



**Committee Meet Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023,  
7.30pm at Westcott Village Hall – Side Meeting Room**

**Attendees:** Jo Astor, Sally Hewetson, Edwin Harland, James Leaver, Paul Goddard. **Apologies:** Nick Lund & Abhram Magesh

**Agenda:**

- 1) Updates from each Member on current and ongoing matters.
- 2) Matters to be specifically discussed and any further action agreed:
  - Local Planning matters – JL to lead
  - Current situation on the Prince of Wales Public House
  - Possible CIL applications for new speeding signage and bus stop repair. Next Application deadline is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October for consideration in December. Any others?
- 3) AGM June 29<sup>th</sup> 2023 – actions arising and discussion of possible Zoom Meeting Addition - PRG
- 4) Review of last Meeting Minutes – discuss ongoing matters not concluded / covered in 1 above
- 5) Christmas planning - All
- 6) Accept Jon Mears resignation. Consider new Committee Members – any interest? Who to target? All
- 7) Confirm future meeting dates / types
- 8) AOB: - to table at the meeting

**Agenda Items 1 & 2 combined:**

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

- The Treasurer noted that the WVA has circa £12k cash in the bank including a recent receipt of over £400 for Gift Aid. Note only
- SH enquired as to whether the WVA could give further financial support to the Village Hall Trust in order that VHT Trustees can fully research and present options / proposals for the Hut / Reading Room sites. SH was requested to submit a written proposal in support that the Committee would consider sympathetically. Action: SH
- JL confirmed post meeting that the new owner is continuing to repair and renovate the former Cricketers pub and is aiming to let the top floor as

accommodation and the ground floor as offices. No further works requiring formal planning permission are expected. Note Only

- JL has reminded MVDC that they need to progress and conclude their investigation into the activities of the Westcott Kitchen to ensure they are reasonable and proper. Action: JL to continue to monitor
- There is still no sign of any progress in the development of the Vicarage site. JL confirmed post meeting that he had spoken at some length with Andrew Johnson, Property Director at Guildford Diocese. Mr Johnson confirmed he was considering re-submitting the planning application because the work done to specify the new vicarage has revealed inadequacies with their scheme. Savills are still appointed. Action: JL to monitor. PRG to discuss with Vicar Tim Armstrong
- AONB Boundary Consultation: WVA submitted their written representations by the deadline of 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Awaiting next steps from the AONB Committee. Note only
- The WVA supported - in writing and verbally in a Zoom call with the MVDC Working Party chaired by Cllr Watson – the proposal submitted by the Westcott Education Trust for a Play Slope at the Surrey Hills School using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds. The proposal is now being considered by the MVDC Cabinet. Note only
- A key lesson is that any CIL proposal paper wanting WVA support in future must be available for review and comment before being submitted to MVDC. Note only
- It was agreed to submit two CIL bids by the October 2nd deadline as follows:
  1. to replace the speed sign outside Holy Trinity following an encouraging meeting with Nigel Pond, SCC Road Safety Engineer on 4<sup>th</sup> July. Unfortunately Mr Pond has yet to provide the information he promised. Action: NL/PRG to progress
  2. to cover the cost of necessary repairs to the Dovecote and Bus Shelter. Action: JA to progress
- A possible third project is to install an electricity supply on the Village Green and provide for a permanent, safe hole in the ground into which a Christmas tree trunk can be slotted. Note only
- Unfortunately Ben Fisher has stepped down from leading the Speed Watch Team. A replacement and a re-launch are needed if this activity is to have any calming impact on traffic speed and noise through the Village. Volunteers are welcome to join and play their part in achieving this. Action: NL
- Following concerns raised by the WVA, Cllr Watson has confirmed that a new parking restriction sign has been ordered along with a request to

have the white lines repainted outside the new shop / old Balchins Stores. Waiting for dates on both. Action: NL to progress to a conclusion

- It was noted that the Rural Speeds Consultation concluded with no changes to the original SCC proposals. 20mph limits are now in place on Logmore Lane and Westcott Heath. Note only
- Actions to progress / comment on other actual / potential planning applications were discussed and agreed. JL to progress - DONE.
- The current status of the Prince of Wales – that is questioning why it was closed and is it to reopen? – was discussed. Feedback from reliable sources including Fullers representatives, strongly suggest that it will reopen at the end of September pending works on the decking, the full restoration of utility supplies and the appointment of someone to run it., It is hoped that Fullers will communicate their plans to residents in advance of reopening in order to make it a success. The Committee also discussed measures that could be taken to ensure the pub remains open and available to Westcott residents. Note only but the Committee will continue to monitor actively.

### **Agenda Item 3:**

Following feedback from Tim Armstrong, the Committee agreed that every effort would be made to stream future AGMs on Zoom to enable those Villagers unable to attend in person to at least listen to, if not participate in the meeting. Given it is now over ten weeks since the AGM, PRG will discuss with Tim, whether the prospective participants – mainly parents of children at Surrey Hills School – want a Zoom meeting now. Action: PRG

To carry forward the Pavement Review and Action Plan to next Committee Meeting: Action PRG

### **Agenda Item 4:**

Nothing noted.

### **Agenda Item 5:**

The Committee discussed and agreed that repeating 2022 'Village Green Christmas activity' was a reasonable plan, but would like to transfer the responsibility for organising it to a dedicated Village Team. Finance will still be provided by Village organisations including the WVA. A plea for Volunteers will be made in the next available Village Magazine and WVA Email Newsletter. Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December was noted as the target date to erect the Tree. Note only

JL to ask Hugh Broom to assist. Action: JL

### **Agenda Item 6:**

Jon Mears resignation was accepted with regret.

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. EH suggested an insert in the village magazine and using the village notice board

Concern was once again expressed that no new volunteers are coming forward given that some members of the current Committee are likely to stand down at the next AGM.

All Committee Members agreed to target and approach potential volunteers. General pleas have not worked – direct approaches might. Action: All

### **Agenda Item 7:**

Agreed 2023 Meeting dates:

- Thursday 2nd November - Committee meeting @ The Village Hall
- Wednesday 6th December - Open Meeting @ St John's with refreshments

Proposed 2024 dates based on the 2023 programme:

Committee and Thursdays unless stated:

- 18th January
- 22nd February
- 21<sup>st</sup> March – Open Meeting
- 23rd May
- 27<sup>th</sup> June – AGM
- 18<sup>th</sup> July – AGM wash up
- 12<sup>th</sup> September
- 7<sup>th</sup> November
- 5<sup>th</sup> December – Open Meeting

Action: Above list to discuss and agree at the next meeting – not on email in the meantime please.

### **Agenda Item 8:**

- EH confirmed further progress by the action group looking at additional and better ways to reduce the amount of dog waste left on paths and footpaths in and around Westcott was dependent on responses from MVDC.

The meeting finished at 21.05

PRG 14<sup>TH</sup> September 2023

Final Version following Committee feedback