



Notes of the Westcott Village Association Committee Meeting Held at Holy Trinity Church at 20.40 hours on 12th September 2019

Present from the WVA Committee:

Hugh Broom (acting Chairman)
Edwin Harland
Edwina Gordon
James Leaver
Sandra Ede
Nick Lund

In attendance

Hazel Watson (County Councillor)
James Friend (District Councillor)

Apologies

Tim Way
Andrew Copeland

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Tim Way and Andrew Copeland.

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 1st August 2019

These were approved.

3. Matters Arising

- a. Heathland below the church: Bert Broom reported that the bracken has been sprayed; work to clear the surface and stumps is expected to start w/b 23 September 2019.

Action: BB

b. Indigo Spice: James Leaver reminded the meeting that the previous application had been rejected. A new application was submitted last week for two two-bedroom maisonettes. The WNDP Policy requires the provision of two off street car parking spaces per unit for units of two bedrooms or more. However, given that there is one dwelling there already, one additional dwelling could likely be approved with only two “new” spaces. James noted that the two new spaces on the plan appear to be extremely narrow. James has been in touch with Wotton Estate who are minded not to object. James Leaver and James Friend agreed that “something needed to happen” to the site. James Leaver recommended a neutral stance by the WVA commenting on the apparently inadequate size of the parking spaces. This was agreed.

Action: JL

c. Village sign: Hazel Watson reported, as at the open meeting, that there had been an error by highways meaning that the matter was still in progress.

d. 100 Club grant criteria: Edwin Harland reported having spoken to Alan Jonas. He is no longer involved in the One Hundred Club but thought the WVA small grants scheme would not pose a conflict. Edwin agreed to circulate a draft application form including eligibility criteria within the next two to three weeks so that, following email input from trustees, a final version could be on the website by the time of the AGM.

Action: EH

e. Prudential Ride London: Tim Way had spoken to James Taylor at Ride London. Tim Way will provide an update at the AGM. James Taylor hoped to attend the December open meeting.

Action: TW

f. Website: The website had contained the incorrect venue for this open meeting until recently. Edwin Harland suggested that a proof read of the whole site would not be a bad idea and queried who had access. Was it just Andrew Copeland?

Action: to discuss at next meeting

4. Approval of AGM papers

Draft accounts for the year ended 31 July 2019 were approved subject to minor amendments to the Chairman’s report suggested by James Friend and to be agreed with Tim Way. Edwin Harland explained the need for a reserves policy and proposed the version contained in the draft Trustees’ Report. This was approved. Edwin will now present the accounts to the independent examiner and arrange for them to be placed on the website at least two weeks before the AGM on 16 October 2019.

Action: EH

5. Planning applications

The proposal for three new houses in Chapel Lane; has attracted many comments. The proposed development fits within the village plan, however, the wall is part of the character in the village. James Leaver recommends not objecting. The content of a proposed letter to MVDC was discussed and agreed.

Action: JL

6. Financial Report

Edwin Harland indicated that the draft accounts provided a recent picture of the WVA's positive financial position. Since the year end, the WVA had made a grant of £2,500 as a contribution to the Community Centre feasibility study. Representatives of the Reading Room have undertaken to repay the grant if and when circumstances permit. Membership receipts were strong.

7. Countryside/Highways Matters

Hazel Watson felt that we were unlikely to be successful asking for average speed cameras on the A25 between Westcott and Newlands Corner because of the volume of obsolete 'normal' speed cameras elsewhere within the county and also due to the number of exits/entrances on that stretch of road (Bert argued that the majority of traffic would be relevant to the average speed cameras but a traffic study is the only way to prove that). Hazel said that the cost of the average speed cameras at Mickleham was £140k.

Bert mentioned the traffic light scheme that has been implemented in the village of Springholm in Scotland which initially sounded promising. Hazel commented that traffic lights were very expensive.

Nick Lund reported that Tim Way has been working with the Surrey Hill Highways Working Group to look at alternative options for traffic calming - some of this falls under more psychological methods for slowing drivers such as changing the landscape of a village, removing highways 'clutter' and making it more obvious that you're driving through a lovely village which should warrant more careful driving. Some of that will again cost money (which SCC don't have); Hazel has committed to discussing the possibility of additional white lines with Tim - we're waiting to get a date in the diary with her and a highways engineer - later this month or in early October.

Action: HW

Nick said he needed to have a conversation with Tim about the best way to tackle all of the above and questioned if at the moment we have a clear picture of the challenges - we believe speed is an issue but it would be useful to understand whether it's also volume of traffic, what time/s of the day are particularly problematic etc. Nick volunteered to do further research and report back to the group on what kind of surveys

are possible, likely costs, timescales etc. Bert Broom agreed to mention the issues at the next Rural Crime Group meeting.

Action: NL and BB

8. AOB

- a. Tree in The Burrell: the tree mentioned by Sandra Ede at previous meetings has been dealt with thanks to James Friend. Sandra expressed her gratitude to James while noting that there was still a need for further steps to be undertaken.
- b. Noticeboard – Edwin Harland commented that the two WVA notice boards by the shops were displaying notices for events which had taken place some months ago. Sandra commented that there was at least one unauthorised key in circulation. Edwin thought that it would be worth advertising open meetings on the notice board with an eye-catching notice. He undertook to deliver such a notice to Sandra so that the AGM could be well advertised and attended.

Action: EH and SE

- c. Next meetings and schedule of meetings for 2020:

In the absence of a secretary, a rota of minute taking responsibilities (once per trustee per year) has been circulated by Tim Way. Trustees unable to take minutes on the proposed date are requested to swap with other trustees.

The next meeting will be the AGM on **Wednesday 16th October at 19.45 (not 19.30)** at Holy Trinity Church

Thursday 31st October 19.30

Thursday 12th December Open Meeting 19.30 Holy Trinity Church

2020 Meeting dates

23rd January

5th March (Open Meeting)

16th April

28th May (Open Meeting)

3rd September

15th October (Annual General Meeting)

3rd December