



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of

The Westcott Village Association

On

Thursday, 23rd January 2020

In

The Barn, Lower Springfield Farmhouse, Westcott at 19.30hours

Present:

Tim Way (chair)

Simon Bradley

Hugh Broom

Andrew Copeland

Sandra Ede

Edwin Harland

James Leaver

Nick Lund

James Friend (District Councillor)

Hazel Watson (County Councillor)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new WVA.

1. Apologies for absence Edwina Gordon, Paul Goddard
2. Minutes of the WVA Committee Meeting of 31st October 2019.
Approved.
3. Matters Arising:
 - **Village ATM**
The Chairman reported that currently there was no prospect of siting an ATM at either the Bakery or the Newsagents or making cash available to customers. He had spoken to both businesses who were not supportive of the proposal.
4. Appointment of Trustees and Members of the Committee
Paul Goddard as Honorary Secretary, and Simon Bradley were unanimously voted onto the WVA as Trustees.
A brief discussion took place regarding the representative nature of the committee and the need to have a more diverse makeup. The Chairman

agreed wholeheartedly with the objective but said that having spoken to numerous people over the last 18 months about joining the committee this had proved difficult. Either people were reluctant to make a commitment to join a committee or that they had other interests/commitments which were a greater priority for them. In the short term what was important was working to demonstrate to residents that the WVA was an active body getting things done for the village; the aim was that as the WVA changed perception over time, so new committee members would be attracted to join. The principle of co-opting ordinary members onto working groups was agreed as a way of involving people and encouraging participation.

5. **WVA – Administrative changes**

TEW confirmed that the “Old WVA” had now been dissolved by the Charity Commission.

Edwin Harland confirmed that the current financial assets of the “Old WVA” had been transferred to the “New WVA” bank account in accordance with the resolutions passed at the AGM. The old bank account, however, would remain active for a short period of time to ensure that any monies which might be received in the coming months could be transferred to the new account. (Gift Aid refunds from HMRC were a case in point).

Hugh Broom would be added as a signature on the new account. **ACTION EH**

In April/May all members would be targeted to change their membership standing orders to the new account, but it was agreed that every month there would be a reminder in the Village Magazine and in the Chairman’s newsletter asking members to change the recipient account details to the new WVA account number 2007 2790, sort code 82-11-07; there would also be a reminder to residents that PayPal via the website could be used to pay annual subscriptions without the individual having their own PayPal account.

ACTION: TEW

6. **Highways – Speeding and Noise**

TEW updated the committee on the working group discussions. Andrew Copeland declared that he has a financial interest in One Thread UK and withdrew himself from the discussion on this topic. The proposal to have rear windscreen stickers produced was deferred to review the design and to arrange two quotes for the work, including one from One Thread UK.

ACTION: NL/AC

The proposal to have questionnaires printed and distributed was also deferred until the outcome of the meeting on 29th January was known (see below).

ACTION: TEW/NL

JF and HW updated the meeting on the outcome of the question put to the Local Committee on 22nd January. They reported that the response had been encouraging and that a meeting between County Council Officers and the Police had been agreed on 29th January. Following that meeting a further

meeting would be arranged involving the WVA and any other relevant parties.
HW would progress. ACTION: HW

7. Financial Report

EH gave a brief report on the financial position. At nearly the mid-point of the WVA financial year, the financial situation was positive compared to the budget.

8. Projects for 2020

TEW reported that after the AGM a number of people had approached him to encourage the WVA to take up a number of projects in 2020. The first was to find ways to engage with the young people of the village in finding out their priorities, and the second was to organise events around the Christmas period – tree lights on the Green and a Christmas lunch for those spending Christmas on their own had been suggested.

TEW asked that Trustees consider the ideas and agree to take up these (or other ideas) as projects in the coming year. ACTION: ALL

9. Planning Applications

JL briefed the Committee on the change of use application from Dene Farm, Hole Hill from light industrial to residential. A draft letter to the Planning Department was agreed. ACTION: JL

JL also reported that the Planning application for the Cycle Hub at Coast Hill Farm had been approved. The owners were hopeful that the operation would be open by early spring.

In a discussion arising from other reports the meeting agreed the principle that it was important to retain commercial and retail premises in the village in line with the WNDP.

10. Correspondence

TEW drew attention to previously circulated papers covering:

- MVDC Affordable Housing strategy
- Youth Consultation events

11. Other Association Matters

- The date of the **2020 AGM was changed to Thursday 8th October**
- **Adopt a Phone Box:** The decommissioning of the phone box on the corner of The Burrell/St John's Road was now in the hands of the District Council. The details of the transfer of ownership would be reviewed before a final decision on converting the old phone box to house a defibrillator. The committee agreed in principle to purchase a defibrillator when the details had been reviewed.
- **Prudential Ride London** future consultations were open until 16th February. It was agreed that the Chairman would circulate previous submissions and receive comments from the committee before

deciding to make further representations on behalf of the WVA. EH agreed to progress the idea of reserving 5 places to be offered to residents of the village who wished to participate in the race in 2021; TEW confirmed that the WVA would be treated no differently to other charities and that applicants would have to pay the entry fee. It was agreed that the WVA committee would work more closely with JF and residents in organising the event within the village and providing marshals for this year's events. **ACTION: ALL**

- Future Mole Valley consultations on the draft Local Plan would commence if, on 28th January, a meeting of the full MVDC Council agreed to release the draft for public consultation. The consultations would run from 3rd February to 23rd March and open meeting presentations would be held across the District. Any resident from any community could attend these presentations. The draft Local Plan and the presentation dates would be posted on the WVA website. TEW reported that he had requested the presence of someone from the Planning team to be present at the WVA Open meeting on 5th March.

12. Any Other Business

- WVA Meeting Venue. TEW reported that Mike and Jill Flower would be leaving the village and that future committee meetings would be held in the Conference Room, Barrington House, Guildford Road courtesy of Clive Jaques.
- SE raised the state of the footpath behind the Burrell. JF reported that the state of the trees had been reviewed and had found to be in an acceptable condition; no further work required.
- SE raised the matter of fly tipping; this was to be reported online or by phone with the District Council
- SE raised again the issue of parking in The Burrell. The Chairman regretted that despite a significant investment of WVA time and resources over the past two years, it had not been possible to achieve the outcome sought by SE. The matter was therefore closed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.24.

13. Next Meetings

Thursday 5th March 2020 Open Meeting – 19.30 hours at Holy Trinity Church Westcott

Thursday 16th April 2020 The Conference Room, Barrington House, Guildford Road at 19.30 hours

Further meetings in 2020

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

3rd September

8th October (Annual General Meeting) NOTE revised date

3rd December

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