



**Committee Meeting: Thursday, 2nd December 2021 at 7.30pm.**

**Venue: Queen's Court, Westcott Street.**

**Attendees: Tim Way, Edwin Harland, Sally Hewetson (part), Sandra Ede, Paul Goddard and on Zoom: James Leaver & James Friend**

**Agenda:**

- 1) Apologies for absence  
Simon Bradley, Hazel Watson, Hugh Broom, Nick Lund.
- 2) Action points from last meeting – All: led by PRG
- 3) Future Westcott: Questionnaire & Data Collection. See draft questionnaire - TEW/KF
- 4) Discuss and agree Committee Responsibilities – see TEW draft list 15/11/21 – ALL
- 5) New Vicar: Thoughts from WVA to support the formal proposal from Holy Trinity Working Group – TEW
- 6) The Hut AGM – update and next steps – TEW/JL
- 7) Update on Surrey Hills Primary School – Abinger site closure - TEW
- 8) Christmas Tree on the Green - All
- 9) Highways:
  - Speed Watch update - NL
  - Wolvens Lane – ongoing status - JL
- 10) Membership Matters - led by SH. Plus to discuss how to progress the membership qualification change all Trustees have agreed is desirable
- 11) Countryside Matters - led by HB
- 12) Local Plan Reg. 19 update - JL
- 13) Planning Applications / Decisions / Appeals - led by JL
- 14) Financial Report - led by EH
- 15) AOB:
  - Ideas from the Committee for Village Projects requiring Finance – All
  - Questions from Villagers:
    - Dovecote maintenance – responsibility sits with whom?
    - In advance of the Queen’s Jubilee, is a Village flagpole appropriate?

**Meeting Minutes by Agenda Point:**

- 2) Previous Minutes - Matters arising from previous meetings not covered in the Meeting:
  - 30 mph Countdown signs – still to consider an application to Highways
  - Footpath Improvement for School use – Decision still pending on Walking Bus idea
  - School parents acting as Speed Watch volunteers - no response yet from the School Head or parents
  - Carol singing around the tree on 17<sup>th</sup> December – WVA to fund drinks

3) Future Westcott:

A number of concerns were expressed about the aims and content of the draft questionnaire circulated beforehand. Further discussion is required to agree the objectives and methodology of the proposed exercise – reflecting the agreed actions from the September meeting - before a potential redraft is brought back to the Committee for approval. Action: TEW and JL to discuss with Kevin Foo

4) Committee Responsibilities:

The draft list was discussed and amendments made. The revised list is to be circulated by TEW and be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. Action: TEW

5) New Vicar for Holy Trinity:

As requested in the December 2021 Village Magazine, Committee Members were asked to send any responses to the two questions posed to TEW to consolidate a formal WVA reply. Action: All – Completed - TEW wrote to the Churchwardens on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

6) The Hut – next steps:

Following the unanimous agreement to The Hut and the Reading Room joining and becoming a new charity taking direct responsibility for both village assets, the next step is for the Charity Commission to agree the change. This could take several months to achieve. Note only.

7) Proposed Abinger Site Closure:

Following the recent consultation process, the matter is now being considered by the Regional Education Commissioner. Potentially their decision and therefore next steps will be public before Christmas. Note only.

8) Christmas Tree:

Plans to erect the tree on 4<sup>th</sup> December are in place. Thanks to the Westcott 100 Club and Westcott Gardening Club for their financial support to buy the tree. Carol singing on the Green by the tree is planned for Friday evening 17<sup>th</sup> December. Note only

9) Highways:

Four additional Volunteers have been trained on Speed Watch requirements, with another four to be trained. NL plans to complete on the road training pre Christmas. There has been no Speed Watch activity since the end of September. Note only.

A short discussion took place noting that the surface of some parts of Wolvens Lane are already beginning to deteriorate and rut – thought to

be principally caused by trail bikes and motorbikes. The condition of Wolvens Lane will be monitored over the winter with a view to deciding whether to make formal representations to MVDC in early Spring 2022 about its use. This follows MVDC bowing to the Motorcycle Lobby in allowing two wheeled motorised vehicles unrestricted access to this expensively refurbished Byway.

10) Membership:

SH confirmed that Membership income / donations are £2990 for this year to date. She suggested that the use of Street Stewards to collect subscriptions and donations had become too difficult to administer due to lack of Volunteer Stewards. She proposed that all Westcott Households wishing to contribute financially to the WVA should be informed that they would need to do this either by bank transfer, by cheque posted to the Treasurer or by cash / credit card using SumUp at future WestFest events where an appropriate WVA table is available and staffed. Those few Street Stewards who do a great job should be encouraged to carry on if possible, but try to encourage bank transfer payments.

Following some discussion over the security of personal data and GDPR compliance, SH agreed to write up the proposed new process, agree it with EH and clear it with Piers Mason at MVDC. Action: SH/EH

SH indicated she was considering standing down from the WVA Committee as of the next AGM due to work commitments. Members of the committee asked her to reconsider this before taking any action.

SH confirmed the Good Neighbour Scheme has been re-advertised in the December Village Magazine together with confirmation that free Christmas lunches provided by and cooked by Westcott House were again available to the elderly and lonely in the Village, delivered free on Christmas Day. Potential recipients to be notified to SH and Anna Kemkers contacted. Action: SH

11) Nothing to discuss

12) JL noted that he had submitted the WVA response to Local Plan Reg.19 to MVDC emphasising, amongst other important points, that building houses on the Westcott Road without improving traffic flows was not acceptable. The letter is available on the WVA website – along with all other planning related correspondence with MVDC.

MVDC are expected to publish the next – and final – version of the plan towards the end of 2022 with a projected adoption date in 2023.

### 13) Planning Matters:

- Cricketers building: MVDC has now written to the owners requiring them to undertake compulsory maintenance of the building given its slide into dereliction and becoming a general eyesore.
- Vicarage development: the WVA have written in support of the planning application that has been submitted but also expressing concern at the Applicant seeking a CIL exemption and suggesting a potential solution to solve inadequate staff parking availability for the school. Some objections were noted from adjoining neighbours.
- Dene Cottage redevelopment application has been refused by MVDC as recommended by WVA
- Riverbank Surgery: an application has been submitted by the owner to convert the current surgery back to residential use. JL will write to oppose this application given there is as yet no prospect of a suitable replacement surgery in the Village to compensate for the potential loss of a community asset.

Note that a discussion took place about how to inform Westcott Residents about the planning application and how DMP and other interested parties including Bernd Ratzke/the Reading Room Group would communicate their reaction and understanding in order to calm nerves and inform. Action: SH/JL to work with DMP to compose and disseminate. Action Completed – Brief circulated on 9<sup>th</sup> December to WVA email list.

### 14) Financial Report:

EH reported that WVA has funds to spend on worthwhile projects but no suitable ones were forthcoming.

Potential CIL related projects were identified as follows:

- installing a hand rail on the footpath leading up from Furlong / Bailey Roads to Guildford Road – direct access for bus stops on the main road.

### 15) AOB:

- Maintaining the Dovecote is an agreed WVA responsibility. Resetting the weather vane will be attempted as part of the Xmas tree works
- The Meeting agreed not to recommend having a flagpole on the Village Green given there is one already available at the Lych gate of Holy Trinity Church
- Meeting Dates for 2022 – all Thursdays – are confirmed as follows:  
January 13<sup>th</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup> & Open Meeting, May 12<sup>th</sup>, June 30<sup>th</sup> AGM, September 8<sup>th</sup>, October 20<sup>th</sup> & Open Meeting, December 8<sup>th</sup>  
More Open Meetings would be arranged if needed.