



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Agenda: Committee Meet Thursday 13th February 2025

7.30pm to 9.00pm latest at Westcott Village Hall – Side Meeting Room

Attendance: Jo Astor, Paul Goddard, James Leaver, Nick Lund and Magesh Ramakrishnan

Agenda:

- 1) Apologies – None required
- 2) WestFest - 22nd June 2025 – WVA resource & options to participate
- 3) Christmas Tree & Lights 2024 lessons & plans / actions for 2025
- 4) Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan - update / next steps
- 5) 'Traffic Meeting' with Council Reps - debrief
- 6) Updates from each Member in turn on any other current and ongoing matters
- 7) Review of last Meeting Minutes – discuss ongoing matters not concluded / discussed elsewhere
- 8) January 2025 Open Meeting - debrief / actions outstanding
- 9) Confirm remaining 2025 Meetings – all provisionally booked for Village Hall
- 10) AOB

Agenda Item 2

- Committee agreed the following:
 - To run a bottle stall again with addition of other items – chocolates and sweets suggested - if bottles / cans are in short supply. (Post meeting – chocs/sweets idea vetoed by WestFest Organisers)
 - That additional helpers will be required if all five Committee members cannot attend on the day
 - To gratefully accept the offer from WestFest Organisers for them to organise the Westcott Games events. Action: Jo
 - To donate £200 to WestFest to cover materials and medals for those Games. Action: Magesh
 - Request an additional stand next to the WVA Tombola for WNDP displays and information. Communications Group to be asked to organise and cover this. Action: Jo

Agenda Item 3:

- Committee agreed the following:
 - Contact Ben the Electrician and ask him to check current lights / power set up and check its compatibility for taking power from a mains source – Action: Paul

- At next meeting, consider payment / and or publicity for what he has done / will do
- 2025/6 dates proposed as -
Put up tree: Sat 6th December. Carols etc around the tree: Friday 19th December. Remove the tree: Sunday 4th January. Action – Jo has agreed these dates with the Church reps.
- James will continue to liaise with Pete Reed – tree seller
- Nearer the 6th December, call for volunteers to help put up and decorate the tree – Note
- Paul will progress the application with MVDC for an electric point on the Green

Agenda Item 4:

- The Committee discussed the following:
 - Tasks to be completed / progressed for the 27th February Forum Meeting
 - Final discussions by the Start Up Group would take place on Zoom on 20th February and would include the following:
 1. thoughts on a Project programme
 2. How to approach identifying and electing the remaining project positions of Chair and Secretary
 3. To apply for funding to support project activities and requirements
 4. To complete the draft proposed WNDP Constitution 2025
 5. That the WVA as the sponsoring organisation to submit to MVDC before 27/2 the proposed geographical boundary and the proposed constitution for consideration by MVDC
- The need for geographical as well as business and local groups to be represented was noted.
- James noted that he has had very useful discussions with Reps from Clarion Housing. Clarion control & manage a significant number of dwellings in the Village & confirmed they will assist where possible in the WNDP process including encouraging their Tenants to participate.

Agenda Item 5:

- Nick circulated the action points arising and agreed from the meeting organised by the WVA with an SCC Councillor and MVDC Councillors to consider the letter – see WVA website ‘Latest News’ a letter headed ‘Transport Infrastructure and Maintenance Issues’
- The meeting was constructive and we are hopeful the actions agreed will be progressed and acceptable solutions put in place.
- Nick will continue to prompt and monitor progress with formal updates to be issued in Newsletters and on the Website as appropriate.
- Paul to write to Cllr Watson outlining Committee concerns with her decision to allocate scarce financial resources to tarmacing a stretch of Coast Hill pathways when capital has not been allocated to resurfacing the more frequently used N22 footpath between Westcott and Dorking

- Paul to write to the major 'verge' landowners to enlist their support in ongoing maintenance of verges once SCC works completed.

Agenda Item 6

- There had been no update from MVDC on the status of the Dorking Masterplan. As noted at the WVA Open Meeting in January 2025, the proposal to pedestrianise West Street was formally withdrawn in Nov. 2024. James to ask MVDC Officers for an update on next steps.
- There was a brief discussion again about the need for Villagers to come forward to join the Committee given potential resignations at the next AGM
- There was a brief discussion about the possible local government landscape as and when the Surrey Unitary Authorities are established in 2026. This landscape may prompt Westcott residents to establish a Parish Council.
- Paul confirmed that he had submitted a response to the Rights of Way Consultation on behalf of the WVA as follows:
 - Strongly agreeing with all the objectives outlined in the plan and adding the following comments:

It is very encouraging to see that the draft Plan covers in principle all the points raised by the WVA in the initial consultation response - except one. We suggested the idea that ROWs with key connectivity and high frequency of use - making them important to a community - be designated as Key ROWs that need to be prioritised for maintenance works to keep them safe and available at all times. The need to prioritise safety in all ROWs is acknowledged but rather than expending resource on minor ROWs that are unsafe when maintenance is required on a Key ROW, then consideration should be given to closing the minor ROW at least temporarily to ensure the resource is expended on the Key ROW instead. That said, the Improvement Plan generally is one of achievable ambition. We hope the resources required are made available to make the desired progress and that all parties buy into and work collaboratively towards achieving the objectives.

Agenda Items 7&8

- Nothing outstanding

Agenda Items 9/10

- Meeting dates are 10th April, 8th May, 5th June and the AGM is scheduled for 26th June @ 7.30pm. Note proposed meet on 5th March is cancelled
- Jo to consider archiving or deleting older material on the WVA website

The Committee Meeting finished at 9.15pm

PRG 25th February 2025