

Minutes



Westbourne

Parish Council

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Minutes of Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group which took place on Thursday 26 March 2026 at 7pm at The Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne.

Present: Cllr Nigel Ricketts and Cllr Michael White, and co-opted non-council members Stephen Arkle, Andrew Gordon Lennox, Paul Kefford, Marjorie Kipling, Kevan Pegley, County Councillor Andrew Kerry-Bedell and Diana Steely.

In attendance: Clare Kennett, Clerk to the Council

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

03/26/23. Apologies for absence: Cllr Lade Barker, Cllr Roy Briscoe and co-opted non-council member Peter Dale.

03/26/24. Declaration of members interest:

- a. There were no declarations of interest.
- b. There were no requests for a dispensation.

03/26/25. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2026: Members **AGREED** to **APPROVE** the minutes as a correct record which were signed by the Chairman.

03/26/26. Meeting with Dave Chapman, Triformis Limited, held on 17 March 2026: Members **NOTED** that Dave Chapman said he would run a mid-year Census report to give up to date information for the reviewed Plan. Dave Chapman had said that no authority in the south east was able to achieve a five-year housing land supply which meant that many were vulnerable to speculative applications. Local government reorganisation and the creation of unitaries would see this situation worsen. It was discussed that the sites previously discussed were suitable sites for possible development and one other had been identified in the centre of the village which meant it was sustainable. Dave Chapman had advised that it was important to inform residents of these sites as part of the consultation so they had the opportunity to influence any decisions. It was discussed that the community balance policy would need to be reviewed to plan better for allocations. It was discussed that as Chichester's local plan did not have an allocations policy, it left Westbourne vulnerable to ad hoc development. Members discussed that the Plan could not cover issues that were in the new national planning policy framework to avoid duplication.

03/26/27. Consultation: The Clerk informed members that the questionnaire had been published at www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk, opening on 23 March for a six week period to 8 May 2026. It had been created using Survey Monkey which had been promoted on the Parish Council's website and Facebook page. A printed version of the questionnaire had been published in the spring edition of the Parish Council's

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newsletter which would be delivered to all properties in early April. Printed questionnaires could be returned to Westbourne Café. A poster had also been put in the noticeboards and an article had been included in the Westbourne Magazine. The Clerk encourage members to complete the questionnaire and to encourage friends and family to do the same. The Clerk had booked Westbourne Community Hall on Thursday 23 April for the exhibition which would take place from 6-7pm before the Annual Parish Assembly started at 7pm. This had been publicised widely to the public and local organisations and groups invited to attend.

03/26/28. To discuss actions to be undertaken to develop the following new policies:

- a. Extend wildlife corridor behind Whitechimney Row. There were no further actions but members discussed how the wildlife corridor to the west of Whitechimney Row could be better protected and increased.
- b. Protection of water catchment for the River Ems: There were no further actions but members discussed the location of land to the east of Monk's Hill.
- c. Solar meadow/renewables policy: Cllr Kerry-Bedell said that he would be attending a meeting the following week with the land agent to discuss a possible site. Work was still underway to consider the viability of the site and also connection to Emsworth substation.

03/26/29: Draft plan: There were no further comments

03/26/30. Items to be included on the next agenda: There were no additional items.

03/26/31. Date of next meeting: The Clerk would circulate a date for the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.