



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of**

**The Westcott Village Association**

**On**

**Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019**

**In**

**The Barn, Lower Springfield Farmhouse, Westcott at 19.30hours**

**Present:**

Tim Way (chair)

Edwina Gordon

Sandra Ede

Nick Lund

James Leaver

James Friend (District Councillor)

Hazel Watson (County Councillor)

1. Apologies for absence Edwin Harland, Andrew Copeland, Hugh Broom  
The Chairman noted that the meeting was not quorate

2. Minutes of the WVA Committee Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were approved.

3. Minutes of the AGM of 16<sup>th</sup> October were agreed to be released and posted on the website.

4. Matters Arising:

- **Heathland below the church**

The very wet start to October had prevented the grass and wild flower seed being sown. This would now be done in the spring of 2020. It was also noted that the Wotton Estate would put in a hedge by the car park area. Action **HB**

- **Westcott Village Sign**

HW agreed to chase County Highways on the replacement sign. The Sports club would be asked to remove the fallen tree obstructing the view of the new sign.

Action: **HW/TEW**

5. Highways – Speeding and Noise

TEW reported that following the AGM when the subject had been raised, he and Nick Lund had set up a small working group (including Hazel Watson,

and WVA members Edward Bennett, and Alda Andreotti) to look into ways in which vehicle speeds through the village could be reduced. The number of junctions from roads and houses with no adequate sight lines onto the A25 was identified as an additional hazard. It was also felt that the Average Speed cameras on the A24 (Mickleham Bends) had increased speeding traffic elsewhere and particularly on the A25 through Westcott.

The first meeting was scheduled to take place on 11<sup>th</sup> November, and TEW/NL agreed to keep the Committee informed of progress.

Action: **TEW/NL**

A brief discussion took place on the fatal accident which had occurred in the early morning of 28<sup>th</sup> October. It was too soon, however, to reach any conclusions on the cause of the accident and particularly whether speeding had played a contributory part.

## **6. “New” WVA**

TEW reported that EH had started the process of setting up a new bank account with the Clydesdale and Yorkshire Bank, the current Lloyds Bank having proved less easy to do business with in setting up a new account. Once the account was established new signatories could be added if required, and all WVA members would need to be written to asking them to set up new standing order mandates on the new account. This would be discussed at a later date. In addition, the old WVA would be dissolved and its assets transferred to the new WVA and its bank account hopefully by the end of the year.

TEW reported that, given the new constitution included the facility to involve representatives from the five main Village Organisations, it was proposed to disband the Chairperson’s Forum which had been set up originally to facilitate village wide discussion on matters affecting the whole village. It was agreed (subsequently confirmed by email correspondence) that TEW would write to the members of the Forum setting out their opportunity to attend future WVA meetings.

Action **TEW**

## **7. Financial Report**

TEW agreed to circulate a brief report from EH.

Action: **TEW**

## **8. Planning Applications**

James Leaver reported on:

- a. Indigo Spice – The latest Planning Application for two dwellings and two parking spaces had been turned down on the grounds of Highways safety and parking. The committee acknowledged that it was difficult to see how the site could now be developed; it was agreed to wait and see whether the owner registered an appeal.
- b. The Crown – The planning application was due to be heard in Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> November, but, very late in the day, the Planning Team had

recommended that the application be rejected on the basis of its failure to meet Planning Policy CS17 (loss of village facilities) and proper marketing of the site. It was agreed that TEW and JL would review the document and write to the council dealing with the issue of CS17. Action **JL/TEW**

- c. The Old House – It was noted that this Application would go to the Planning Committee based on the number of letters received from residents.

## **9. Other Association Matters**

- Surgery/Community facilities – JL reported that the working group was making progress, but it was unlikely that any conclusions or recommendations would be available before the new year.
- Village ATM – A resident had asked whether the WVA could apply to have an ATM installed in the village. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the first step should be to approach the two main retailers in the village to see whether they would be prepared to offer a cash withdrawal service and no minimum payment. Action **TEW**
- Multi-user Off-road Cycle Track – TEW reported that Surrey County Council and the Surrey Hills AONB had made a joint bid for a new cycle-way between Box Hill and Leith Hill. Part of the plan included a “Cycle Hub” at the Manor Farm business park which would include a cycle repair shop, toilet facilities, a café and parking for up to 70 cars. The planning application would be submitted when the funding for the scheme had been approved. It was noted that the parking at the cycle hub provided an opportunity to ease the “visitor” parking problem in the village. The WVA would wait to see the planning application before commenting.
- Meeting Venues 2020 – It was noted that the owner of the current venue for WVA meetings had put the property on the market. If the property was sold to a new owner and the meeting venue had to be changed, Clive Jaques had offered the Board Room at Harrington House as a future meeting venue for the WVA.
- December Open Meeting – It was agreed (subsequently confirmed by email correspondence) that the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December should be cancelled given the clash with the General Election. The next committee meeting would be 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 and the next Open Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March. It was noted that discussion of both the Future Mole Valley Development Plan, and the future of the Prudential Ride London would be facilitated by delaying the next open meeting.
- Honorary Secretary – TEW reported that he was hopeful that he had found someone to volunteer to become Honorary Secretary as well as someone to take the 10<sup>th</sup> Trustee place on the committee.

## **10. Any Other Business**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.12.

## **11. Next Meetings**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December Open Meeting CANCELLED**

## **2020 Meeting dates**

23<sup>rd</sup> January

5<sup>th</sup> March (Open Meeting)

16<sup>th</sup> April

28<sup>th</sup> May (Open Meeting) NOTE Spring Half-term – date may be changed

3<sup>rd</sup> September

15<sup>th</sup> October (Annual General Meeting)

3<sup>rd</sup> December

14<sup>th</sup> January **2021** (Open Meeting)