

# West Tytherley, Frenchmoor & Buckholt Parish Council

## Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at King Edward's Hall, West Tytherley

Present: Councillors Fiona Collier – Chair (FC), Karen James (Vice-Chair) (KJ) Fiona Collyer (FCy), Margaret Down (MD), Vian Cameron (VC) and Harry Urquhart (HU).

Also, present HCC Councillor Nick Adams-King, TVBC Councillor Stewart MacDonald and 11 members of the public.

### 106/23 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence and all councillors were present.

FC explained there was currently no parish clerk; the position has been advertised with a closing date for applications 01/10/2023.

Minutes taken by KJ.

### 107/23 Declarations of interest

None declared.

### 108/23 Minutes of meeting 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023

FC requested several amendments

MD raised a question arising from minute item 96/23 Geosphere non-payment of invoice. Action FC to follow up.

The minutes were approved as amended.

### 109/23 Public forum

### 110/23 To receive a report from Councillor Stewart MacDonald (TVBC)

- Mid Test matters had been circulated and it gain highlighted that TVBC was still active in prosecuting fly-tippers. FC confirmed the Mid Test news was posted on the website.
- There is some TVBC assistance for those suffering acutely from the cost-of-living crisis.
- SM had attended and spoken at the PC EGM (Glebe Farm planning application at West Dean on 04/09/2023

### 111/23 To receive report from Councillor Nick Adams-King (HCC)

- NA-K had made his report available for the website (actioned by FC) and on fakebook page.
- Highways patching teams are working in the area Awbridge road will be closed for six days. Repair works on Scouts Lane WT had been undertaken.
- Aster sewerage charges are still being investigated and NA-K believes they are overcharging by 80%. There will be an item on the TV programme "Rip Off Britain" highlighting this issue. The programme is to be aired possibly in December.
- NA-K still has County Council grant money available. He invited the Village Shop, the King Edward Hall, and any other potential recipients to make grant applications.
- HCC have approved letters, to be made available for use by Parish councils to circulate, in approximately 4-6 weeks, as appropriate to landowners regarding responsibilities (riparian) for maintenance of hedgerow and ditches.
- HCC have been looking at the recent Birmingham Council 'bankruptcy' declaration. HCC benefit from working on a 3-year financial cycle rather than annual so they are working on 2025/26. Councils legally must maintain the upper layer of Social Care and Education. Social care over the last three years has been £39 million, £42 million, and £49 million. Compare this to the £32 million for highways. In Education Councils are obliged to get pupils to school. The impact of removing community

transport needs to be assessed for the effect on school transport and adult social care.

Matters for budget consideration include - Could school crossing patrols be abandoned? Traffic-light controlled crossings would cost more than the patrols and there is a council obligation regarding safety. Could recycling centres be amalgamated? Small roads change to bye-ways?

- NA-K reported that he had raised the complaint about erosion of the verge/banks on Chalkpit Lane caused by HCC when hedge trimming. It was confirmed that HCC would in future use a smaller machine to prevent this happening.
- NA-K gave a reminder on the previously reported new bin collection arrangements. There will be food bins collected weekly; blue bins for plastics/brown bins for paper & card/black bins for the rest these will be collected on a three-week cycle.

#### 112/23 **Planning – update on 23-02082 FULLS Glebe Farm**

FC thanked those members of the public who had attended the EGM at West Dean on 04/09/2023 and outlined the reasons for the location of the meeting; transport had been offered to anyone wishing to attend but who had no available or free accessible transport.

MD reported on her recommendations made at the EGM and supplied a written copy of her report on behalf of the PCC to TVBC (Planning Department). The Council had voted by majority to 'no object'. Minutes of the EGM 4<sup>th</sup> September to be circulated. MD expressed surprise that West Dean had made no comment other than to register their No Object decision.

#### 113/23 **Finance**

1. Payment of the VAT on the Russell Services invoice 17783 for £132.77 was agreed.
2. Payment of the Hugo Fox website provider for £9.99 per month was agreed

#### 114/23 **Recreation Ground and War Memorial**

- VC had received a quote to supply a replacement water heater £156.76. It would be usual policy to obtain three quotes but as this was for supply only and market prices had been compared virtually the PC agreed to authorise purchase. Mr Andrew Page had agreed to install.
- The pedestrian gate had been repaired with new closures fitted by VC and supplied by FC.
- 3 quotes had now been obtained to replace the damaged fencing situated on the boundary with Thorngate. After discussion approval was given for the work to be undertaken by Tytherley Countryside Management at a cost of £1,978.80 (inc VAT)
- The fencing on the boundary with the Village - from Maple Cottage to Jessom Cottage needs repair/replacement. VC to obtain quotes.
- VC and FC had carried out an inspection of the bus shelter; it is in poor state of repair and in urgent need of maintenance. VC to scope work and obtain quotes.

FC thanked VC on behalf of the council for all his work.

#### 115/23 **Resilience Plan**

The PC is still experiencing problems in getting a response from SSEN. Further letter to be sent with a deadline for reply.

#### 116/23 **Councillor reports**

- FCy reported that complaints had been received about hedge line at Thisledoo causing the road to narrow presenting a danger to road users. Action FC to speak to the occupier although it is anticipated that there is already a plan to cut the hedging back as this is usually undertaken annually.

- KJ reported that she had supplied a largescale may to the King Edward Hall who had kindly agreed for it to be displayed on the noticeboard.
- HU reported that the EGM had been well run and was a good example of partnership working between the neighbouring parishes.
- FC as PC representative the Fete Grant Group read out a report from the Chairperson Liz Sparrow who was unable to attend the meeting. This outlined the history of the grant funding, the makeup of the grant panel and the process. The councillors agreed that that Grant application can be commenced, and the application forms will be available on the parish council website.

**117/23 Public Correspondence**

No correspondence had been received.

Mr Neilson who attended the meeting reported that he had received no acknowledgement or response to a communication to the Parish Council. It was confirmed that the matter had not been forwarded to councillors by the clerk for personal reasons and Mr Neilson was asked to resubmit.

**118/13 Any other urgent business**

There being no other business FC reconfirmed that Election of Chairperson was an agenda item for the next meeting. The meeting closed at 2020hrs.

**119/23 Date, time, and venue of the next meeting**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 19.00 hrs in the King Edward Hall.