

**WESTERLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON**  
**MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016 AT MANOR HALL, COMMENCING AT 7.15PM**

**Present**

Cllrs B Taylor (Chair), J Butler, D Boulton, A Fay, A Gibbs, S Blackmore,

Officer: Clerk

Apologies: Cllr G Jancey, M Crumpton, Cllr C Nicholls

**Approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

Proposed by Cllr J Butler and seconded by Cllr D Boulton agreed by all, the minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**Chairman Report**

**Cllr B Taylor gave the following report:-**

I'd like to highlight only two items, as we are only a quarter through the life of this Council.

1. Last year, the Chair noted that we had signed the agreement with Sun Edison to receive community benefit payments resulting from the Solar Farm at Says Court. We have now received the first two annual payments, totalling about £40 000.

It's not often that a Council can plan for a substantial income for 25 years that will enable it to do more than just support the normal Parish facilities and services.

We have a five-year agreement with Avon Wildlife Trust to enhance the surrounding area, and have been discussing various proposals to improve the Parish environment. We shall be sending out a newsletter outlining these proposals, and asking parishioners how they think the fund should be spent in their local areas.

2. We are also piloting surgeries with Councillors, to try and make it easier for residents to express their views and concerns. The surgeries, which started today, will be for up to 30 minutes prior to Full Parish Council meetings. The dates are posted on the notice boards in Westerleigh and outside this hall. We would encourage parishioners to take advantage of these surgeries.

**Any other parish business**

**R Clark**

With reference to Bitterwell Lake, has the Council expenditure increased revenue?

The Chair responded that council decided not to proceed with the café facility, so this expenditure has not taken place. Improvements to gates are underway. It is a facility that belongs to the parish and would like it to be a place for people to visit and enjoy, whether that increases the parish council revenue is a matter for the future.

A question was raised as to the accessibility to the Lake when fishing competitions are taking place.

Travel Club, which meets at Manor Hall, is well attended and has been in existence for a number of years. As well as providing a meeting place for those with similar interests it also has raised monies for local charities.

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**A Bracey**

1. Metro Mayor - details of which have recently been in the press. His view is that it bring back Avon area, which was a disaster. Historically Bristol received more funding than any of the other surrounding areas. When Avon disappeared and were replaced by unitary authorities they had finance for education, social services etc and his fear is that we could go back to the previous situation where we as a parish we would have no say. When it comes to the consultation process, he urged this council to think how locals wish to be represented.
2. M4 Junction - Plans afoot by our MP to raise another M4 junction entering onto the ring road at Emersons Green. This is a Joint effort with a member at Kingswood. Purpose is to take pressure off ring road and traffic would come through Westerleigh and this parish would be adversely affected. Local development in Yate and Sodbury has already resulted in increased traffic, park and ride has never happened and such an introduction of an extra junction would have an adverse effect on the parish. He urged councillors to take on board this feeling.

Cllr A Fay reported that she had been in touch with the local MP, she will meet him at his local surgery next week to discuss this matter.

A discussion took place on the merits of such a proposal and the park and ride site. Reference was made to the solar farm using the park and ride site. The district councillor stated the solar panel site is not impeding the park and ride provision. Amalgamation of council offices will put extra demand for increased parking spaces.

**H Buston**

She reported another incident at Ram Hill; a resident was involved in a road traffic accident as a result of another car colliding with a local parishioner's car. She asked how the parish council is going to help local residents, as they are concerned that their safety is being compromised. Police have been called on numerous occasions. The travel plan [re: Mafeking Hall] does not seem to address the traffic problems which local residents are experiencing. Questions were raised as to why a parish councillor was promoting this venue for use when a statement was made that the councillor had no interest in this building.

Cllr C Young outlined the planning history and the conditions of the travel plan. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April there is a meeting with South Glos. Officers to discuss general traffic issues in the area as a whole. Neighbourhood watch have been consulted who have circulated details around Ram Hill. Road safety, speed of traffic will be part of the issues discussed so it would be natural for Serridge Lane to be included in this.

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**Parish organisations/groups to report on activities**

**Manor Hall Management Committee**

I'm happy to report that following the major refurbishment bookings at the Hall have increased, both for individual events such as weddings and childrens' parties and for regular groups. Available for the public at the Hall now are the Gardening and Social club, Choices craft group, dance and ballet classes, 2 types of yoga classes, a karate club, 2 different art groups, plus a monthly community coffee morning, as well as the pre-school and the after school and holiday club.

Since January 1<sup>st</sup> this year, Westerleigh Parish residents have been eligible for discounted rates on one-off bookings at the Hall, and of course the Community garden is always available for anyone to visit – volunteers to help with the maintenance of this would be very welcome!

The Management Committee has been strengthened by the recruitment of new Trustees and plans are now being made for the next phase of the renovations, to include the outbuildings and perimeter walls.

The Trustees would like to thank the Parish Council for their ongoing support and look forward to working with them on the community toddlers play area to commemorate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**St Saviour's Church**

Two members of our congregation recently received a South Gloucestershire award for their services to the Community. Trevor Thompson for his devoted service to the Church and its surroundings. Mary Head has been involved with the Sunday School for the last 17 years, runs a Friday lunch group and a New Horizons Luncheon Group monthly. This is just part of her service to the Community. Both awards were very much deserved and the whole community owe them a debt of gratitude.

Our Church AGM is on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm and everyone is invited, as it is a public meeting with free tea and coffee afterwards. Please attend to show your support for those on the Parochial Church Council. New PCC members welcome, as several members are retiring this year and volunteers needed for smaller tasks. Please contact the current churchwardens if you can help in any way:-

Jessica Lock 01454 228666 or Andrew Brander 01454 882867

Activities are arranged at the church for both young and old. Details are advertised in the popular monthly church magazine.

It would be good to see the Church PCC and the Parish Council communicating and working for the benefit of the parishioners.

**Signed .....**

**Date .....**