

WESTERLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING
6th MARCH 2017
MANOR HALL, COALPIT HEATH

PRESENT:

Councillors: B Taylor (Chair), A Fay, S Blackmore, J Butler, M Crumpton, T Clark, D Boulton
Officer: Locum Clerk - V Anderson

2098. Apologies for Absence

Cllr A Gibbs, Cllr P King

2099. Declarations of Interest under The Localism Act 2011

Cllr J Butler declared a personal interest in all matters relating to Manor Hall being a trustee.

2100. Reports from South Gloucestershire Councillors on matters relating to the parish

**Cllr C Young reported:-
Planning issues**

Policies, Sites and Places (PSP) Plan

I attended the first of the hearing sessions, where the focus was on the question of whether the plan could be considered sound without non-strategic housing allocations. There followed sessions on the Local Green Space designations and whether specific policies were justified, compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and/or sufficiently clear to achieve their purpose. We await the Inspector's report.

Woodlands Farm

Some people have expressed concern about the delay in publishing comments, including Westerleigh Parish Council's comments, which only went up on Wednesday. The case officer explained that all comments have to be checked before they are published and they had had a very large number to process.

I also had a query from a resident about the fact that on the certificate setting out those with an interest in the land covered by the application, it included South Gloucestershire Council. I asked Property Services for more information and they sent a plan, which showed they own the open space on Park Farm adjacent to Woodlands Farm. The red line for the planning application extends into this open space as a path is proposed to link from the current gate to the end of one of the cul-de-sacs. South Gloucestershire Council does not own any part of Woodlands Farm.

Jorrocks House

I referred this application to Development Control (East) to consider the concerns raised by this Parish Council and others about the scale of the development. The site visit is taking place on Friday

South Glos budget

The South Glos portion of the council tax will go up 4.99% this year, with 3% being the social care precept. During the six years to the end of 2016/17, the council will have cut annual spending by more than £63m. A further £14m of cuts have been provisionally identified to be made by 2019/20 with nearly another £15m yet to be identified.

As part of the capital programme agreed, Watermore School will be rebuilt on the junior site. The proposals at this stage are to build a one form entry school (with scope to expand it in the future to two form entry) and temporary classrooms. The infant site and a small portion of the junior site will be sold off.

WESTERLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING
6th MARCH 2017
MANOR HALL, COALPIT HEATH

Member Awarded Funding

I awarded £1,500 to Coalpit Heath Cricket Club for new sight screens and £1,500 to St Saviour's Church Hall towards a new more energy efficient boiler.

River Frome Flood Risks

Last week I attended the Environment Agency drop-in exhibition looking at the risk of river flooding and options for reducing it in the Yate and Chipping Sodbury area, including at Nibley. Their proposals for Nibley involved property-level measures such as flood gates and non-return valves. I asked them to make the details available on their website.

Yate Fire Station

As I previously reported, Avon Fire Authority was consulting on cutting Yate Fire Station from a full time service 24 hours a day to having a full time crew 8am to 5pm and just one crew on call at night. Many of us made representations and instead of taking Yate down to one on call crew, the Fire Authority has now agreed there will be two part time crews on call overnight.

CEF

The next CEF is on Tuesday 7th March at 7.30pm in the Greenfield Centre, Winterbourne.

Farm Awareness Day

On Friday I attended a Farm Awareness Day for councillors organised by the NFU. We visited a dairy farm and then had a presentation on some of the challenges faced by farmers locally, including planning issues, TB and Brexit.

Winterbourne International Academy

There are two updates since my last report. Firstly, WIA has gone into special measures, having been inspected shortly after a new interim principal was appointed. Secondly, Dave Baker, the Chief Executive Officer at Olympus Academy Trust, which with Castle School Education Trust is providing interim leadership at the academy, wrote to the parents of pupils at the schools currently in the trust to raise concern about future funding. This was covered extensively in the media.

2101. Councillor Reports – written submissions taken as read with questions taken as necessary

No reports.

2102. Confirm the minutes of the meeting held 6th February 2017

Proposed by Cllr S Blackmore, seconded by Cllr A Fay and agreed that the minutes be approved and signed.

2103. Correspondence/Communication with Council

1. Parishioners complaint regarding responsibility for controlling litter and maintaining cleanliness of a private road leading down to the abattoir - via Cllr Claire Young
2. NALC CEO bulletin – via Deborah White, County Secretary
3. Invite to the Joint Parishes Youth Forum Steering Group meetings – Lucy Shilcock. Cllr M Crumpton has responded.
4. Agenda for Children, Adults and Health Committee, Wednesday, 8th March, 2017, 2.00 pm – SGC
5. Agenda and minutes for the next Environmental Forum Meeting being held on the 16th March at 10am. – Frome & Ladden Vale Environmental Link Group.

WESTERLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING
6th MARCH 2017
MANOR HALL, COALPIT HEATH

6. Notice of Bromley Heath Traffic Management Residents Meetings regarding major maintenance programme to the Bromley Heath Viaduct and widening the cycleway - Michael Dixon, Challenge Fund Programme Manager
7. Parishioners complaint regarding slippery surface on the playground surface – local contractor notified.
8. Notice of second meeting of the Parishes Youth Forum Steering Group which is scheduled for 3rd May at 5pm, Poole Court, Yate. – Lucy Shilcock
9. Expression of thanks regarding Manor Hall lease and ongoing support – Manor Hall Chairman

2104. Grant Application – St Saviours Church

A request for grant funding of £1,000 to £2,000 was received from St Saviours Church Hall to offset the cost of £6,000 to £7,000 for a replacement Boiler. The applicant states that the Hall accommodates up to 400 parishioners per week who attend 10 different groups.

Proposed by Cllr S Blackmore, seconded by Cllr M Crumpton and unanimously agreed to award a grant of £1,500 towards the replacement of boiler at St Saviours Church Hall.

2105. Payment of Accounts

PAYEE	DETAILS	NET £	GROSS£	VAT£
STAFFING	STAFF COSTS (FEBRUARY)	2236.15	2236.15	0.00
N POWER	AERATOR SUPPLY	25.29	26.55	1.26
ANDERSON PARTNERSHIP	LOCUM CLERK SERVICES (FEBRUARY)	1497.60	1497.60	0.00
HANDS PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	LITTER & DOG BIN COLLECTION (JANUARY)	348.00	348.00	0.00
FRAMPTON FESTIVAL COMMITTEE	GRANT FUNDING	350.00	350.00	0.00
HANDS PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	LITTER & DOG BIN COLLECTION (FEBRUARY)	348.00	348.00	0.00

Proposed by Cllr D Boulton and seconded by Cllr B Taylor, all in favour, the above payments were approved.

2106. Council to reconsider a decision regarding consultation on crematorium road signage.

At the last Council meeting during Chairman's urgent matters Council considered a proposal to place new crematorium signage in Westerleigh at a significant junction point.

Since that meeting further information from SGC Traffic Management has come to light in so far as the original request originated from a local resident who lives in the village and is frequently being stopped (within the village) and asked for directions to the crematorium. The vehicles are approaching the village from the Yate direction and are often confused where the road splits at the village green and are unsure which road to follow i.e. Shorthill Road or Westerleigh Road.

Given the additional information Council reconsidered the original consultation request which was to replace a previous one on the light post and place a new one on the corner of the green.

It was unanimously agreed to support the original application as submitted by Traffic Management.

2107. Night Bus 47a – Update on future service provision.

Operators First Bus have decided to stop running the weekend 47A Night Bus service from Bristol through Downend, Frampton Cotterell, Coalpit Heath, Yate and Chipping Sodbury after the end of April. This means that the services at 1.31 am and 3.31 am Saturday and Sunday buses will stop, and the last bus will be 11.35 pm from Bristol Bus Station.

WESTERLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING
6th MARCH 2017
MANOR HALL, COALPIT HEATH

"These late night buses have in the past been supported by town and parish councils along the route, but now First have doubled the amount of money they want as a council subsidy, and the passenger numbers have fallen - on average only 13 passengers are now using each bus" said Cllr Paul Hulbert, chairman of the Night Bus Group.

"We've contacted other bus companies, but they wanted even more money to run the service. It's just not economic any more - councils would have been paying First a subsidy of £6 for every passenger journey. Many young people now use the internet to arrange their own lift-sharing and prefer that to the bus"

"This service has been running for more than ten years. We're sorry to see the end of it, but if you add up the subsidy and the fares for 4 people, it comes to more than the cost of a taxi. At £6 subsidy per person First have simply priced the bus off the road"

The report was noted.

2108. Update on community facilities at Manor Hall

Cllr M Crumpton requested an update on the play area the Manor Hall are putting in. Cllr Crumpton had a conversation with Alison Allen the hall manager who had spoken to the listed building officer.

It was reported that it may be necessary as the land is now leased to the hall, to have planning permission and due to the hall being listed there may be a restriction re the type of equipment etc.

As the Parish Council have designated some funds to this Cllr Crumpton feels it would be good to have an update and find out if the hall needs to increase their insurance and if the Council can see any plans as agreed previously?

Cllr Crumpton also requested an update with regard to the proposed notice board as she understands that Hall manager has spoken to the listed building team regarding this matter.

Cllr J Butler updated Council members that there possibly are a number of issues to overcome before the play facilities can be progressed. These relate to:

- listed building issues regarding a spoilt view of the halls exterior being obscured by any proposed play facilities
- a planning application may be required
- public consultation is incomplete with local schools and members of public

With regard to the notice board Cllr Butler reported that she was in the process of completing the listed building consent forms for consideration.

2109. Council to consider options relating to office accommodation.

Council is aware of the difficulties faced when a permanent member of staff becomes unable to provide office services during sustained periods of absence and as such should consider options to provide alternative office facilities when the need arises.

The Interim Clerk recognised that Westerleigh Parish Council, although relatively small in population, is a very active council and as such a Clerk needs to have a number of resources at their disposal. He suggested that there may be benefit from having an office (temporary or permanently) set up to allow for a number of routine functions, this set up could facilitate:

- A centralised mail drop and collection point
- A public access point within the parish
- A place to carry out an agenda printing and despatch operation

WESTERLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING
6th MARCH 2017
MANOR HALL, COALPIT HEATH

- A place to have private meetings with councillors and/or public
- A place to carry out councillor surgeries
- A place that can offer an IP telephone and internet service when the need arises
- A place for the safekeeping and storage of important documents

Members are asked to consider the viability of providing office facilities within the parish and if minded to do so consider what options are possible.

It was suggested that an approach to Frampton Cotterell Parish Council with regard to providing temporary storage and/or office space may be beneficial to both parties. The report was noted.

2109. Items considered urgent by the Chairman.

The Chairman advised members of Council and public to keep an eye on public notice boards and/or the Councils web site as it was likely that there will be changes to the original schedule of Council and Committee meetings.

2110. Exempt Session - Council to consider confidential matters relating to personnel matters

Due to the sensitive personal nature of the item to be considered Council moved to consider further items Exempt Session

Signed: Date: 3rd April 2017