

Westerleigh Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
Held 21st September 2015
Manor Hall Coalpit Heath

Present:

Cllrs B Taylor, D Boulton, A Fay, A Gibbs, S Blackmore, G Jancey, M Crumpton, C Nicholls

Officer: Mrs F Thornton (Clerk)

1. Election of Chair

Cllr G Jancey was proposed by Cllr M Crumpton and seconded by Cllr C Nicholls

Cllr D Boulton was proposed by Cllr B Taylor and seconded by Cllr A Gibbs

Vote: 3 in favour of Cllr G Jancey, 4 in favour of Cllr D Boulton.

Decision: Cllr D Boulton was duly elected chair of the committee

2. Election of Vice Chair

Cllr G J was proposed by Cllr M Crumpton and seconded by Cllr A Fay.

Vote: all in favour

Decision: Cllr G Jancey was duly elected vice chair

3. Mr B Symons ALCA Chairman to attend and outline what ALCA is, what services it offers and how this Council can benefit from membership to the association.

Following a presentation from Mr B Symons Cllr M Crumpton proposed this Council re-join ALCA this was seconded by Cllr G Jancey

Decision: Vote: all in favour motion passed.

4. Apologies for absence

Cllr J Butler

5. Declarations of Interest under The Localism Act 2011

Cllr M Crumpton declared a personal interest in request for replacement hand dryers at Manor C of E Primary School as she is a school governor and parent of a child attending the school.

Cllr G Jancey declared a pecuniary interest in item 7c

Cllrs G Jancey, C Nicholls declared a personal interest in request for replacement hand dryers at Manor C of E Primary School as they are all parents of children attending the school.

A Fay declared a personal interest in request for replacement hand dryers at Manor C of E Primary School as she is a grandparent of a child attending the school.

6. Approve the minutes of the meeting held 16th February 2015

Proposed by Cllr A Fay and seconded by Cllr D Boulton, agreed by all, the minutes were approved and signed

7. Budgets 2015/16 – committee to note actual expenditure to date v budgets
Committee to discuss budget provision in relation to

a) Bitterwell Lake – paths and car park Cllr G Jancey to report

Quotations and letters relating to specifications of the content of the quotations were circulated to all. This includes the use of tarmac. Also quotations were obtained for a gate from Newman Field to the Lake.

A summary was circulated and the content of which was outlined by Cllr G Jancey. As the quotations were not like for like, the square meterage price was compared to ascertain overall costings.

Path quotations comprise 3 elements – pathway circumference of the Lake, a path from the top edge of the car park and a ramp at the lower end of the Lake to connect with Henfield Hall.

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Cllr G Jancey suggested that Council offer some form of compensation to the tenant whilst any works will be underway as there may be some interference with his business.
Clerk to ask for fishing numbers to be able to assess this proposal.

Discussions followed in relation to the content of the quotations themselves but also the project as a whole.

**Decision: Proposed by Cllr M Crumpton and seconded by Cllr C Nicholls to obtain quotations to complete the path from Newman Field to the largest fishing platform with a surface of tarmac with the rest of the pathways of the circumference of the lake finished in limestone dust. Also with the inclusion of new gates adjoining Bitterwell Lake with Newman Field.
Vote: 7 in favour, 1 abstention. Motion passed.**

b) Track at Pansy Vale

The Clerk obtained the following quotations for the resurfacing of the track

- i) NMC Surfacing £14,606.43
- ii) South Glos Council £11,336.21
- iii) Thornbury Surfacing £7,430.00

Decision: The quotations do not appear to cover the same area of track. Clerk to obtain new quotations with the correct area, and or clarify the area covered in the quotation.

c) Fees for course – *introduction to Local Government Administration (ILCA)* –to be undertaken by Cllr G Jancey

This course is a new online induction course designed to develop knowledge, confidence and skills whilst working for a local council. SLCC are aware that this is a councillor applying and not a Clerk. The course fees are £99 as the Clerk to this council is a member of SLCC, rather than the normal fee of £149.

Decision: Vote for council to pay these fees 2 in favour 4 against. Motion defeated.

8. Committee to consider the instruction of a solicitor to enforce the elected position of Manor Hall Trustee (Cllr G Jancey)

Cllr G Jancey made the following statement:-

‘As a trustee you must work with the best interest of the trust and carryout the objectives as documented within the trust deed I fully intent to respect these rules. There has been many obstructions put in my way, in taking up my legally elected position. I do not understand as a minority of 1 to 10 why there has been such opposition to my appointment.

The trustee at our last meeting spoke about transparency and honesty. Honesty would be to respect my legally elected position as per their trust deed. Transparency would be the meeting at the manor hall to be open to the public as the charities commission has stated.

I am very mindful of the personal liabilities the trustees are will to take on to further obstruct my position. They have tried to discriminate against me as a disabled person.

I feel the only way forward is to take legal action against them to legally enforce my elected position. We are the first tier of government within our country if we allow this disregard for our position to carryon we also disregard the law and our Queen.’

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**Decision: Vote: 3 in favour, 4 against to instruct a solicitor to enforce this elected position.
Motion defeated.**

Cllr D Boulton proposed Council should take advice from ALCA as to how to take this matter forward. This was seconded by Cllr A Fay. All in favour.

(Cllr S Blackmore arrived late due to another appointment so arrived at this point of the meeting and therefore abstained in the vote as she had not taken part in the debate)

Chair of Manor Hall Trustees reminded council of writing to charity commission. Council are waiting for a reply

9. Committee to consider request for replacement hand dryers at Manor C of E Primary School

Cllr M Crumpton reported:-

The Manor School are looking for funding to replace the Hand Dryers at the school in Key stage 2 and Possibly Key stage 1.

As a Governor I have been working on a project regarding this and we have sourced the best dryers including in this the cost, safety and environmental impact.

Dyson came up with the best dryer that ticked all our boxes. I applied to Dyson directly to see if they could assist us with funding etc. (especially as he lives locally and this is the only school in our ward/parish)

They have been very helpful and have offered us a 2 for one offer on the Air blade V that saves us 69% on annual running costs and has a 5 year guarantee with a promise to solve and issues within 24hrs.

The School are looking for £499.99 plus VAT to purchase one and then get an additional one for free. The Funds raised by Friends of the Manor school (FOMs) could cover this but they would like to keep the funding for educational equipment.

The school are updating all their IT very soon so you can imagine the costs of this are extreme.

I don't believe that the council have been approached by the school before and as the only school in the parish it would be great for them to have the support, they would like to purchase these as soon as possible to facilitate them being installed quickly and hopefully before half term.

The Head Teacher has written to Council as follows:-

'I am writing to you in my capacity as Head teacher of The Manor CE Primary School to kindly ask if there is a possibility of securing a grant in order for us to be able to purchase some new hand dryers for our children.

We are currently in the process of redecorating our pupil toilet areas in order for them to be as clean and hygienic as possible for our young learners. A key part of this is the availability of a good working hand dryer; our current ones are of varying quality and prone to breaking down which is most unhelpful given the amount of children who use these each day.

After some careful research, we have found that Dyson, a local business, are currently offering a buy one, get one free offer on their dryers. These dryers are much more efficient than those we have currently and no doubt far better for the environment in terms of their energy use. Furthermore, this would really help to improve our toilet areas for our pupils as well as give us a chance to explore the local significance of the Dyson brand.

We would be extremely grateful if you could give this letter some consideration and help a local

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school to provide better and more hygienic facilities for our pupils; something that without financial help, we could just not do at this point in time.'

The Clerk reported the following parishioner comments regarding the above agenda item for the meeting 21st September.

What hand drying facilities do the Manor Primary School currently have?
Why are the school not able to use paper towels if their hand driers are not working?
Why are the school not able to fund new hand driers from their existing or future budget?
What other avenues for funding have the school explored?
Have the school considered asking FOMS to fund this expenditure if it is something so essential for the pupils?
Why do the school and the governor's class this as something that Parishioners would wish their precept to be spent on. Surely there are more deserving local Charities or Community Groups where volunteers are struggling with workloads and fundraising for the benefit of the Community.
I strongly object to this request and ask that the Parish Council hold back any spare funds, during this financial year, so they can be available to more deserving cases.
I request that my identity is not revealed for fear of personal reprisals. There have been too many examples of this, since certain new Councillors were elected in May.

I understand that Michaela Crumpton is a school Governor, so will be in a good position to state the school's case.

Finally, a parishioner has forwarded Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings which states:-

'Hand washing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea and vomiting, and respiratory disease. The recommended method is the use of liquid soap, warm water and paper towels. Always wash hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, and after handling animals. Cover all cuts and abrasions with waterproof dressings.'

Cllr M Crumpton circulated NHS guidance on disease control and prevention and also information regarding the environmental impact of paper towels v airblade dryer
She went onto reply to the comments raised by parishioners

The funding request is for one hand dryer, as due to the promise of an additional free dryer, there would be one for each toilet facility ie boys and girls

Decision: Cllr B Taylor proposed the funding request to purchase one hand dryer at a cost of £499.99 plus VAT. This was seconded by Cllr S Blackmore. All in favour. Motion passed.

10. Committee to discuss Remembrance parade at Westerleigh and consider establishing a working group to manage the road closure

The Police have advised that where ever possible they are looking to maintain a presence at the parades but will not be able to facilitate road blocks- this will have to be done by the Council.

The Clerk reported that the Road Closure has been applied for, and as it is for a Remembrance Day event, the normal fee has been waived.

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Road Closed Ahead, Diversion and Road Closed signs will have to be purchased. The road Closure points (three of them) will have to be manned by persons representing the Council and will need to be dressed in high viz tabards.

The Council will be responsible for erecting signage prior to the closure, man the closure points during the closure and then removing the signage after the event.

Decision: Cllr B Taylor, A Gibbs to head a working group

11. Committee to approve payment of accounts

None

12. Committee to comment on any planning applications

85 The Causeway Coalpit Heath Bristol South Gloucestershire BS36 2PG
Erection of single storey front extension to form additional living accommodation.

PT15/3806/F **Decision: No objection**

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Erection of single storey front extension to form additional living accommodation.

PT15/3805/F **Decision: No objection**

Tulip Ltd Oakley Green Westerleigh South Gloucestershire BS37 8QZ
Prior notification of the intention to install roof mounted solar panels.

PK15/4003/PNRE **Decision: Insufficient details to comment**

Woodlands Manor Nursing Home Ruffet Road Winterbourne
Erection of single storey rear extension to form enlarged kitchen and store.

PT15/3923/F **Decision: No objection**

Scott Aerospace Easter Court Woodward Avenue Yate
Erection of a single storey storage building ancillary to the existing operation at Scott Aerospace Ltd.

PK15/3959/F **Decision: No objection**

Mays Hill Industrial Estate Mays Hill Frampton Cotterell
Removal of condition 2 attached to planning permission PT11/0214/MW dated 16 February 2011 to allow the change of use from agricultural land to use for 'in-vessel' composting of biodegradable green waste to become a permanent use of the site.

PK15/3875/RVC **Decision: No comment providing there is no detrimental impact to the green belt.**

13. Items to report

1. Cllr A Gibbs – steps in Newman Field have deteriorated and are not vandalism. Clerk to organise a time for councillors to visit both play sites within the parish

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2. Cllr B Taylor reported a parishioner had complained about the unduly length of time the Clerk is taking to put minutes on the website. The Clerk advised that the problem lies with IT and the website. The minutes are uploaded the day after they are approved. The ones referred to are there and can be seen at my end. This is not the first time I have encountered this. I have to remove them and reload them to resolve it.
3. Cllr B Taylor reported in relation to the recent planning application from Tulip for retrospective signage, the 2 houses in close proximity to the site had not been officially consulted. Cllr C Young is taking this matter up with SGC
4. Cllr B Taylor reported the drains are smelling again in Westerleigh. Cllr A Gibbs added that this has been for a few weeks now. The Environment Agency and Tulip are aware and have said they are taking action
5. Sites inspection meeting 20 Boundary Road – Cllr G Jancey will attend on behalf of Council to express our concerns
6. The Clerk reported that Cllr C Nicholls address has been removed from the website. The Clerk has been in contact with the monitoring officer, who is aware of this situation. The Clerk is awaiting further instructions.
7. Cllr A Fay has been in contact with Luke Hall MP regarding the new motorway junction who has advised there is currently a feasibility study being undertaken by Bristol, Bath and UWE universities, who will be looking into a number of issues, including the effects on the village of Westerleigh, Henfield and Ram Hill.
8. Cllr A Fay questioned the procedure of cutting a tree branch which is lying on the telephone wire.

14. Date of next meeting 16th November 2015

Signed

Date : 16th November 2015