



Westbourne

Parish Council

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Minutes of Westbourne Parish Council's Public Services Committee which took place on Thursday 18 June 2020 at 7.00pm at The Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne.

Present: Cllr Lade Barker, Cllr Richard Hitchcock, Cllr David Mack, Cllr Ann Pearcey, and Clare Kennett, Clerk to the Council.

Meeting chaired by Cllr Mack. No members of the public were present.

1. Election of the Chair of the committee: Cllr Pearcey nominated Cllr Mack, seconded by Cllr Hitchcock. Cllr Mack was elected Chair.
2. Apologies for absence: Cllr Roy Briscoe and Cllr Nigel Ricketts.
3. Election of the Vice-Chair of the committee: Cllr Hitchcock nominated Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Pearcey. Cllr Barker was elected Vice-Chair.
4. Declarations of interest in the items on the agenda: None.
5. Minutes of the meeting on 25 March 2021: It was noted that Cllr Pearcey had been missed off those present at the meeting. The signed copy was amended.
6. Issues and updates from the minutes of 25 March 2021: It was noted that the cycle stands next to the newly installed bench in The Square had been reinstalled and securely fixed.
7. CCTV in The Square: Members considered a report from Cllr Hitchcock and Cllr Mack following a meeting with the Police to discuss CCTV requirements and costs. The report is included in Appendix 1. It was discussed that although some businesses were burgled in November 2019, there had been no incidents since and the overall crime rate in Westbourne was low. It was agreed that Westbourne would not meet the criteria as there was no justifiable case and therefore CCTV could not be installed by the Parish Council. It was also agreed that the Parish Council could not afford to be a member of the Sussex Police scheme, without raising the Precept dramatically, and its only employee (the Parish Clerk) did not have capacity for the additional workload (such as writing and updating policies and overseeing the contract). It was discussed that Sussex Police had not recommended that the Parish Council set up its own CCTV – the Parish Council would need to employ an additional member of staff who would need to be trained, hold a licence, write policies/procedures and manage the monitoring of the footage. It was agreed that businesses would need to be informed of the decision and it was agreed to contact Tom Joyce at Monster Creative, who has contact with local businesses, to see if he could inform them. It was discussed that a meeting could be organised with businesses to discuss other forms of support, such as installing CCTV themselves or accessing grants, and to discuss forming a Westbourne business association.

8. Update on projects around the Parish: Members discussed the following:

- Village gateways: Cllr Hitchcock said that locations for gateways in Aldsworth had been agreed with Highways.
- SID's: Cllr Hitchcock said that Highways would be installing posts for the SID's in Aldsworth in the coming weeks. It was discussed that someone would need to oversee the SID's (charging batteries, moving them around and downloading data) and ideally someone from Aldsworth could be asked to help. It was agreed to buy two new brackets for the SID's so that they could be attached to the posts.
- Community Speedwatch Group: The group is looking for a coordinator and it was agreed to promote the role to residents. Without a coordinator, the group is unable to meet. It would involve liaising with both Sussex Police and the seven volunteers to agree times and locations and uploading captured data to the police website.
- Highways issues and parking in The Square: Members discussed the petition for the reduction in the speed limit on Monk's Hill. Over 400 signatures had been received and it was discussed that more could be collected by putting up posters around the recreation ground, a councillor asking people who use the recreation ground to sign the petition, or a councillor speaking to nearby residents. A QR code is available on the poster, so people could sign electronically. It was discussed that Cllr Magill may have an update and might be able to advise if the petition could be submitted now.
- Trees and tree champions: The Clerk has sent the tree survey to Mike Reed to ask for a quote for tree surgery. It was noted that all 17 trees on Homefield/Churcher/Edgel Roads had been adopted by local residents to help with watering while they establish.
- Defibrillators: Cllr Pearcey said that the defibrillator at Woodmancote Pub is checked monthly by the landlord and all the parts are up to date.
- Westbourne's buses: It was noted that Andrew Kerry-Bedell, Save our Harbour Villages, was attending the Council meeting on 8 July to present an idea for a local bus service around neighbouring parishes.
- Noticeboards: It was agreed to look at the existing noticeboard
- Fingerposts and street lights: The Clerk had contacted Tim Ralph, Ralph Restorations, and would send another email to him about ongoing fingerpost renovation.
- Flooding: No further update.
- Grit bins: It was agreed that the bins were full and did not need to be topped up.
- Benches: No further update.

9. New issues for the Committee to consider: Members discussed the following:

- Public Rights of Way: It was noted that there is no sign on the new footpath running alongside the development at The Shire. It was agreed to inform the Public Rights of Way team again.
- Hedge on Long Copse Lane owned by Southcott Homes: It was discussed that hedge on the boundary of The Shire development, running along Long Copse Lane had never been trimmed by the developer.

10. Announcements and items for the next meeting: None.

11. Date of next meeting: The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held on Thursday 18 November 2021 at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 8pm.

Appendix 1: CCTV in The Square, Westbourne

On 16 April, Clare Kennett, David Mack and Richard Hitchcock attended a meeting with Nick Hoad, Sussex Police to discuss the possibility of installing CCTV in The Square. The meeting also included a presentation by Claude Deaud. Nick and Claude were representing Sussex CCTV Partnership, which, led by Sussex Police, provides a state-of-the-art CCTV service for local authorities. They currently operate just under 500 cameras on behalf of 19 borough, district and town council partners. There are currently no parish council partners. The partners own and maintain the equipment but the 'intelligent network' is operated by Sussex CCTV Partnership, who have full control of some of the cameras and also own the recorded data.

The purpose of CCTV is to provide/achieve:

- Public safety and reassurance
- Crime deduction
- Crime reduction
- Command control of incidents

Sussex CCTV Partnership follows the best code of practice and is therefore fully compliant with human rights legislation as well as GDPR and the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice. They are the data manager and all queries from members of the public, etc. are handled by them.

Sussex CCTV Partnership insist on specific equipment being used. Certain cameras are unacceptable as they are often insecure. This equipment comes at a cost.

Costs: "Put £20k aside and you won't be seeing much change". This includes surveys, cost and installation of cameras, etc. Transmission: each camera - £1,200 pa. If all the cameras are linked, this would probably come in at something like £1,500 pa for all of them. Maintenance: (includes regular maintenance checks and two call-outs a year but doesn't cover cameras damaged beyond repair) £250 per camera pa.

Consultation/Engagement: It would be necessary to carry out public consultation/engagement. Sussex CCTV Partnership provide guidance. This would include the identification of a proven need. If it cannot be shown that the installation of CCTV will achieve the above (bullet point) benefits, it is questionable as to whether it can be justified. In fact, it might even be illegal. In other words, the installation of CCTV is only justifiable if there is a need which cannot be met in any other way.

WPC, it would seem, needs to address the following questions:

- **Does the threat to the village businesses and the level of crime and anti-social behaviour in the centre of Westbourne justify the installation of CCTV?**
- **Do the associated costs justify the installation of CCTV?**
- **Does the Parish Council have the resource and capacity to oversee CCTV?**

Crime statistics for The Square, Westbourne: <https://www.police.uk/your-area/sussex-police/westbourne2/>

CK/DM/RH. 19.04.21