



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

**Committee Meeting Thursday 10th April 2025
7.30pm at Westcott Village Hall – Side Meeting Room**

Attendance: Jo Astor, Paul Goddard, James Leaver, Nick Lund. Tim Way attended as WNDP Forum Chairman designate for items 2 & 3.

Agenda:

- 1) Apologies - received from Magesh Ramakrishnan
- 2) Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan: Starter Group update / next steps to include discussing Hazel Watson's email on local government reform - All
- 3) Consideration of the proposals for Surrey Unitary Authorities & the ongoing consultation exercise - All
- 4) 'Traffic Meeting' with Council Reps: status of meeting actions – Nick to lead
- 5) Litter Pick request and other Village Community Activities – Paul to lead
- 6) Committee Member intentions for 25/26
- 7) Updates from each Member in turn on any other current and ongoing matters
- 8) Review of last Meeting Minutes: discuss ongoing matters not concluded / discussed elsewhere - All
- 9) June 26th WVA AGM preparation: discuss potential agenda – PRG to lead
- 10) Confirm May 8th meeting and discuss and agree a replacement date if any for 5th June.
- 11) AOB – CPRE membership

Agenda Item 2

Committee Members and Tim Way confirmed the following:

- Newsletter circulated with current status and confirmation that the MVDC consultation has started and will close on 16th May
- Next Forum meet date set for 22nd May @ Holy Trinity with the expectation that the Forum will be formally agreed by MVDC by mid-June.
- There has been good progress in compiling the Questionnaire. The status of the Policy Group is to be confirmed. Action: James
- After discussion, the Committee agreed that any questions relating to Westcott becoming a Parish Council needed to be carefully worded so as not to detract from the main matter in hand – that is to prepare an agreed WNDP.
- The implications of local government reform proposals also need to be more clearly understood. At present there is a complete lack of clarity about what they are and mean at a local level.

Agenda Item 3:

- Committee noted the Unitary Authority proposals are still being developed by both SCC and the eleven Borough / District Councils. It is not possible to express any informed decision on them.
- It is hoped more clarity will emerge soon.

Agenda Item 4:

- The Committee are pleased with recent progress.
- Three specific items are still being progressed with SCC / MVDC
Representatives being:
 - The possibility of a cycle / footpath connecting the Thakeham development through to Curtis Road – James is progressing / chasing
 - The status of the MOVA tests / financial contribution needed to make the Vincent Lane traffic lights as effective as they can be in filtering traffic through this congested junction - recognising that it will not be a panacea for preventing the adverse effects of the two Westcott Road housing estates – Nick is progressing / chasing
 - Resurfacing N22 so that it is made safe and passable at all times – Nick is waiting for MVDC to confirm if CIL monies might be made available. Failing that we might need to mobilise support from Village residents (via a Poll?) to emphasise the importance of this link into and out of Dorking – Nick is progressing /chasing
- In addition, Paul to contact the major A25 'verge' landowners to enlist their support in ongoing maintenance of verges once SCC works completed

Agenda Item 5:

- The WVA has been requested to organise a Litter Pick in Westcott to improve the look of the village prior to the Open Gardens event and WestFest.
- After a robust discussion about the current WVA Committee's role in organising Village activities featuring contrary points of view, the consensus was
 - 1) James would continue to lead and organise setting up and taking down the Village Green Christmas Tree
 - 2) Jo will continue to lead and organise setting up the Remembrance Poppies
 - 3) Cllr Magesh would be asked to organise the requested Litter Pick as Cllr Friend had done in the past for logistical, equipment and insurance relate reasons. Action: Paul to write to him with the request
 - 4) The WestFest tombola stall will continue to be administered by the WVA.

Agenda Item 6

Overlapping with Agenda point 5, discussion about the future of the WVA led to the following conclusions:

- Paul agreed to continue as a Trustee for 2025/26 as Secretary unless a new Trustee is prepared to take on the role
- Both James and Nick confirmed their long-stated intention to stand down at the 2025 AGM.
- The WVA Constitution requires there to be at least five Trustees who, it is assumed, would be Committee Members. As it stands, unless at least two additional new Trustees are elected at the AGM, the WVA will cease to be constituted.
- Jo agreed to circulate a Newsletter on this topic asap to highlight the importance of the WVA continuing to operate and to urge Villagers to step forward and consider joining the Committee.
- The implications of not achieving a Committee quorum as of the next AGM to be researched by Paul and circulated asap.

Agenda Items 7 & 8 combined:

- Paul to progress the application with MVDC for an electric point on the Green
- Jo to consider archiving or deleting older material on the WVA website
- WVA sponsorship at WestFest will now be for the Fun Run as Seymours will organise and run the West Fest games planned.
- Paul wrote to Cllr Watson to request she allocate scarce resources away from the Coast Hill footpath but the request was rejected.

Agenda Item 9:

- The AGM is scheduled for 26th June @ 7.30pm @ Holy Trinity
- Paul to prepare Annual report as previously for circulation beforehand together with Accounts and Trustee Report from Magesh.
- It was agreed to invite Cllr Stephen Cooksey to speak and if possible, answer questions – probable subject Local Government Reorganisation from a Mole Valley / Westcott perspective. Paul to write to him. If he cannot attend an alternate senior Cabinet member to be invited. No other guests to be considered

Agenda Item 10:

- Scheduled June 5th meeting date replaced by agreed date of Weds. 4th June

Agenda Item 11:

- No AOB discussed. CPRE membership status tbc

The Meeting finished at 9.30pm

PRG

14th April 2025 Final