

WESTERLEIGH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Manor Hall, Coalpit Heath Monday April 8th 2019

Present: Parish Councillors: B Taylor (Chair), J Butler, J Lean, T Clark, P King,
A Gibbs, S Blackmore, R McCullough SGC Ward Councillor C Young Parish Clerk S Simmons

1. Introduction

Cllr Bob Taylor started by pointing out the fire exits, welcoming everyone and outlining the Agenda.

2. Approve the Minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting

Seven Councillors present were at the meeting on April 9th 2018 and confirmed the Minutes were a true record. They were signed by the Chairman.

3. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

This last year we have made a number of improvements to the Parish facilities.

These include:

- improvements to the drainage of Westerleigh playing fields
- a new surface to Westerleigh children's play area
- bins at litter hotspots
- and enhancements to Bitterwell Lake – resurfacing carpark, new benches, picnic tables, paths, gates.

These have not been funded from your Council Tax payments, but from income from Says Court solar farm and also Section 106 monies, paid by home builders.

We have also published and distributed to all homes a Parish Map & Guide (available tonight)

We have made a number of grants to local organisations, including:

- Avon Wildlife Trust (Says Court nature events)
- Coalpit Heath Village Hall (Flooring)
- Westerleigh Neighbourhood Watch
- St Peters Hospice
- Above & Beyond (for Bristol Childrens Hospital equipment)
- Frampton Cotterell Youth group

The income from the solar farm has enabled us to keep the Parish portion of Council Tax, unchanged.

There have been a number of major consultations from South Gloucestershire Council
Joint Local Spatial Plan – covering the number and siting of homes and employment and facilities from 2026 onwards

Joint Local Transport Plan – to support these additional homes and employment

and cycle safety schemes

We have also been involved in Kendleshire traffic scheme discussions.

Other changes across the Parish have been the completion of the new sewer dedicated to the trade effluent from Tulip, and the introduction of LED lighting across the Parish.

Our Clerk has been with us for the 2nd half of this Council's term, and is now well-known to parish groups, residents and our contractors. We are very grateful for her efforts.

The ward structure of SGC will be changing, so that the Parish Council will deal with two SGC wards: the Coalpit Heath part of the parish with the councillors from the enlarged Frampton Cotterell SGC ward, and Westerleigh Village with Boyd Valley SGC ward councillors. The Police have already made corresponding changes, so we are already dealing with two beat areas.

On 2 May, there will be elections for S Glos Council and parishes, but not for Westerleigh Parish, as there were fewer candidates than vacancies. I would like to thank all our parish councillors and Claire Young, our SGC ward councillor, for their work in representing their communities, over the last 4 years.

We have 4 departing Parish Councillors, Jean Butler, Ann Fay, Sarah Blackmore, and Tony Gibbs, and the Council will be losing a lot of experience and dedication. We thank them particularly for their efforts.

4. Other Parish Business

The Parish Clerk outlined the impact that having only 5 Parish Councillors rather than the full quota of 9 may have. The "community and local element" of being a Councillor was stressed over any political motivation. It is hoped that potential new Councillors can have an informal chat with the Clerk to find out more.

5. Reports from Organisations & Groups involved in the Parish

Julie O'Donoghue Coalpit Heath Village Hall/Miners Club

Julie thanked the Parish Council for the funds which enabled a new floor to be installed, improving the hall and enabling it to be used for more social events and private hires.

Brian Cottrell Westerleigh Neighbourhood Watch & Newsletter

Brian explained that the group look after safety, communications and social events in the village. A recent event trained locals to use the CPR defibrillator. A litter pick has also happened recently. Communications happen via the four newsletters each year which is partly funded by the Parish Council, who were thanked for their support which it is hoped will continue.

Carol Goddard Westerleigh Bloomers

Westerleigh Bloomers were able to provide new planters on Westerleigh Playing Field and the new Bug Hotel (to be named Westerleigh Waldorf) on Pansy Vale thanks to grants from the Parish Council. The Bug Hotel project involved the participation of children from Immanuel School very close by. The PC were thanked for their support.

Geraldine Jasper Manor Hall

We would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support and the annual funds made available. Without that it would not be possible to provide such a good venue. The hall and gardens are looking great and we get regular positive feedback.

There are a wide range of regular and casual events held at the hall including Karate, Church of Christ, Dancing groups, yoga, art, choir & ukelele groups etc as well as private functions. The refurbishment of the Red Brick annex gives a further small hire space. We have just had new hedging planted around the perimeter fence which will provide privacy and it pleases the listed buildings officer. We have 5 volunteer gardeners and a sub-committee of trustees who plan and oversee projects. The Memorial Garden, now a smarter place - again paid for by this Parish Council is thriving and looking fabulous.

During the year we had a fire inspections and work was identified to our 40 year old boiler room so it now meets a 21st century spec. Expensive maintenance and decoration continue on a day to day basis as we keep the hall in top tip condition. We need to update the underground water supply in the next few months which will be expensive! Finally I would like to say a big thank you to this Parish Council for their continued support.

The Parish Clerk had received two messages which she read out:

Sarah Pryer Above & Beyond

In July, the Council very kindly gave us a grant of £2462 to purchase a new overhead hoist for Sunflower Ward (formerly Ward 38b) in Bristol Children’s Hospital. We are so pleased to be able to let you know that the Ward has now been reopened complete with the brand new ceiling hoists and is working well.

At the same time as installing the hoists, the whole Ward was refurbished, making the whole space much lighter, brighter and welcoming.

Nurses Sally and George, who share the Sister role on Sunflower, are so pleased to now have their new ward open: *“The improvement for everyone is just fantastic. With limited space we had to be creative and the Estates team and architect did a great job”*.

Thank you again from us all for your generosity – it really has made a big difference. If any of the Councillors would like to come in and see the hoists in situ, I would be delighted to show you round, do let me know

Amanda Wood South Glos Citizens Advice Bureau

We are writing to thank the Parish Council for the funding provided to Citizens Advice South Gloucestershire in the last financial year. Our latest Annual Impact Report details how our work has made a difference in our local communities. This wouldn’t have happened without you.

As a small, local charity we are completely reliant on donations and grants; it is only with the continued support of kind donors like you that we are able to provide help to those people who need us most.

Thank you again for your continued support - we really do appreciate it.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 7.35pm

Signed.....

Date.....