



Minutes of the Westcott Village Association Committee  
Meeting via Video conference: 7.30pm to 9pm on 16th April 2020

**On Line** from the WVA Committee:

Tim Way as Chairman, Simon Bradley, Paul Goddard, Edwina Gordon, Edwin Harland, James Leaver, Nick Lund

**Also on line:** Hazel Watson, County Councillor

**Apologies:** Hugh Broom, Andrew Copeland, Sandra Ede, James Friend, District Councillor

The Agenda was as follows:

1. Apologies for absence - noted above
2. Action Points / Minutes of the Open Meeting of 5th March 2020:  
Matters Arising:
  - WVA submission to MVDC & next steps - JL
  - Feedback from Residents - TEW
  - Speeding and Noise Survey / Stickers - TEW
  - Street Stewards - response - EG
  - Defibrillator - EH
3. Action Points / Minutes of the Committee Meeting 5th March 2020:  
Matters Arising not covered in 2 above:
  - Projects for 2020 - All
  - Review of WVA website - PRG
4. C-19 Crisis:
  - Additional actions WVA can take - ALL
  - Financial Aid Available for Community Organisations -TEW
5. Planning Applications - JL
6. Financial Report including:
  - WVA Insurance renewal
  - Collection of subscriptions - EH
7. Countryside / Highways Matters - HB/NL
8. Any Other Business / Next Meeting - ALL

Notes and Action Points by Agenda Point are as follows:

Action Points / Minutes of the Open Meeting of 5th March 2020: Matters Arising:

- WVA submission to MVDC & next steps:

JL briefly summarised the main points of the submission to MVDC. Two in particular were that the WVA and Residents want MVDC to take account of all new dwellings that have been and are likely to be built in Westcott other than at the two designated sites in their target. In addition, that MVDC need a solution in place to resolve current and resulting traffic congestion *before* allowing the two proposed Westcott Road, Dorking sites to be developed.

EH commented that he wanted clarity from MVDC on how they would ensure that if the two Westcott sites became part of the Local Plan, the proposed numbers of dwellings were not later increased. Jane Smith said that there would be no assurances, and it would depend on what was considered in keeping.

At a recent County Council Committee, HW confirmed the following comment was made - paraphrased - 'that the Highways Department saw no reason for objection to the development of any of the sites in the Local Plan on solely Highways grounds'.

HW queried with Highways at the time how this conclusion had been reached as no supporting detail or reasoning was provided. She has requested a meeting for clarification and explanation to be given but it is very unlikely to progress until post Lockdown. Action HW

TEW reiterated that MVDC had rejected calls to publish the detailed traffic / access plans prepared in support of the two Westcott sites.

- Feedback from Residents:

TEW confirmed he had had no feedback from Residents, nor had any other member of the Committee.

- Speeding and Noise Survey / Stickers:

The Meeting noted that very few cars parked in the Village had a 'Speed Sticker' on display. This is disappointing. Some discussion took place on why, and how to improve this response. Further discussion and action was agreed to be deferred until after Lockdown.

The results of the Survey on the Speeding and Noise problem are being reviewed by the Sub Committee with a view to confirming next steps. Specifically the cost of warning signs showing actual speed rather than '30 in a red circle' is to be researched. Action TEW

HW congratulated the WVA on having undertaken the Survey and said the results could be helpful in discussions with the Council.

All Committee Members were annoyed about the continued incidence of Motorbike Noise and Speed during Lockdown, especially on Sundays. 'Police contacts' to be made aware of WVA ongoing concerns and requested to support. Action NL

SB noted the presence of the police at the top of Coast Hill on Sunday 19th April.

- Street Stewards:

EG reported in the Meeting that she had received no additional volunteers as Street Stewards - but one since. She will defer any get together of her current Team until post Lockdown.

A discussion took place on how to increase the number of Annual Subscriptions being paid by Bank Standing Order instead of cash & cheque. Given the subscription year starts on 1st June 2020, it is not until shortly after that date that actual SO numbers would be known and therefore the how many needed collecting door to door in cash / cheque.

To boost SO numbers in the meantime, the message to Residents to request payment by SO would be made on the Website. Action PRG and by Street Stewards using their email addresses / local contacts to send TEW's message from the March Newsletter. Action EG

- Defibrillator:

No response had been received from BT yet giving authority to use their decommissioned phone box for the second Defibrillator.

Chris Smewing has confirmed he is checking the existing Defibrillator every two weeks and is sourcing spares / replacement parts as necessary. He will update PRG in writing on a regular basis on condition and use.

Ride London: The decision on whether Ride London will continue through Surrey after the 2021 event is due to be taken at County Hall on 28th April. As of 21st April, the 2020 event is going ahead as planned but will be subject to review.

- Projects for 2020: No specific ideas were proposed. Matter to be held over to the next meeting
- Review of WVA website:  
This has been started by PRG and some minor amendments have already been made by AC.

Before any more amendments are made, they will be discussed and agreed with TEW by PRG then discussed with AC for final agreement and action. Action: PRG

To ensure consistency and to make it easier for AC, ongoing, regular standard content additions should be sent to AC direct. Any one off / non standard content to go via PRG to AC.

If Committee Members wish to add or amend website content they should liaise with PRG in the first instance.

#### C-19 Crisis:

TEW confirmed that circa 70 Volunteers had come forward and offered their help to shop and collect prescriptions for Residents. A couple of 'crisis calls' had been received on the Help Line which had been concluded quickly and with the appreciation of the Caller.

This service will continue to operate during Lockdown but only within the shopping / medicines remit noted above.

After discussion, it was agreed to write to the Holy Trinity Church Wardens / Alan Jonas to make them aware of the financial aid available from MVDC for Community Organisations to apply for. No application would be made at this stage by the WVA. Action TEW

#### Free School Lunch Vouchers:

TEW is aware of problems within Surrey where online systems were not allowing recipients of "School Meal Vouchers" to redeem them to purchase food at supermarkets, causing distress and hardship. TEW to contact Jennie Ratcliff, Head of Surrey Hills School & give HW the details so HW can investigate & hopefully resolve. Action: TEW/HW

#### 5) Planning Applications:

JL confirmed the Dene Farm application to convert farm / industrial buildings to residential units had been agreed in principle. The next step is to submit a detailed proposal.

An application to convert Barns at Westlees Farm to a residential unit had also been agreed. Both schemes are felt to be positive for the area.

MVDC Planning meetings are on hold during the Lockdown due to the difficulty of dealing with the complex detail required via online meeting links.

## 6) Insurance:

EH confirmed that Public Liability and, for Volunteers, Employers Liability Insurance cover was in place in the name of the WVA. These policies are designed to cover the risk in normal activities that Trustees and WVA Volunteers undertake. EH noted that WVA did not have and, as far as he knew, had never had Trustees Liability Insurance and questioned if this was necessary. TEW agreed to review the WVA Charity Constitution and discuss the matter with Ted Wilde. Action TEW

EH explained that the WVA's insurance broker strongly recommended the formulation of policies covering issues such as health and safety and safeguarding. HW suggested the Association of Local Councils might have templates and EH agreed to follow this up. EH stressed that every time the WVA undertook an activity such as a village meeting or WESTfest, there should be at least a brief consideration of the risks.

Action EH

## Any Other Business:

**Dog Fouling on Footpaths:** JL noted this has significantly increased recently. He noted the 'pink paint' highlighter and notices that someone has been using to appeal to Dog Owners to clean up the mess for the good of everyone's health and for the environment.

The Committee agreed to support, supplement and assist action undertaken by the 'Pink Painter Team' to highlight and improve on this situation.

In the first instance, TEW to contact the Council Dog Warden for advice and suggest next steps for a Committee Sponsor to lead. Action TEW / Committee Sponsor

PRG noted that the cycleway to Dorking requires significant repair close to its start point at St John's Road. HW confirmed this is known about and repairs will be scheduled when possible.

On behalf of Sandra Ede, PRG requested that the banks of Pippbrook are tidied up in the vicinity of St John's Road. TEW commented that this would be done as part of any works that could be carried out to clear the brook and potentially make it less prone to flooding.

Next Meeting: 21st May 2020 at 7.30pm. Holy Trinity Zoom video conference facility to be booked again. Thanks to the Church for allowing their licence to be used.

PRG 21st April 2020