

## Minutes



**Westbourne**

Parish Council

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### **Notes of Westbourne Parish Council's Strategy and Finance Working Group which took place on Thursday 23 September at 7pm at The Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne.**

Present: Cllr Lade Barker, Cllr Roy Briscoe, Cllr Richard Hitchcock, Cllr Ann Pearcey, Cllr Nigel Ricketts and Clare Kennett, Clerk to the Parish Council.

Meeting chaired by Cllr Hitchcock. Two members of the public were present.

1. Declarations of interest in the items on the agenda: Cllr Hitchcock declared an interest as a trustee of the Westbourne Community Trust (WCT), Cllr Mack declared an interest as a consultant to the WCT and Cllr Briscoe declared an interest as a board member of the WCT,

2. Apologies for absence: None.

3. Minutes of the Strategy and Finance Working Group held on 24 June 2021: The minutes were agreed to be a true record and were signed as such by the Chair.

4. Updates or issues from the minutes of the Strategy and Finance Working Group on 24 June 2021: None.

5. Business Plan objectives: Members considered the objectives below (as listed in section 9 of the Business Plan) and made the following comments.

- **Supporting Providing decent and affordable housing in the Parish for local people for younger families**

It was agreed to change the wording, as above, as the Parish Council would not be the housing provider and it was supporting the work of the WCT. It was considered that the housing would not just be for younger people but to meet local need and it was agreed that the WCT would set the criteria for who would qualify. It was discussed that the objective was ongoing as CDC had not yet considered WCT's planning application. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support with funding the new playground at Mill Road at an estimated cost of £25k and a storage building at Mill Road at an estimated cost of £30k.

- **Highlighting deficits in public services**

It was agreed that a consultation had already been carried out and that communications with residents were ongoing. It was discussed that the objective was being achieved through discussions with WSCC, CDC, the Bournes Forum, CDALC and WSALC. Cuts to the bus service were of most concern to members. The Parish Council had previously funded a community taxi-bus and was in discussion with local parishes and the Army at Thorney Island to fund a community minibus service, which was estimated to cost £2k in the first year to cover set up costs and £1k each year for the next five years.

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- **Supporting Providing appropriate infrastructure**

It was agreed that the Parish Council did not provide infrastructure but it lobbied for improvements to be made working with CDC and WSCC, see change above. It was discussed that consultation had been carried out and that communications with residents were ongoing. It was agreed that this objective would be delivered through the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). It was discussed that a steering group would need to be set up in the next 18 months to review the NP and that the Parish Council may need to contribute funds. Previously the NP was funded through grants but these may not be available.

- **Supporting local business growth and prosperity**

It was discussed that an email list of local businesses in Westbourne had been created to facilitate communication. It was discussed that the businesses would need to lead on setting up a business association, and the Parish Council had suggested it to them, but there seemed to be little appetite for it currently. It was discussed that a car park in a central location would be most beneficial to businesses and that the Parish Council could lead on this to identify a suitable location. It was also discussed that the WCT may be in a position to lead on the project and this would need to be explored further between the two organisations. Funding would be required for a car park and the Parish Council would know more as the project progressed. Cllr Briscoe said that he would contact Chichester College again about students developing a new design for The Square which could be put forward to WSCC Highways for consideration. It was discussed that the outcome of the public inquiry into unauthorised businesses on Cemetery Lane could have an impact on the number of HGVs that travel through the village.

- **Preventing inappropriate development and ensuring new development meets high standards of design**

It was agreed to merge the two objectives together as they related to the same planning issues. It was discussed that the objective would be achieved through the NP and Village Design Statement, as well as comments submitted for planning applications and working closely with CDC's Enforcement Team. Funding may be required to review the NP.

- **Retention of Identifying the need for improved and locally accessible medical services**

It was discussed that improvements had recently been made to Emsworth Surgery and that it was now important to ensure the retention of the surgery and pharmacy in Westbourne, see change above. It was discussed that decisions were likely to be made by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and that it would be important to lobby them if any changes were proposed to current services.

- **Effective communication and community consultation with residents**

It was agreed that the objective would be achieved by the Clerk through the work she delivers for the Parish Council. The Clerk is a qualified marketer and has previous experience of communications within the local authority sector. It was discussed that the Clerk worked 20 hours per week and other workload was often the barrier to communications. However, it was agreed that the Parish Council's communications were good and that it did as much as it could to inform and engage residents and stakeholders.

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- **Supporting Maintaining adequate local educational provision for young people**

It was agreed that the Parish Council could only support education provision and lobby for improvements and retention of the primary school in Westbourne, see change above.

- **Encourage Ensuring a harmonious and balanced community**

It was discussed that the Parish Council's community balance policy in the NP addressed some issues between the settled and Traveller community, and that the Planning Committee would continue to respond objectively to planning applications. It was discussed that the Parish Council continued to work with the police and other parishes to identify patterns of crime and anti-social behaviour.

It was agreed to discuss the following two objectives at a future meeting. It was discussed that the 2021/22 precept will be the focus of the meeting on 21 October so it was recommended that discussion continued at the meeting in January 22 and that members should contact the Clerk if there are any urgent issues to consider in the meantime.

- Ensuring more control and effective management of community assets
- Protecting the natural environment, declaring a climate emergency and working towards net zero carbon emissions

6. Announcements and items for the next agenda: None.

7. Date of next meeting: The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday 21 October 2021 at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.