

Minutes



Westbourne

Parish Council

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Minutes of Westbourne Parish Council's Public Services and Natural Environment Committee which took place on Thursday 20 June 2024 at 7.00pm at The Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne.

Present: Cllr Lade Barker, Cllr Roy Briscoe and Cllr Richard Hitchcock.

In attendance: Clare Kennett, Clerk to the Council

Meeting chaired by Cllr Barker. No members of the public or press were present.

1. Election of the Chairman of the Committee: It was **AGREED** to defer the item until the next meeting when more members would be present.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr Neil Attewell, Cllr Kim Franks, Cllr Jane Gould, Cllr Nigel Ricketts.

3. Election of the Vice-Chairman of the Committee: It was **AGREED** to defer the item until the next meeting when more members would be present.

4. Declarations of interest in the items on the agenda: There were no declarations of interest.

5. Minutes of the meeting on 21 March 2024: Members **AGREED** to **APPROVE** the minutes as a true record which were signed by the Chairman.

6. Issues and updates from the minutes of 21 March 2024:

Item 24, 3: There was no agreement on whether a handyman was required. It was **AGREED** that the noticeboards in The Square still needed to be varnished and to ask if Cllr Gould had capacity to do this.

7. Flooding: Members discussed flooding on Woodmancote Lane and Cllr Briscoe reported that he had met an officer from WSCC Highways in May to discuss the situation. Cllr Briscoe said springs popped up during period of high ground water levels, and that the north side of the lane was chalk, gravel and sand, and the south side of the lane was London clay. This meant the road flooded as the water had nowhere to drain once it met the clay. Highways said they would look at the drains and culverts under the road which were likely to be blocked and need cleaning. It was **AGREED** to write to Highways to ask what information they already have on file, given that a local resident has reported flooding issues outside her property for many years, and to request that work was carried out before the winter. It was discussed that flooding on Woodmancote Lane last winter had impacted Foxbury Lane which was a key route. The side of the road had been washed away and many cars were damaged.

8. Highways issues: Members **NOTED** the following:

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- Cllr Kerry-Bedell had been unable to secure an HGV ban in Westbourne (red circle HGV prohibition signs) and that he would now be progressing blue advisory signs for Foxbury Lane, Westbourne Road, Monk's Hill and Long Copse Lane.
- WSCC had moved the 30mph speed limit on Monk's Hill beyond recreation ground and the Clerk had submitted a TRO application to request that the speed limit was reduced from 60mph to 40mph at the top section of Monk's Hill.
- The Clerk had submitted a TRO application to reduce the speed limit on Foxbury Lane from 60mph to 40mph.
- The Clerk had submitted a TRO application to make all of Whitechimney Row 20mph
- It was discussed that a no-cycling sign had been installed on footpath 245 (Westbourne Road to Mill Lane) previously and it had been removed shortly afterwards. It was also discussed that the condition of the footpath was continuing to deteriorate and this needed to be addressed by WSCC. It was **NOTED** that a report had been submitted to Highways which Cllr Kerry-Bedell was following up.

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

- Although a quote had been received from Dennis Wingham of £300 to repair the bench on River Street, it was discussed that a metal or plastic bench might be better in this location as it had been subject to vandalism before. Members looked at some estimates that the Clerk had circulated before the meeting and it was discussed that she would continue to look for a good quality metal bench. The Clerk would include this on the agenda of the Full Council meeting in July for further discussion. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Hitchcock would contact the Men's Shed to see if they could repair the bench, as they often do work for the cost of materials only, and it could be moved to another location.
- It was **AGREED** that the village gateways needed to be cleaned initially and then a survey of their condition could be carried out to see if they needed to be painted. The Clerk would look into quotes for discussion at the Full Council meeting in July.
- It was discussed that Tim Ralph of Ralph Restorations was the best person to continue the renovation of the fingerpost signs. The Clerk had found quotes from other companies but they didn't offer the same level of service. It was **AGREED** to continue to wait for Tim Ralph to become available. It was discussed that the fingerposts could do with being cleaned and this could be done at the same time as the village gateways.
- It was **NOTED** that the Clerk had contacted WSCC for a quote for changing the four posts on the junction of East Street and Whitechimney Row to heritage-style lamps. The quote had not yet been received and it was hoped that it would be available in time for the Full Council meeting in July.

10. Natural Environment Liaison Group: There was no further update.

11. Announcements and items for the next meeting: There were no announcements.

12. Date of next meeting: The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled to be held on Thursday 21 November 2024 at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 8pm.