

Westerleigh Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
Held 16th February 2015
Manor Hall Coalpit Heath

Present

Councillors: Cllrs: J Butler, D Lee, D Boulton, P King, A Fay
Officer – F Thornton Clerk/RFO

Avon Wildlife Trust at Says Court Farm

J Doherty attended to discuss the following:-

We have worked on a schedule for the next few years which is outlined below. Because we are now so late in 2014/15 our original forecast of £7000 has reduced to £3920. This will cover:

- Design, build and installation of interpretation
- Review of existing plans and new monitoring plan and management recommendations
- Stakeholder liaison, preparation and site visits

From April 2015 the programme will include:

- Education programme - Primary Schools will learn about energy, the need for renewable energy and the impact on the environment with an introduction to fieldwork techniques and scientific investigations. Secondary School students will study at a higher level the scientific fieldwork techniques as well as the human impact on the environment. All students will debate the solar farm from different land owners and users perspectives.
- Community engagement - Guided walk and talk provided at launch of project. Opportunities provided for local people to help with monitoring. Two family events (linked to national citizen science projects e.g. Big Butterfly Count).
- Wildlife walks - Guided specialist walks delivered for local community
- Monitoring - Increased monitoring of species and habitat changes by individuals and groups. Monitoring data input into BRERC. Annual public walk to communicate project findings delivered
- Management advice – Liaise with landowner regarding ongoing management to help improve site for long term ecological benefit.

This programme will last for 4 years and can adapt according to community interest/requirements. This will cost £5219 per annum. I am assuming that the work we would be conducting is not part of any conditions set out under the planning approval (I have not been able to access these). If this is actually the case, then any statutory service we would carry out would incur VAT.

Councillors were also issued the agreement re: Community Benefits with AEE. (Councillors to note that a higher accreditation was achieved giving an annual payment of £19800 – subject to currency changes)

Sun Edison also state:

I would also like to confirm that the unilateral undertaking is still under the condition that the Parish will work with the Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT) to implement two wildlife habitats adjacent to Says Court solar farm as per the original agreement. As I have discussed on the phone with Fiona, it remains in the interests of all parties to see this work go ahead for the benefit of the local environment.

**Decision: Proposed by Cllr P King and seconded by Cllr D Lee to give this financial commitment to the project for the next five years with an annual review.
Clerk to send logo and info to C Giles to get PC joint input/partnership information into the public domain.**

Westerleigh Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
Held 16th February 2015
Manor Hall Coalpit Heath

1. Apologies for absence

Cllrs E Carey, J Wright

2. Declarations of Interest under The Localism Act 2011

None

3. Approve minutes of meeting held 17th November 2014

Proposed by Cllr J Butler and seconded by Cllr D Boulton to approve the minutes. All in favour. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

4. Committee to discuss café at Bitterwell Lake (ie funding/structure/ rent/etc)

Decision: Proposed by Cllr J Butler and seconded by Cllr A Fay that in addition to the £3480 budget set for 2015/16, £15,000 will be used from the 2014/15 community benefit fund to finance this project. Committee wish to see this capital outlay recovered from a rental income over a fixed period of time. It was acknowledged that a summer and winter rental rate may be appropriate.

Clerk to apply for full planning consent once the outline planning decision is received (subject to approval of structure by Council)

Committee wish to see a toilet facility accessed external so that they can be open during times when the café is closed.

5. Committee to review budgets and spend to date/identify current/future needs

Committee were issued with spend v budgets 2014/15 to date report and bank rec. Jan. 2015

6. Committee to approve payments of accounts

Payee	Details	Gross (£)	Net (£)
Consortium	Stationery	48.30	40.25
Manor Hall	Room Hire	27.00	27.00
F Thornton	postage Dec – Feb	36.12	36.12
Glasdon UK Ltd	2 x dog bins	248.40	207.00
South Glos Council	night bus contributions	795.00	795.00

Decision: Proposed by Cllr P King and seconded by Cllr D Boulton, agreed by all, the payments were approved.

7. Committee to comment on planning applications received

None

8. Items to report

1. Due to the elections in May the APM will be held in April (13th). The AGM will also be one week later on 18th May
2. E&L Committee scheduled for 16th March will now be 23rd March.
3. Cllr A Fay – next agenda caravan storage at Ram Hill bungalow site.
4. Cllr J Butler – tenant has cleared lots of debris at the chalet – another skip to be arranged.
5. Footpath from alongside Manor School – hedge is overhanging in the footpath and is dangerous in the dark.
6. Ring of Bells – large shrubs on corner obscuring visibility.
7. Electrician to be arranged for final inspection at Chalet now works are completed.

9. Date of Next Committee Meeting 21st September 2015

Signed..... (Chair)

Date: 21st September 2015