



## **Committee Meeting Agenda & Minutes** **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 @ 7pm**

Attending: Jo Astor, Jane Betterton, James Croft, Paul Goddard, Magesh Ramakrishnan. Apologies: Nick Lund,

### **Agenda:**

1. Apologies
  2. Christmas Tree 2025 Debrief - PRG
  3. Green Belt Review – update – PRG/JA
  4. Westcott Parish Council – Open Meeting Organisation - PRG
  5. Planning applications - discussion & next steps PRG
  6. Civic Dinner invitation – see JA email
  7. Updates from Members on any other current and ongoing matters
  8. 2026 tasks to plan & responsibilities to assign
  9. Review progress on actions from previous meetings
- AOB - agree 2026 Committee Meet dates & date of AGM & RA meet attendance

PRG 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### **Meeting Minutes:**

#### **Agenda Item 2**

- JL gathered volunteers to put up, decorate and take down the tree
- Ben Coverley, the electrician was very helpful and details retained for future use
- No damage or problems have been made known
- Feedback from the village was generally positive with no known complaints.
- Carols around the Green were well attended and the drinks sales enabled Holy Trinity to make a donation of £255 to Crisis for Christmas
- Tree cost the WVA £325 gross less donations promised of £100 from each of WGC and W100
- Thanks were recorded to James Leaver and Bert Broom
- For 2026 Prep:
  1. Carols on the Green agreed with Holy Trinity for Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2026.
  2. Drinks – more needed with bigger thermos flasks for mulled wine and hot chocolate and attendees to be asked to bring their own cups / mugs

3. MR to look into insurance cover for installing and taking down the tree and also insurance for whilst it is up for Xmas 2026. Current WVA insurance policy runs to end March 2026 but extra cover needed for tree – need risk assessments and safe systems of work and need to confirm insurer's requirements asap
4. PG looking into possibility of a permanent hole for the tree and fixed power supply and option of a potential CIL bid.
5. Volunteers will probably need to be trained to help with putting up, decorating and taking down the tree.
6. JC is trained and holds a certificate for chain saw use
7. JL to be asked what – if anything – he will do in 2026. In 2025 he led / organised everything for the tree – procurement, putting up and taking down
8. Procure donations earlier from W100 and WGC and look to see if there are any other avenues for donations.
9. Need to purchase more suitable outside decorations as many have been damaged. Consider coloured lights instead of white ones. Need to budget and procure in time for Xmas 2026.
10. BC had to mend a string of lights and he has advised that they are rusting and perishing in places and should be replaced. Look into this further once we know if a fixed power supply is available.
11. Advertise the event & confirm donors in November / in early December Village Magazine

### **Agenda Item 3**

- PG confirmed that, following further discussions with the Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan Chairman and Project Stream Leaders, the proposed Green Belt Review will not be carried out so funds that would have been applied to that are no longer required. The meeting noted key feedback from the WNDP Survey is the desire for residents to maintain open space between Dorking and Westcott. Funds might be requested from the WVA in future to fight potential developments that would encroach on that open space

### **Agenda Item 4**

- All WVA Committee members – both present and not able to attend the meeting – reiterated their support for the MVDC Stage 2 Consultation recommendation to establish a Parish Council in Westcott
- Open Meeting chaired by WVA will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> February at Holy Trinity
- PRG will contact the Wotton Parish Clerk to see if she will attend and answer questions on our behalf
- MR will check whether anyone from Mole Valley can attend.
- JA/PRG will prepare a newsletter briefing to be circulated before 12/2 and prepare presentation slides to use in the meeting

### **Agenda Item 5**

- Ideally the illuminated barber's pole needs to be removed from outside display as it is within the conservation area and it is a listed building. This would enable consistency with actions taken with other commercial premises. The pole could be moved and displayed in the shop window inside. PG to discuss with shop owner and others.

### **Agenda Item 6**

- PG will attend the civic dinner on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026 as the WVA invited guest

### **Agenda Item 7**

- Kerb to be raised on A25 near pub and houses affected by road flooding.
- Litter picking
  1. need to chase council for their modest donation for the 2025 Litter Pick
  2. consider how to organise Litter Pick action in the village in 2026 - given the WVA is committed to organising several events. Could 'street responsibility' be adopted? Would volunteers take on that role with support from the WVA? Could other organisations help?
- JC – bin needed at Balchin's Lane bus stop which may reduce the amount of litter on this part of A25.
- No one had any views on the Chapel Lane signs – no further action proposed
- MR applied for gift aid in November 2025 and reapplied in January 2026. If still outstanding and will call to chase in February 2026.
- From the police update at the latest RA meeting: A graffiti artist practicing in MVDC has been identified and been made to clean up his graffiti. Possible PSPO at Rykers and A24 being pursued.
- PG has responded to SCC in support of their bid for funding to renovate & extend NCN 22. Potential summer 2026 project but tbc by SCC

### **Agenda Item 8**

- JC – agreed to take over review of and comment on planning applications from PG & JB – agreed to take over writing of meeting minutes from PG
- Content agreed for next Village Magazine – JA to prepare and submit
- JA and PG to prepare presentation for Parish Council Village Meeting

### **Agenda Item 9**

- Covered elsewhere in the meeting

### **AOB**

- Next meeting agreed for 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7pm at PG's house
- MVDC Residents' Association Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026 PG will attend

JB/ PRG 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026