



**Committee Meet Agenda, minutes and action points arising
Thursday 3rd November 2022, 7.30pm to 9.15pm at Holy Trinity Church**

Agenda:

- 1) Update on Committee Membership / Apologies: TEW
- 2) Matters in progress – see Appendix 1 attached : PRG
- 3) Appointment of a New Chairperson – next steps: All
- 4) Project: ‘Becoming a Parish Council’ – next steps: TEW
- 5) Local Plan – update: JL
- 6) CIL Projects update: potential projects – led by JL but to include:
 - Re-thatching / repairing the bus stop & dovecote – JA
 - Walking surface around Cradhurst - TEW
 - Electric Vehicle Charging Points - JL
 - School Lane path widening – JL
- 7) Updates from each Committee Member not covered above
 - Membership / Community Fridge: SH
 - Planning matters: JL – to include footpath fencing replacement
 - Highways including automatic speeding signs: NL
 - Website / Communications update: JA
 - Finance & Insurance: See papers circulated from EH
 - Wolvens Lane: status / next steps PRG
- 8) Activities to discuss & confirm arrangements/responsibilities/actions:
 - 12/11: Litter Pick
 - 26/11: Westcott Village Fair Tombola
 - 3/12: Pitching & decorating the Christmas tree - take down 7th Jan
 - 7/12: WVA Open Meeting at Holy Trinity
 - 16/12: Carols on the Green
- 9) AOB:
- 10) Meeting Dates 2023

Circulated separately: Written updates from EH, JL and JA
PRG 1st November 2022

3rd November Committee Meeting Minutes and Actions Arising:

Attendees: Chair: Tim Way plus James Leaver, Nick Lund, Jo Astor, Sally Hewetson, Jon Mears, Paul Goddard. Apologies: Edwin Harland

Agenda Item 1: TEW confirmed that Howard Walden has resigned from the Committee citing the pressures of other commitments. EH unable to attend this meeting but had provided a written update covering his responsibilities.

Agenda Item 2: See Appendix 1 below, updated for what was discussed, progressed and agreed at the Meeting or incorporated into main body of notes.

Agenda Item 3: Appointment of a New Chairperson: TEW confirmed that he would chair the Open Meeting in December and would then stand down. No candidates had put themselves forward and no one from the current Committee wishes to take the role. That said, all of TEW's core tasks have been taken on by other Committee members so the role of Chairperson is potentially much less onerous than it has been. This might encourage potential interest in the role at / following the Open Meeting. Note only

Agenda Item 4: Becoming a Parish Council: TEW confirmed he will stay on the Committee to scope and progress this project. Target is to present progress at Open Meetings / AGM in 2023 and outline the 'cost/benefit case' for change and gauge the interim reaction before committing too much – potentially wasted – time and effort. Action: TEW

Agenda Item 5: MVDC Local Plan:

JL confirmed that the hearings for the independent examination of the Local Plan concluded last week. Written representations were made by WVA and these were used by the Inspector as part of his questioning of MVDC. Two members of our community made verbal representations at the site allocations hearing in respect of the proposals for Mill Way House, Bramley House and Heathcrest (DS63).

The Inspector's next task is to provide a report recommending whether or not to adopt the Plan. It seems the Inspector is likely to recommend modifications but the timescale to report is not yet clear.

Agenda Item 6: CIL Projects: Pedestrian access along School Lane - a potential proposal for the provision of a safe pedestrian route on School Lane was at feasibility stage with SCC Highways at the last meeting but given the likely prohibitive cost, it will not be progressed further.

Other projects identified range from a refurbishment grant for Westcott Village Hall, installation of Electrical Vehicle charging, the possibility of a car club scheme, bike racks, larger bins on our village green and an all-weather track on Cradhurst recreation ground. A new digital speed sign has also been

suggested. Subsequent to the meeting, supporting All Saints School with an application to extend their all weather playground surface was agreed.

The application process to follow to submit projects for consideration for CIL was published by MVDC on 3rd November. The paper includes how CIL funds generated in Westcott and other MVDC Resident Association Areas will be allocated. Once reviewed and checked, the paper will be made available on the WVA website and responsibility for the required project support documents can be confirmed and the documents prepared.

Note that Re-thatching / repairing the bus stop & dovecote is not a CIL project – JA is progressing

Agenda Item 7: Updates from each Committee Member not covered above:

Membership: Community Fridge: SH:

- SH will address the Open meeting to confirm the whys and wherefores for the change in criteria for WVA Membership agreed unanimously at the last AGM
- The CF is up and running in Westcott with a promising start. SH & JM will monitor progress
- Arrangements for Christmas Lunch from Westcott House for those in need to be confirmed. Action: SH

Planning Matters (not covered elsewhere): JL

- JL proposed adopting an idea seen elsewhere to explain more about the WVA planning role and what potential planning applicants can do to help themselves and their neighbours. All agreed. Action: Wording to be confirmed by JL and put on the WVA website
- Some discussion was held to clarify the WVA stance on current planning applications. Note
- JL confirmed that MVDC are taking legal action against the owner of the Cricketers given the requirements of the S215 Notice have not been met. The WVA will continue to request updates from MVDC but can do no more at this stage. Note

Highways: NL

- Speed Watch administration and operation to be discussed in the PoW on 24th November by the current Group. New Volunteers welcome. Note
- Assess the cost / availability of a replacement solar VAS outside Holy Trinity given doubts about whether it is working properly / enough. Action: NL
- Clean this VAS solar panel to see if it will improve its effectiveness. Action: PRG

- White Post Westcott Village signs – Immediate repair has been completed on the westbound side at the west exit.
Further Actions: 1) cleaning, painting and vegetation control to be undertaken by NL at east and PRG at the west. No need for SCC support. Action: NL to update HW
- Double Yellow Line application for the top of Westcott Street – Latest update appears to be that applications for MV parking restriction changes will not be considered until after the next application deadline of 31st August 2023. NL to confirm status of the applications he has submitted
- NL to continue to progress other signage and road markings ideas – e.g. Countdown Signs - aimed at slowing traffic and improving road safety. Progress Report and action plan would be useful to circulate prior to the Open Meeting – see below. Action: NL
- Unum bus – could it run to and from Westcott? Contact Unum = as part of the suggestions from Jakki Phillips – Action: NL to progress under Highways
- Rural Roads Speed Limit amendments – Order 202. On behalf of the WVA, NL has submitted a formal response to SCC. Others have submitted responses privately. Note

Wolvens Lane: PRG

- No response has been received from the WVA letter of objection dated 4th May 2022 to the SCC proposal to allow motor bikes to use Wolvens Lane without restriction.
- SCC has published a notice in late September - seen in Wolvens Lane - confirming the restrictions they have imposed will be extended for another year – that is including no restrictions on motor cycles but prohibiting four wheeled vehicles.
- Next steps: 1) request an update from SCC on the status of the WVA objection 2) point out again to SCC how the new Wolvens Lane surface is deteriorating fast possibly / probably caused by motorbikes. Copy HW.
Action: PRG

Finance: Note from EH

- Donations received from 150 Households to date for 22/23. Receipts are circa 30% down year on year after contacting all households who donated last year but hadn't this year. The trend is very likely the result of ending the 'street steward system'.
- Free cash available to spend is circa £12.5k compared to £11.4k last year

- Dan Dunning of Dunning and Evans Roofing has agreed to cover the WVA insurance requirements relating to the village green Christmas tree. The Committee formally thanked Dan, and also the Westcott Gardeners' Club and the Westcott 100 Club for their generous financial support for the purchase of the tree.

Agenda Item 8:

- Litter Pick – start time 10.30am on the Village Green James Friend is bringing equipment
- Village Fair – items needed for the WVA Christmas Hamper tombola. Social Media to be used to encourage donations - Action JA
- Christmas tree – ordered by JL. Start time for erecting on 3/12 is 10am. JL to speak to Hugh Broom to secure his services / equipment before and on the day.
- Open Meeting 7th December

1. TEW will chair,
2. Holy Trinity booked with heating so WVA will be charged
3. Agenda & presenters to be agreed and published asap – PRG
4. Leaders of other Westcott Organisations to be specifically invited including the School Head. Notice of meeting to be circulated / placed on notice board – PRG

Note PRG is away from 30th November until late on 6th December and will not be available for any 'set up tasks' required in that period.

- Carol Singing 16th December: all arrangements are being progressed principally by TEW together with the Church Choir

Agenda Item 9: AOB:

- PRG agreed to be put forward to the Westcott Local History Group as a Trustee in order to meet their Trust Deed requirements. TEW to write to John Clachan: **Done**
- SH floated an idea to set up a 'Community Library of useful things'. The idea was well received.
- Remembrance Poppies are very effective. Thanks to Sally and Jo. Silent Soldier has been erected by TEW/JL.

Agenda Item 10: 2023 Meeting Dates & Venue:

The following Wednesday dates were agreed:

- 18th January
- 15th March - Open
- 17th May
- 28th June – AGM

6th September

1st November

6th December – Open

St John's to be used as the Meeting Venue – JA to confirm

Meeting finished at 9.25pm

PRG 8th November 2022

Appendix 1: List of Other Actions in progress from earlier meetings:

Date / Meeting / Items to note, listed recent to earliest.

• Recent items

1. Village Green bench in disrepair – MVDC responsibility – Still to be removed. JF reminded by PRG - **Open**
2. Bench around the Village Green Tree - cleaning / maintenance proposal to discuss – JM confirmed a young person has volunteered to clean the bench weekly under Jon's watchful eye supported by donations at Jon& Mum. **Close**
3. To discuss specific support for Green Westcott with that Group including confirmation of a Jubilee Tree for the late Queen. **Action : NL**
4. Can the WVA organise / support / underwrite a Westcott Sports Club Bonfire Night? No proposals forthcoming. **Close**
5. Draft MV Cycling and Walking Plan: Still no response from the Council to TEW's request for clarification of their proposals. Reminded needs to be sent: **Action TEW**

• Previous Meetings

1. TEW confirmed that the Westcott Gardeners Club will install additional posts and a polite notice on the patch of grass next to the Cricketers–Done. **Close**
2. Update on school related transport and parking matters – Elisa Davey question – discussion needed with JF as Councillor and School Committee Chair. Agreed – PRG to contact James Friend to try to facilitate. Discussed with JF who was of the view that parking was a particular problem on Pointers Hill when the Crown was being redeveloped and ceased to be once the building work finished. School staff park on site so it is not a school problem. The walking bus is in operation and helps a little. To keep monitoring at start of new school term. Next Steps: To raise at Open Meeting on 7/12 and see what feedback ensues **Open**

PRG updated as at 8th November 2022