

WESTERLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
17th OCTOBER 2016
HELD AT MANORHALL, COALPIT HEATH

Present: Councillors: CLLRS B TAYLOR, J BUTLER, A FAY, A GIBBS
Officer – V Anderson – Interim Clerk/RFO

22. Apologies for absence
CLLR M CRUMPTON

23. Declarations of Interest under The Localism Act 2011
None

24. To approve minutes of the meetings held 25th July 2016

It was noted that many matters arising from the minutes of 25th July had not been brought forward, The Clerk explained that as there was no further information at this stage regarding Bitterwell Lake toilets, tree planting at Newman Field, the provision of a community notice board at Manor Hall and identified location of a new refuse bin the matters would be deferred to the next meeting.

Decision: proposed by Cllr A Fay and seconded by Cllr A Gibbs, agreed by all that the minutes of 25th July 2016 be accepted.

25. Committee to consider including fencing repairs to Newman Field whilst replacing a pedestrian gate as agreed prior

At the parish council meeting held on the 3rd October 2016 it was agreed to refer the gate quotation back to this committee as only one quote had been received which was in excess of a £1,000. They identified that there may be a requirement to carry out some fencing repairs and it was identified that it may be financially beneficial to obtain quotes from fencing contractors to carry out the repairs and replacing the gate at the same time.

Since then a second quotation was received which included fence repairs and replacing the gate which was also far in excess of £1,000.

The Interim RFO explained that he was uncomfortable with receiving only two quotations which are totally dissimilar. It was suggested that a simple specification be written so that three quotations can be obtained which are like for like to satisfy financial regulations and a considered decision can be taken.

Decision: Agreed by all that Cllr B Taylor would assess the length of fence to be repaired and is to provide the Clerk with photographic evidence so that a simple specification can be written for the purposes of obtaining three quotes.

26. Library Review Consultation - South Gloucestershire Council

South Gloucestershire Council have asked if this parish council (including all others) are interested in working with them in developing the community network of libraries to attend the meeting on 26th October.

Decision: Agreed by all that Cllr J Butler will attend the consultation event scheduled for the 26th October and she will request two posters regarding the ongoing public consultation so that they can be placed on the two ward notice boards.

27. Committee to consider whether to supply a waste bin (preferably for both animal and general waste) at the end of Coalville Road.

Cllr Taylor received a call from a Merlin Housing Officer, saying that residents are picking up fox faeces from the road (where the animals wander from the playing fields behind). They would like to put them somewhere other than in their domestic bins.

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Members discussed the wider public benefit of placing a refuse bin for both general and animal waste in the immediate vicinity recognising that Coalville Road was a cul-de-sac and it was unlikely to have much footfall other than local residents.

Decision: Agreed by all that Merlin Housing should identify the best location for a suitable waste bin and they are to request that South Gloucestershire Council provide it. If SGC agree to do so Westerleigh Parish Council will undertake to empty it on a regular basis.

28. Committee to consider preparing a community or neighbourhood plan as recommended at the planning outcome training day.

Cllr A Fay reported this was recommended so that when large planning applications come in WPC have ammunition to counter claims made by developers where we do not agree with their statements.

Members discussed the matter which included an acknowledgement that in the past there may have been a Parish Plan but the validity of that document was questioned as it is believed to be of some age which is not relevant to current day.

The interim clerk briefly explained the difference between a community plan and neighbourhood plan identifying that there would be significant cost implications and that either plan requires specialist input. The interim clerk also explained that the neighbourhood plan have to take into account all existing planning policy and legislation and should not be used to oppose planning which is contrary to existing policies held by central government, county council and district councils. It was also identified that the planning inspectorate have to approve the neighbourhood plan and that a local referendum is required at the parish councils cost.

The report was noted.

29. Boundary Stones

Earlier this year there was much discussion about a boundary stone which had been abandoned at Bitterwell which was re-erected in its original situation. Cllr Fay wondered if the other Councillors knew of this boundary stone on Lyde Green bridleway? Councillors present had not been aware and thanked Cllr Fay for bringing it to their attention.

The report was noted.

30. Reporting tree problems to Street Care

Cllr Fay has been getting request from local parishioners to get something done about local environmental issues. The latest is regarding a tree branch resting on the telephone wires with the fear of the wires being severed. The last one was about some tree branches down in a local lane. Cllr Fay dealt with that by contacting Street Care as it was urgent. Cllr Fay asks if Councillors should always notify the clerk or can they deal with urgent things as a Councillor or as a private person?

The interim clerk responded by advising that councillors can report the matter direct to Street Care in either capacity. Cllr Butler suggested that if a member of the public makes a request to a councillor for reporting a similar matter to be reported that it is done so in the capacity of councillor.

The report was noted.

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31. Payment of Account

Payee	Details	Gross £	Net £	VAT £
Royal British Legion	2 x Poppy Wreaths	35.00	35.00	0.00

Decision: proposed by Cllr B Taylor and seconded by Cllr A Fay to approve the payment of account. Agreed by all.

32. Date of next meeting – 12th December 2016 (subject to change)

Signed

Date: