



**Committee Meet Thursday 18th May 2023,
7.30pm to 9.45pm at Village Hall Meeting Room**

All Committee Members attended as follows:

**Jo Astor, Edwin Harland, Sally Hewetson, James Leaver, Nick Lund,
Jon Mears & Paul Goddard**

Agenda:

- 1) Updates from each Member on current and ongoing matters: ALL
- 2) Consideration and approval of Draft 2023 Accounts & Trustees Report: ALL
- 3) AGM June 29th 2023 – discuss checklist of actions required: ALL
- 4) Appointment of a New Chairperson — and in the absence of same to check we are working effectively. New Committee Members: ALL
- 5) WestFest Debrief / Lessons for 2024: ALL
- 6) Coronation celebration WestFest feedback for MVDC needed as a requirement for receiving the £400 grant - PRG
- 7) Discuss / conclude December email debate on the WVA providing direct financial help as a 'social service' (for want of a better description). ALL
- 8) AOB:
 - Controlling Dog Fouling – potential action group update
 - Norman Nobby Baker – see email circulated by PRG
 - School – next steps related to email from PRG to Simon Coles 26/4/23
 - Rural Speeds – any update on status?
 - Email exchange with Abhiram Magesh on a potential meeting
 - Confirm future meeting dates, venues and format

Item 1 to be supported by written updates circulated in advance if possible

PRG 17th May 2023

Agenda Item 1:

Some of the specific items discussed by Committee Leads worth noting are:

- Sena, owner of the NISA store, is still trying to apply for a Post Office Licence but is making no progress. It seems that the GPO is reluctant to

issue new licences at present as a way of controlling overall PO numbers and Sena is pessimistic about his chances.

- Feedback from all attendees of the First Aid training session led by Richard Packer was very positive and all residents are encouraged to attend if possible. Richard will arrange additional sessions if there is demand. EH noted that several attendees were unaware that the WVA had funded the defibrillator in the Burrell and had responsibility for day to day maintenance and management of the two units in Westcott.
- Dean the Prince of Wales Landlord has agreed to re assess the use of advertisement pavement banners. Solution is pending. Request to be made informally to see if the PoW car park can be made available again for School drop off and pick up. ACTION: PRG
- The Local Plan process is still paused and will not restart until at least 25th May following Council elections and the consultation on proposed amendments the National Planning Policy Framework. The next step in reviewing the Local Plan is likely to be a public consultation on the Main Modifications agreed by the Inspector.
- The new owner of the former Cricketers pub has met / spoken to WVA representatives and outlined potential plans for the building. He intends to start tidying up the building immediately prior to progressing potential development plans – an encouraging start. ACTION: JL to monitor
- MVDC are investigating the activities of the Westcott Kitchen to ensure they are reasonable and proper.
- The development of the former Vicarage site is running late. Guildford Diocese to be requested to update on status. ACTION: JL
- AONB Boundary Consultation: JL will draft a representation for comment and agreement by the Committee following his discussions with Clive Smith of Surrey Hills AONB and MVDC. The deadline for written representations is 23rd June. ACTION: JL
- The WVA has not been consulted on projects initiated by All Saints School which are applications for CIL funds. MVDC guidance states: *"It is important that bidders seek to engage with the community prior to making their bids. Bidders may wish to consider engaging with local elected Members, Residents' Associations and other community groups. If an area has a Residents' Association they should be consulted on the bid before it is submitted to the Council. Please provide any evidence of such engagement with your application"..* Status tbc: ACTION: JL
- Little, if any, progress is being made on preparing any other potential Neighbourhood CIL projects and applying for available funds. A discussion took place on whether there are any residents that might be capable / willing to get involved in this as approaches to date have been

unsuccessful. The Committee will continue to try to identify and persuade potential candidates to come forward.

- NL & PRG will prepare a case for replacing the speed sign outside Holy Trinity, partly as it is needed and partly as a test case to prove the CIL application process. ACTION: NL/PRG
- NL is due to meet Nigel Pond, SCC Road Safety Engineer in the next few weeks.
- In the last three months, communications activity from the WVA to Westcott Residents has been extensive with email and social media views and reach the best so far achieved. Emails to contact@westcottvillage.com have been varied and acted upon promptly
- Ben Fisher has kindly taken over from NL as the SpeedWatch Co-ordinator and is in the process of kick-starting activity. Volunteers are welcome to join and play a part in reducing speeds on village roads.
- The WVA is keen to ensure the 20 minute waiting restriction is maintained outside the two closed shops – Balchins Stores / Mace. Part of this is to reinstate the ‘20 minute sign’ thought to have been removed by someone wishing to take advantage of an unlimited waiting period. Requests are being made to have the sign returned and the 20 minute limit adhered to – reasons: business use, school drop off / collection, garage visits. ACTION: JA/NL
- Westcott NDP will need updating by end 2026. Contact Bookham RA to see how they have / are approaching this task. ACTION: JL

Agenda Item 2:

Subject to minor points on the accounts format and amending the analysis of costs to identify separately the cost of the PA system, the Accounts and Trustees Report for the year ending 31st March 2023 were agreed unanimously by the Committee.

Subsequent to the meeting, the amended copies have been independently examined and signed off by Hugh Parry in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines.

The Report and Accounts will be tabled at the AGM.

Agenda Item 3:

An AGM action checklist was circulated and discussed: Actions agreed:

- To be held on Thursday June 29th @ 7.30pm in Holy Trinity. PRG to confirm booking
- Refreshments – EH agreed to organise

- Questions to be requested in advance if possible to the WVA email address
- Notice & Agenda to be placed on notice boards – PRG
- Details to be posted on social media and included in the next Email Newsletter – JA
- Summary of key activity and actions in 22/23 to be written up and published in lieu of a Chairman's Report to include updates on any matters outstanding in the 2022 meeting minutes – PRG
- Invites to be sent to Westcott Organisation Chairs plus Bernd Ratzke & local businesses – PRG
- Headmaster to be invited and asked to give a five minute update on school activity / status - SH

Agenda Item 4:

Committee Members confirmed no one had expressed any interest to them in joining the Committee in any capacity. We continue to need additional resource to support our workload – particularly for Project Funding research and application.

Concern was expressed that no new volunteers are coming forward given that some members of the current Committee had already served for four years or more.

Agenda Item 5:

Input by the WVA in support of WestFest was judged a success.

The Coronation Games fun races were very popular and the WestFest Committee would like the WVA to organise them next year – Olympic Year. Thanks were expressed to Jo and Sally and to their various helpers on the day.

Our thanks were expressed to MVDC for their contribution of £400 towards the cost of Coronation related materials. The WVA spent over £650 in total.

Thanks to the immense generosity of Westcott Residents, over £1000 was raised on the bottle tombola. Organisation notes will be updated for 2023 should a bottle tombola be run again – Action EH / All

Agenda Item 6:

Information sent to Karen Brimacombe as requested by MVDC. We need to find a way to publicly acknowledge the MVDC contribution. Action: PRG

Agenda Item 7:

A well balanced discussion took place to explore and confirm in principle what WVA funds can be applied to. With reference to the 2019 WVA Constitution as registered with the Charity Commission, it was noted that

- 1) 'the income of the WVA must be applied solely towards the promotion of the objectives' and
- 2) the objectives as written in the Constitution relate very much to groups, to community organisations, to all residents, to the whole area and do not relate to individuals or small discrete groups.

After some further discussion about how the matter had arisen in December 2022, including the treatment of laptops purchased for All Saints School and the operation of the Community Fridge, the matter was concluded with full agreement of everyone.

JM then explained why all Westcott residents should be encouraged to use the Community Fridge regularly and without stigma or reproach. JM explained that the food available will be wasted as landfill if it is not taken and as such the more that Westcott residents take the more will be provided. The less Westcott residents take, the less will be provided meaning a narrower range and lower quantities. He explained that it is in everybody's interest to use the CF regularly – and whenever possible to make a donation to cover running costs.

This message to be reflected in social media posts particularly

Agenda Item 8:

- EH confirmed a small action group is being formed to be led by a Westcott resident to look at additional and better ways to reduce the amount of dog waste left on paths and footpaths in and around Westcott.
- After discussion, a consensus was reached relating to the Norman Baker request. PRG to reply
- EH will contact Simon Coles and liaise with him to discuss and potentially present with him written requests for WVA funds from All Saints School
- NL to investigate and confirm status of the Rural Speeds proposals / consultations by Surrey CC which closed in October 2022. What if any are the next steps?
- Resident comment and Committee observation note that the pavement / footpath on the north side of the A25 from the pedestrian lights at the Crown as far as Lince Lane is becoming overgrown and so the walkway is narrow in places. Householders on the route to be contacted to see what / if they can take action to remedy this, Action: PRG
- Meeting with Abhiram, one of our new Councillors, is proving difficult to arrange due to WVA availability. PRG to keep trying

- Future meeting dates and venues are shown below:

All committee meetings to be held in the meeting room at The Village Hall

AGM to be held at Holy Trinity & Open Meeting to be held at St John's

All meetings on a Thursday except the Open Meeting in December which is a Wednesday. All start at 7.30pm as follows:

- Pre meeting for AGM to be booked – BY ZOOM, circa 2 weeks prior
- Thursday 29th June. AGM - at Holy Trinity
- Thursday 13th July. Committee meeting: meeting room at The Village Hall
- Thursday 7th Sept. Committee meeting: meeting room at The Village Hall
- Thursday 2nd Nov. Committee meeting: meeting room at The Village Hall
- Wednesday 6th December - Open Meeting - St John's

Other matters to note:

Becoming a Parish Council: This project has been put on hold- this follows extensive research by Tim Way and subsequent discussion by the WVA Committee. Lack of time and resources, lack of general interest and the potential impact of the larger local council wards are reasons behind this. Possibly, the idea will be reconsidered in a year or so.

PRG 25th May 2023