



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of

The Westcott Village Association

On

Thursday, 1st August 2019

In

The Barn, Lower Springfield Farmhouse, Westcott at 19.30hours

Present:

Tim Way (chair)

Hugh Broom

Edwin Harland

Andrew Copeland

Edwina Gordon

Sandra Ede

James Friend (District Councillor)

Hazel Watson (County Councillor)

1. Apologies for absence James Leaver, Nick Lund
2. Minutes of the WVA Committee Meeting of 20th June 2019 were approved subject to the inclusion of the following:
Parking – The Burrell. S Ede voiced her continued frustration at the lack of any constructive progress on the matter of new parking provision on The Burrell.
3. Matters Arising:

- **Heathland below the church**

Paul Hardwick has committed to complete the agreed works (digging out remaining stumps, removing bracken and brambles, re-landscaping to make maintenance easier in future, poisoning persistent shrubs) by the end of August.

- **Indigo Spice Appeal**

TW will make contact with the owner to try to negotiate an improvement in the appearance of the vacant property.

Action: **TEW**

- **Westcott Village Sign**

HW will chase the Highways team on the replacement sign.

Action: **HW**

- **Dovecote/Bus Stop**

Possible funding to be progressed through approach to Prudential Ride London

- **Village Clean-up day 13th July**

7 volunteers collected 14.2kg of rubbish. There was no significant evidence of fly-tipping although some residents of Springfield Road whose houses backed onto Cradhurst were using the space for garden waste. A further litter pick event was proposed for October (date tba) and the situation would continue to be monitored.

- **WestFest Funds**

TEW confirmed that monies raised by the Association on the tombola and cake stall would go to the WVA funds.

- **The Pound**

TEW had written to the Wotton Estates manager asking that the work be progressed as soon as possible. Sourcing a suitable stonemason had proved difficult and was causing delays in starting the work.

- **Community Facilities**

TEW reported that the Trustees of both The Hut and The Reading Room had met to discuss a joint solution to the matter of the village community facility and the replacement for the Doctors surgery. Merging the two charities had been ruled out as far too complicated to attempt but had instead entered into a signed memorandum of understanding on a way forward. DMP had been party to the discussions. The WVA would not be party to the planning process but had agreed to facilitate matters if requested by the parties involved. Bernd Ratzki had agreed to act as the independent chair of the working group; James Leaver had been asked, as a professional in the field, to personally assist the working group. The committee noted the positive progress that was now being made.

4. Expenditure Plan

1. EH presented the **(draft) accounts** for 2019 (y/e 31st July) and a projected budget for the coming year.

2019/20 expenditure agreed:

- Church lighting for one month (£75)
 - Additional defibrillator; lease costs to be investigated by Treasurer as opposed to buying.
 - Website costs – following the site crash earlier in the week it was agreed that AC would investigate a more stable and secure hosting platform with associated costs. (c£100 pa)
 - Community Facilities planning support for the working group was agreed as a grant of one third of the cost up to a maximum of £3k.
2. **Small grants:** EH's draft proposals were discussed and agreed. Key elements were:
 - a. Up to £1000 pa with a maximum individual grant of £250.
 - b. Criteria to include:

- i. Of benefit to local residents which might not otherwise be available
- ii. WVA subsidy as opposed to covering the full cost
- iii. Specific activity rather than generic requests
- iv. Ideally tangible benefit
- v. Advertised on the village web-site
- vi. Quarterly consideration of applications
- vii. Simple but formal requests in writing

TEW to speak to Glenn Wylie to ensure we avoid any overlap or conflict with the revised 100 Club (small lottery) scheme. Action: **TEW**

5. Financial Report

TEW and EH to prepare the Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31st July 2019 to be presented at the AGM. Action: **TEW/EH**

6. Other Association Matters

- Correspondence – “Transformation through Village Values” deferred to another meeting
- Village Green management; a discussion took place on whether the WVA wished to take over responsibility for the management of the village green and other assets currently MVDC responsibility; agreed that the association did not have the resources at this time to take back responsibility.
- Monthly newsletter: TEW welcomed any member of the committee wanting to make a contribution to the Village Magazine.
- Marketing Plan – deferred to AGM Action: **AC**
- Visible physical state of the village. TEW had received complaints that certain areas of the village were looking uncared for and that certain residents seemed to lack a certain pride in their village. SE raised the issue of the overgrown state of footpaths discussed at the last meeting; TEW commented that these had been improved by both the Council and HB in the last few weeks. The state of the triangle outside Indigo Spice was discussed. TEW and HB would assess what should be done and discuss proposals with the Gardeners Club.

Action: **TEW/HB**

7. Any Other Business

- 2020 Meeting Dates – see below

- EH raised the issue of an urgent need to find an Honorary Secretary for the Association. Action: **ALL**
- SE asked for clarification on Clarion Homes' rumoured development of the garages at the bottom of Springfield Road/St John's Road
Action: **TEW**
- Tombola stall at Christmas Fair. Agreed the WVA would not run a stall at this event.
- Mail merge – AC to investigate alternatives to the current software
Action: **AC**
- Planning Applications – These to be returned to the agenda as a standing item. Action: **JL**

Meeting closed at 21.20.

8. Next Meetings

Thursday 12th September 2019 Open meeting. Holy Trinity Church commencing 19.30 Hugh Broom to chair in TEW's absence

Wednesday 16th October (AGM) 19.45 Holy Trinity Church

Thursday 31st October 19.30

Thursday 12th December Open Meeting 19.30 Holy Trinity Church

2020 Proposed Meeting dates

23rd January

5th March (Open Meeting)

16th April

28th May (Open Meeting)

3rd September

15th October (Annual General Meeting)

3rd December

14th January **2021** (Open Meeting)