

*Draft*

## WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday

24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall .

Those present were: Councillor A.Schuilenburg (Chairman), Cllr. D.Sargeant (Vice Chair), Cllrs.A. Hazelhurst, R.Ling, C.Mulley-Richards, G. McNeillie, R.Temple and District Councillor G Harvey, County Cllr. H Batchelor, the Parish Clerk and 2 members of the public

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Declaration of Interest:** Cllr Temple under item 6a (Finance).
3. **Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 were signed as correct.
4. **Correspondence:** Letter received from Rt.Hon. Lucy Frazer giving a link regarding a Community Ownership Fund worth 150M. This was distributed to all Councillors and also sent to the Village Voice editor for publication.
5. **Planning:**

23/0209/TT CA		Peacock Cottage Streetly End	Tree work	23/2/23
23/1780/PR IOR	W.Stone	Annexe Meadow,S.E	Change of use to dwelling	11/5/23
23/02043/H FUL	R Giles	Streetly End Farm	Replacement single storey outbldg. With solar panels	1/7/23

1. 23/020403 – R Giles – The Council agreed that the application be approved.
2. Streetly Hall farm access road - **Nothing to report at present and the Parish Clerk was asked to contact CCC Highways again for their report.**
3. Proposed plan for The Devana Centre for Environmental Recovery for West Wickham, Cambs. on land purchased from Yen Hall – The Chairman had met with Chris Bawtree who works for Ground Control, the company that has purchased the land. Mr Bawtree told him that they are planning to re-wild the area. No planning application was required. This would be a recovery project, bringing together 3 large fields. Once the fields are harvested they will be sown with grass seed and will later plant trees on part of one of the fields to join two wooded areas. He hoped the Parish Council would help support and publicise this proposal and get members of the community to engage with them. He had given Mr Bawtree the contact details of Cllr Temple and Peter Grieves, also Janet Morris because of the historical interest and Indi Liepka, one of the event coordinators for the “Climate” event in August. There will be an article explaining this proposal in the Village Voice and on the website. **The Parish Clerk was asked to let local Parishes have copies of these articles**

## 6. Finance:

### a) *Authorised payments*

- £ 174.00 HMRC 1<sup>st</sup> qtr. PAYE (chq. 1061) **paid**
- £ 464.40 Mrs J Richards June/July salary less PAYE (chq. 1062)
- £ 15.00 Mrs J Richards – audit travel exp. & pack of 8 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamps (chq. 1063)
- £ 58.00 E&e Plumridge Inv. 3043 June – **BACS**.
- £ 81.00 E&E Plumridge Inv. 3106 July – **BACS**.
- £ 670.00 Robert Giles Inv.521 cut 21/6/23 & Inv.541 (chq. 1064)
- £ 45.00 J.Dockerill (Running Total) re audit accounts (chq.1065)
- £ 96.00 VHMC for contribution to heating Oct/Mar. (chq.1066)
- £ 90.79 R Temple re purchase of posts discs etc. for footpath maintenance. **BACS** payment.
- £4,817.68 Deposit to Greenscape Energy re solar panel project from PV Appeal Fund

### b) *Monies received:*

- £9,500.00 National Lottery Community Fund towards solar panels project.
- £128.72 various donations for PV Appeal Fund into PV Appeal Fund a/c
- £4,000.00 ZCC grant for PV Appeal Fund into PV Appeal Fund a/c
- £7,000.00 Village Hall pledge (maximum) towards current PV Appeal Fund shortfall to secure project start date (balance to be refunded to Village Hall after completion of the project)

c) **Audit:** Internal audit carried out satisfactory and report distributed to all cllrs.

## 7. Traffic & Parking issues:

a) *Speed Watch Equipment:* These are not used by Castle and Shudy Camps or Weston Colville as they are unable to retrieve the data. The question was asked if they could be sold but Cllr Sargeant said as they do not work properly it would be difficult to sell them. They could still be used as a “reminder” to drivers to slow down. Trevor Hall read out the speed sign results for May as following:

*Week-ending 18/6/23 outside Ivy Todd facing Streetly End 3260 vehicles 127 (3.9%0 OVER 35MPH. Max speed 53mph.*

*Week-ending 25/6/23 outside 49 and 49 Burton End facing High St. 1351 vehicles 1272 vehicles, over 45mph. Max speed 53mph.*

b) *“Road Narrows” signs (Webbs Road & coming into West Wickham):* Cllr Batchelor reported that Highways have said they will get a costing to do the necessary repair work and we will hear shortly. He will chase up the matter of road signs. Mention was also made of the West Wrattling/Weston Colville/West Wickham/Withersfield cross roads which have been badly damaged by heavy farm traffic and could be dangerous. Instead of just fixing it with a skim of tarmac it needs a full repair job with underpinning as well as resurfacing and edges reinstated. Cllr Batchelor will also follow this up.

c) *Speeding farm vehicles:* The problem seems to have steadied with the yellow trailers slowing down to 15mph, but the blue trailers are not so careful. Cllr Temple will look into this.

d) *Rock Festival*: This event has been cancelled for 2023 due to licensing issues which required the application to go to appeal. The initial licensing application appeared to request permission for events to be held every week Thursday to Sunday. This was later corrected during the consultation period to a single annual event of 4 days to be held in late Summer/Early Autumn. The appeal hearing was scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> July. West Wickham Parish Council, after the licence application was clarified, has no objection to the event and would not be attending the hearing. Cllr Geoff Harvey will represent the Parish Council's position at the hearing. The inability by South Cambs licensing to extend the consultation period in order that the corrected application could be properly considered led to objections by some West Wickham residents to meet the immovable consultation period deadline, with the erroneous "every weekend" notice of application also causing undue distress among other residents.

e) *The Wild Wood Disco*: John Howard, Chairman of Horseheath Parish Council, and Cllr Schuilenburg, have received complaints from residents about the high decibels reached at The Wild Wood Disco held over the weekend June 16/17/18th. The disco is sited on a high area of Vestey land just out of Horseheath towards Linton. Cllr Schuilenburg stated that the sound was measured at 37dBA approximately 2.11 miles away in West Wickham, and it was likely that weather conditions resulted in the music carrying much further than previous years, with the muggy evenings also causing residents to sleep with their windows open and so unable to diminish the sound locally. The Chairman did say he would like to know what the conditions on the licence are as either the Wild Woods Disco organisers breached them, or the licensing conditions need reviewing, so as to prevent a recurrence. He will investigate further with South Cambs Licensing.

## **8. Maintenance:**

a) *Footpaths – posts & discs*: Letter requesting permission to put in the new posts and markers had been sent to Hill Farm, Manor Farm and Yen Hall but no replies had yet been received. A post also needs replacing on Footpath 4 on Streetly End Farm, they will be contacted.

b) Footpath 28 on Manor Farm land has only been partly cut and the Parish Clerk was asked to write pointing out that it needs completing. A letter had also been sent to Chris Covey regarding Footpath 26 which needed reinstating and Footpath 25 also needed attention. Cllr Temple will get in touch with him. Footpath 4 on Streetly End Farm needs a replacement post and the Parish Clerk will write to Chris Covey about this.

c) *Fencing repairs*: Some fencing was damaged whilst Rob Giles was grass cutting and he has now repaired them but finds that they are old and rotten inside and will need replacing maybe in 2 to 3 years time. It will be an expensive job and maybe a quote should be sought now rather than wait 2 years when prices may have increased, although wood prices are currently falling.

d) *Hedge cutting etc.*: Rob Giles has asked if he should crown trees in and around the recreation ground, playing field and village hall as this would make cutting the grass beneath them easier. He has also carried out some hedge cutting.

## 9. Village Hall & Recreation ground:

a) *“Big Lunch” costs:* The Parish Clerk felt there should be a more detailed account of the costs and receipt for this event for audit purposes. For information the following were the amounts spent by the Parish Council:

West Wickham Village Hall Inv.6/23/PC (Coronation “Big Lunch” exp.)	£170.99
A.Schuilenburg expenses (Coronation “Big Lunch” exp.)	£177.73
Nicki Trudgeon “Big Lunch” bar costs (beer etc.)	£120.00
	<b><u>£468.72</u></b>

b) *Solar Panel project:*

The appeal for funding solar panels for the village hall has reached £13,628.72, with grants received from the National Lottery, ZCC and donations from parishioners. A pledge by the Village Hall Management Committee to cover a possible shortfall, in conjunction with a pledge by the Parish Council to cover the VAT and a successful appeal to the ZCC fund to extend the project period, has allowed the project to proceed in order to satisfy the ZCC funding conditions. Work is now hoped to begin in September, following further fundraising. Additional to the original proposal are two further matters. During the winter months there may be insufficient power to fully charge up the batteries and options are being looked at, one being an e.charge point in order to be able to obtain a suitable night time rate in order to fully charge the batteries overnight.

c) *Play Area:* Rob Giles reported that some of the play equipment and also posts needed some protection from being damaged when cutting and strimming is carried out. It required a rubber appliance to be wrapped round the posts using possibly EPDM or Buton. Trevor Hall said he had some of the latter and it might be worth trying first.

**10** *Standing Orders:* The Chairman said these had not been changed since 2007 and need revising with the help of CAPALC, who have an update. Cllr Hazelhurst agreed to do this and the Parish Clerk will send him a copy of the existing Standing Orders.

**11.** *Anaerobic biodigester:* The Chairman said that a meeting had been held attended by the Chairman of Horseheath, Balsham, and a representative from Withersfield. The Friends of the Roman Road were invited but sent their apologies to discuss this proposal and it was agreed that the plan put forward was not well thought out. A planning permission application has not been applied for and therefore it was decided to wait until SCDC receives it. It is an industrial proposal. Cllr McKennie said all those attending the meeting were in complete agreement and the Chairman read out a letter he intended to send to Chris Covey and asked if the Council agreed to him sending it. There was full agreement.

**12.** *Meetings attended by councillors:* Cllr Sargeant had attended the A1307 meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> June, this covered pot holes and other road problems. The next meeting is in 6 month’s time.

**13. Reports by Council Cllr. Batchelor and District Cllr Harvey:** Distributed to all Cllrs and put on the website.

**Cllr Harvey:**

- a) Said that the changes to the constituency areas in South Cambridge have been agreed and will be put into action at the next election.
- b) Spoke about the proposed 4 day week which Michael Gove had spoken about in Parliament, opposing it. However, the local authorities have found that the scheme was working and people were producing quicker results and doing more, so will continue with their proposal.

**Cllr Batchelor:**

- a) Spoke about the government policy to make Cambridge the new Silicon Valley but would need 250,000 extra houses to be built near to Cambridge to encourage new people to move into the area and be close to work.
- b) Spoke about the Cambridge Priorities Capital Fund. Grants would be announced in November.

**14. Any Other Business:**

a) *Allotments:* Cllr Mulley-Richards requested funding for putting the new gate in place with concrete posts. Possible cost £90.00. This was agreed.

b) *Wild flower area:* These areas are growing over the pavement and The Hub has offered to contribute rope and mooring stakes in the area to hold growth back. There was full agreement to support this proposal.

c) *Cutting of wildflower area:* It is agreed to ask Rob Giles to cut the wildflowers down to ground level, depending on a reasonable quotation. Subject to approval, the Chairman, Rob Giles and Indi will coordinate what is required of the cut and when.

d) *Hub Night & Coffee mornings:* It has been requested that recipes produced at these events could occasionally be published in the Village Voice and had asked Andrew Morris who responded that the Parish Council should be asked due to the additional funding required for the additional paper. Council agreed to this request.

e) *Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee:* The Chairman told Council that Trevor Hall will be resigning from the Chairmanship of the VHMC after their next AGM in October. The VHMC are actively looking for a replacement volunteer for the position, with both the chair and vice-chair of the VHMC having already interviewed one candidate.

f) *Hedges growing over the pavement:* The chairman has received two complaints about hedges overflowing onto the pavement, causing obstruction and injury to those attempting to pass. He has spoken to all but one of the owners of these hedges who have assured him they will trim their hedges back. The other hedge owner was spoken to by one of the residents who complained.

**The next meeting will be held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.**

**Chairman.....**