works. He advised that it would be more cost effective for WPC to go ahead given the developer had offered to pay £7,000 to cover the parish council's increased legal costs and to fund the setup of the Allotment Society. He also reminded Members that a parish council has a statutory obligation to provide land for allotments if requests from residents are made. He agreed to circulate details. Members **AGREED**, in principle, to the proposal subject to a review of his detailed paper.

#### 40. External meetings.

- Cllr Plummer reported that he had met with contractors regarding the CIL funded Community Hall works. Additional quotes will also be sought. Cllr Ashcroft asked to be kept informed of likely developments given the impact the works might have on bookings;
- Cllr Burborough reported that she had attended the Goodwood Aerodrome meeting. The meeting reported that all operational safety audits had been completed, event dates are on their website (no new additions), and that 36 out of 41 complaints had been received from just one resident. She also reported on the shared concern regarding the proposed 165 homes to be built adjacent to the 400m noise exclusion barrier. Aerial photographs of the flooded ground will be submitted to dismiss suggestions from the developer that there is no flood risk on the site; and
- Cllrs Ashcroft and Burborough reported that had attended a joint parish Resilience and Emergency Plan session details of which will be circulated to all Members.

#### 41. Community Hall Updates.

Cllr Ashcroft provided an update that included:

- Current bank balance of £61,679;
- March bookings had 10 private events and 9 regular hirers. April shows 9 private bookings;
- More volunteers are needed to assist with events and functions. The Committee will actively support community projects proposed by residents;
- The summer Fete is planned for 28<sup>th</sup> July, but volunteer assistance will be required;
- The kitchen will be hired by the refugees currently accommodated in the hotel for traditional cooking. Cllr Ashcroft will meet the hostel representative to finalise details;
- Only one enquiry had been received to organise a café facility at the Hall; and
- Cllr Ashcroft is keen to attend the planned Communications meeting to involve the Hall.

#### 42. Play area reports.

Mr Keatley updated Members on the lack of progress on issues reported in November 2023. In addition, he advised that:

- He will repair a broken sign in Westerton in April;
- New goalposts may need to be installed. Cllr Burborough suggested that these works be linked to proposed CIL bunding works around the green to prevent unlawful intrusion. Mr Keatley also advised that the relocation of benches (that remain too close to the fence) be undertaken at the same time;
- Dead and sagging trees have not been maintained by Bellway and this needs to be addressed; and
- The Goodwood Estate has yet to repair a broken post at Westerton. The Chairman advised that the Clerk has written to the Estate to progress the work.

#### 43. Finance.

- a) **To approve payments schedule** – the schedule, circulated previously was reviewed by Members and **AGREED** unanimously. The schedule is attached at Appendix C.
- b) **To approve the donation request to the Church** – Members noted that the provision of a £1000 donation to the Church was in the current and next years budget. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk make the donation to the Church.
- c) **To approve the donation request to the CAB** – this matter was deferred until the next meeting as the 2023/24 budget had been spent. The Clerk was asked to advise the CAB accordingly.

#### 44. Recruitment of as new Parish Clerk.

The Chairman advised that the new Clerk had accepted the position and would commence duties on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024. The locum Clerk was asked to provide handover assistance.

- 45. Items for noting or referral to a future meeting** – Planning application at Maudlin Farm.
- 46. Resolution, in accordance with Standing Order 3(d), to exclude the press and public to allow the Councillors to discuss HR and staffing matters.**  
The Chairman proposed that the press and public be excluded to allow the Councillors to discuss HR and staffing matters. This was seconded by Cllr Ashcroft. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that, in accordance with Standing Order 1(c), the press and public be excluded.
- 47. HR and Staffing.**  
The proposed pay increase for the Hall Manager was reviewed and **AGREED** by the Members. The Clerk was asked to confirm the details to the Hall Manager.
- 48. Date of next meeting** – An Ordinary meeting to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7pm commencing 7pm in the Community Hall.

**Meeting closed at 20:33.**

**Signed** .....

**Date** .....

## APPENDIX A – WSCC REPORT

**The Revised Council Plan and Budget 24/25** was approved by full council on 16th February. The budget sets out how the County Council is expected to spend £2 billion during 2024/25 on day-to-day services and £131.6m through capital investment into areas such as schools, highways, and the environment. The details of that £2bn spend are as follows:

- £961m - managing schools and education
- £507m caring for adults (both elderly and working age) & keeping people healthy
- £204m children's social care and supporting young people
- £91m protecting the environment, recycling and waste disposal
- £83m maintaining our highways
- £38m running the F&RS
- £22m supporting local communities
- £3m supporting the local economy

After taking account of grants, fees and charges and other contributions, net revenue expenditure for 2024/25 will be £768m. We are investing an additional £84m to address service pressures, which includes the following:

- An additional £31.2m for vulnerable children and young people,
- £18.3m more for adults' social care,
- £4m to maintain the county's 4,000km of roads (as well £20m additional capital investment)
- and £28m to address increased pay and inflationary costs

Finally, in order to balance our budget we are regrettably having to increase the west Sussex share of the council tax of 2.99% for core services, plus an additional adult social care precept of 2%, making a total increase of 4.99%. This represents an increase to an average Band D tax payer of £81.54 per year, or £1.57 per week.

Recycling Centres. Just a reminder that from 12 February residents have had to book a slot before they visit any Recycling Centre in West Sussex, including Westhampnett. Slots can be booked up to 14 days in advance, right up to on the day slots - subject to availability.

Bookings can be made by visiting [www.westsussex.gov.uk/BookToRecycle](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/BookToRecycle) or importantly, for those who do not use the internet, by calling the booking line on **01243 642106**.

Residents can book up to 5 slots a month, but I understand that there is also some flexibility in special cases, such as someone moving house. If you require additional slots please call the booking line. Early indications are that the site is already seeing a drop in 'white van' visits, which indicates that there were trades people using the site illegally. There are no early indications of any increase in flytipping.

**Adult Learning goes mobile with the Multiply bus roadshow.** West Sussex County Council's Adult Learning team are taking their Multiply bus on a roadshow across the county, encouraging more people to find out about free training and learning opportunities available to help people improve their maths skills.

The county council is offering free local courses and activities for adults (aged 19+) who do not already have a GCSE grade c/4 or higher in maths and want to improve their numeracy skills. The programme's focus is to support residents to engage in free training and activities including:

- Increasing number confidence
- Improving money management
- Confidence to help your children with their homework
- Gain maths skills to help you with employment/career progression
- Learning new skills in your local community
- Helping your small business go greener

Your 'local' destinations where anyone can drop in and visit the Multiply bus between 10am and 4pm on the following dates are:

- Wednesday 13 March, County Hall, West Street in Chichester
- Friday 15 March, Aldingbourne Trust Country Centre
- Saturday 16 March, Petworth National Trust car park (please note the start time for this date is 10.30am)
- Wednesday 20 March, Chichester College, Westgate Fields, Chichester
- Wednesday 27 March, Making Theatre Gaining Skills, 50-60 Longford Road, Bognor Regis

Jacquie Russell, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Learning and Skills, said:

"Maths is so important for everyday life and an area where many of us can lack confidence and the necessary skills. Helping people and communities to achieve their potential through learning is a priority for West Sussex County Council. I would encourage anyone interested to visit the bus and find out more about what is on offer."

If you would like to find out more about Adult Learning and Multiply in West Sussex please [visit our webpages](#), email [adult.learning@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:adult.learning@westsussex.gov.uk) or telephone 0330 2224400

#### **Local Issues:**

**Westerton 20mph** - any decision on that initiative?

**Westerton Flooding** - I'm awaiting an update from officers.

Finally, please don't forget to keep an eye on our website, especially our news and campaigns page where you can keep up to date with all our latest news.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/news-and-campaigns/>

**Jeremy Hunt – West Sussex County Council Member for Chichester North**

**c/o Cabinet Office, County Hall, West Street, Chichester, PO19 1RQ**

**E-mail: [jeremy.hunt@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:jeremy.hunt@westsussex.gov.uk) Tel: 0330222419536**

## APPENDIX B

### Westhampnett Parish Council Meeting 11/03/2024 - District Councillors Report.

What can I add about the recent flooding issues almost throughout the District causing a certain amount of chaos for road users. The 7" of rain recorded locally in February clearly raised the water table to impossible levels and our services 'broke down'. Because the Aldingbourne Rife reached flood level, causing flooding all around north Bognor, the SW WWTW at Easthampnett,

SW were unable to discharge the 'potable' water into the Rife. This caused backup in many of the sewage systems, escape of sewage onto the Streets, particularly in Boxgrove, where it flowed out onto the A27 and rendering the footbridge over to Tangmere. In the interest of

Public Health safety, National Highways, in collaboration with SW closed the eastbound carriageway at Temple Bar. With little informative signage motorists were left to find their own way past. The traffic forced onto the A259 and Stane Street was unacceptable. I understand some were finding their way via Madgwick Lane through Westerton and even Strettington exiting at the NO EXIT junction onto New Road! Taxis and a coach carrying schoolchildren were seen to make this crazy manoeuvre. We must hope that we never witness this mess again, though the 'Prophets' predict that rainfall will increase in the future.

At the recent Council Meeting last Tuesday, it was agreed to increase the CDC Precept by 2.99% which equates to a rise of £5.41 pa, a modest 10 pence per week. For a band D tax payer it represents a rise from £182.07 to £186.48. Coupled with the other precepting bodies, WSCC and the PCC Sussex Police, the total for a band D property now stands at £2,248.10. But it does mean the Council has a balanced Budget and the new regime realise the prudence of having sound investments and healthy financial reserves, unlike many other Councils who are facing severe operational difficulties.

The Agenda for the Planning Committee on 6th March, included the application by Rolls Royce Motor Cars to construct, in 2 phases, a vast extension to their current assembly plant. Expected to take at least 7 years to complete both phases, the proposal will have a huge impact on the area. Whilst creating up to a thousand new jobs, which is to be commended, the major concern is the Operating Traffic Management Plan, it has a lot of questions to be answered. The report by National Highways is very critical concerning the impact on the A27 strategic road network, even including the potential threat to traffic through Boxgrove and Halnaker which, the report states, will need mitigation measures. All of the junctions east of the Whyke Road will be affected by the potential increase in traffic, according to NH. However, after some debate concerning the diversion of a footpath and a proposal to defer a decision for further assessment of the Operations Travel Plan, it was in fact deferred. Interestingly, I recall being told that the extension to the assembly plant was needed to accommodate increased production of Electric Vehicles which they had committed to by 2025/6 when all R-RMC's will be Electric. Considering other manufacturers are scaling back on EV production, personally I question the R-RMC decision.

I stopped by the WSCC driven Connect Kerb EV charging installation in Palmerfield Road, off Barnfield Drive and even this has stalled. The assessment of EV's purchased by the District Council is ongoing, the Electric mini street sweeper is a success and a second one is on order, the few small vans used by parking enforcement and the parks department are a good investment but the heavier Refuse Collection Freighters are less successful. And of course, the capacity of the electric Grid cabling into the Depot at Westhampnett is at its limit and would need very expensive upgrading to facilitate any more EV's.

And that concludes my report.

Cllr. Henry Potter.

CDC Member for the Goodwood Ward.

