

Westwell Parish Council
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 11th October 7pm at Westwell Parish Hall

1. Present and apologies

Present: Cllrs Drury, (Chair), Bainbridge (Vice Chair), Butcher, Bartlett, Farrington and Wyatt. Clerk – Sonia Young

Apologies: Cllrs Richards, Lister and Hutchinson and Borough Cllr: Larry Krause

No members of the public were present.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Approval of the minutes of the meetings held on 13th September 2023

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of Westwell Parish Council held on 13th September be approved and confirmed as true records.

Proposed: Cllr Bainbridge. **Seconded:** Cllr Wyatt. Cllr Butcher abstained. Cllr Bartlett abstained as not present at the 13th September meeting.

Resolved. It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

There were no Matters Arising.

4. 4.1 Planning applications received for comment.

4.1.1 PA/2023/0572 76, Sandyhurst Lane, TN25 4NT

A two-storey side extension, single storey rear extension and conservatory following demolition of garage. Resubmission of expired permission 07/01357/AS.

The property was not in the Parish of Westwell when originally submitted.

Westwell Parish Council resolved to commend the quality of the proposals on climate mitigation in the application including solar panelling, and to support the application.

Proposed: Cllr Bartlett. **Seconded:** Cllr Drury. All in agreement.

It was resolved to support the application.

4.1.2 NOT/2023/1666 Treetops, Gold Hill, TN25 4LD

T1- Hawthorn tree to be removed. Replacement cherry in back garden.

The site is a subsidiary building in the garden of Westwell Lodge. It was agreed the hawthorn had, grown too large and needed felling.

Westwell Parish Council resolved to ratify the decision made by email and the comment submitted.

Proposed: Cllr Drury. **Seconded:** Cllr Bainbridge. All in agreement.

It was resolved to ratify the decision.

4.1.3 PA/2023/0728 69, Pangbourne, Sandyhurst Lane, TN25 4NU

Proposed two-storey rear extension – resubmission of expired permission granted under 20/200259/AS

Westwell Parish Council resolved to ratify the decision made by email and the comment submitted.

Proposed: Cllr Bartlett. **Seconded:** Cllr Drury. All in agreement.

It was resolved to ratify the decision.

4.2 Discussion and confirmation of WPC agenda for the tri-parish meeting with the Trinity Park agent and developer on the 18th October

WPC resolved to raise the issue of the preservation of the green corridor to the rear of properties in Sandyhurst Lane and seek assurances that the corridor including the treeline can, and will, be protected within the parameter plans of the development and, additionally, included in the brief to the developer of the houses in the block backing onto this corridor. The land on which the green corridor runs is owned by Quadrant/ Trinity.

WPC also resolved to ask the planner and developer about plans for managing traffic flow to prevent a rat-run developing from the development and along Sandyhurst Lane.

4.3 WPC proposed revised procedures for planning comments.

WPC resolved to approve the following steps:

- (i) Clerk to circulate all planning applications to all Cllrs and highlight its categorisation and whether consultation is required. Also to flag the deadline date.
- (ii) If the deadline falls before the date of the next monthly meeting, then WPC will consider and resolve its position about the application via email. The Clerk will submit the comment; the decision and comment to be ratified at the next meeting.
- (iii) If the deadline falls after the next meeting, no change to current procedure is required.
- (iv) In all cases, Chair Christine Drury will circulate a report to all Cllrs for consideration and to generate discussion by the full council.

4.4 Other planning matters

It was re-confirmed that where a site visit is required for a planning application, the quorum at the site meeting will resolve to make comments for full council with no requirement to pursue further comment from Cllrs not present at the site meeting. The Clerk to submit the comment. The decision and comment to be ratified at the next meeting.

5. Financial Report

5.1 Approval of payments in accordance with the budget

WPC main account

Expenditure to approve for Oct 2023		Cheque No	£
Grounds maintenance	All Seasons Garden Services	BACS	558.40
Salary payment Oct	S Young	BACS	720.93
Tax & NI	HMRC	BACS	180.20
Website annual cost	Hugo Fox	BACS	122.28
Cypress tree removal St Mary's	H Godden Tree Surgery	BACS	480.00
Clerk expenses	S Young	BACS	390.15
Total			£2,451.96

Income			
Precept 2 nd 50%	Ashford Borough Council	BACS	14,275.00
Total			£14,275.00

Bank Reconciliation Balance at 30th September 2023 = £38,772.91 less unrepresented cheques as follows:

Actual balance = £38,772.91 at 30th September 2023

WPC deposit account

Expenditure			£
Total			£00.00

Income			
11 Sept	Interest	BACS	14.85
Total			£14.85

Bank Reconciliation Balance £15, 905.55 at 30th September 2023 Less un-presented cheques as follows:

Actual balance = £15, 905.55 at 30th September 2023

WPC No 2 Account

Expenditure		Cheque No	£
Total			

Income			
Total			

Bank Reconciliation Balance £3.44 at 30th September 2023

Actual balance = £3.44 at 30th September 2023

WPC resolved to approve the accounts as noted and payments in accordance with the budget.

Proposed: Cllr Butcher. **Seconded:** Cllr Bainbridge.

Resolved. WPC approved the accounts as noted and payments in accordance with the budget.

Action: Clerk

Information items**6. Highways including HiP.**

Final works will take place on Friday 15 October. It was agreed that the new 30mph roundels already partly installed was reducing speeds.

Cllr Drury will write to KCC Highways to emphasise the need to maintain the hedges as some Westwell roads are getting very narrow.

Action: Cllr Drury

Salt bags are needed for Westwell and Tutt Hill. Cllr Bainbridge to check permissions for the siting and postcode of the bag for Westwell.

Action: The Clerk to request via KCC Highways.

7. Survey project – updated cemetery plan

A project brief is required.

Action: Cllr Drury

8. Churchyard maintenance

WPC will regard the commemorative memorial trees for David and Kay Hooper as the ones planted to replace those cut down.

It was agreed to lift the skirt of the copper beech to help re-affirm the perimeter walk and to remove the under branches of the yew to aid ground maintenance and mowing. A quote will be required and added as part of the tree works plan; the plan to be reviewed shortly.

Action: Cllr Farrington

Cllr Farrington confirmed that hand weeding had been done in the memorial garden and that this would be continued.

The WPC grounds maintenance team will be asked to quote for mowing an oblong strip of grass at the rear of the church, and twice annually spraying the hogweed to try to re-establish the perimeter track.

Action: Cllr Farrington**9. Progress on new swings and replacement spinner + future possibilities**

Cllr Farrington and The Clerk have secured updated quotes to replace the swings and spinner as a start to refurbishing the play equipment. ABC is currently inviting applications for a Community Rural Grant. The Clerk will seek opinion from ABC to see if the replacement of the swings and spinner might qualify and pending the reply, apply.

Action: The Clerk**10. Community Safety Matters**

With the arrival of new residents it now seems likely that the traffic/ parking issue on the corner of Gold Hill can be discussed and resolved among neighbours. The ABC Housing officer will be contacted about other matters in the village including anti social behaviour on Downs View that is impacting on neighbouring properties

Action: Cllr Drury.**11. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 8th November

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Chairman's Signature.....