

# West Dean Parish Council

An Annual General Meeting of West Dean Parish Council was held at 7.30pm on 15th May 2013 at King George's Hall.

**Present:** Cllr J. Gimpel (Chairman), Cllr H. Urquhart, Cllr. P. Hargrave, Cllr. M. Cordingley, Cllr, Cllr C. Warry, Cllr J Greene, Cllr W Seabrooke, Cllr Robin Garrett (West Tytherley and Frenchmoor Parish Council), Cllr C. Devine, Mrs A Ellis (Clerk).

**Apologies:** None

**25/13:** (a) Mrs J. Gimpel was proposed as Chairman by Cllr. P Hargrave, seconded by Cllr. H Urquhart. Cllr J. Gimpel accepted to stand for the next year. Cllr J. Gimpel proposed Cllr. H. Urquhart as Vice-Chairman which was also accepted by the other Councillors.

(b) All Councillors signed their Acceptance of Office forms which were also signed by the clerk. New Cllrs J Greene and W Seabrooke were welcomed onto the Council.

**26/13:** The following spokesmen were appointed: Cllr. P. Hargrave – Finance; Cllr. H. Urquhart – Planning; Cllr. C. Warry – Transport & Rights of Way and Cllr J Greene will act as representative at the 3 Rivers' Rail meetings. Cllr J Greene will also be the Playground Committee's representative during the Playground's development.

**27/13 Declarations of Interest:** None. Cllrs W Seabrooke and J Greene will complete their written declarations online.

**28/13:** The dates of forthcoming Parish Council Meetings were set: 4<sup>th</sup> September; 6<sup>th</sup> November; 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014; and 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014. It was noted that Cllr M Cordingley will not be able to attend the September or November meetings.

**29/13 Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**30/13 Finance:** a) Cllr P Hargrave reported on the accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2013. Accounts were approved. Of note were one off items including Jubilee expenses and sand bags. The playground donation of £1500 was the most notable item. Clerk to claim back VAT

b) The Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer (Clerk) completed the Annual Governance Statement.

c) The Chairman's Allowance for 2013/14 was once again agreed at £100, Cllr J Gimpel stating that she did not need this to be increased.

d) The insurance being in its second year of a fixed 3 yr deal was discussed. Community First will be informed when the new playground equipment is installed which will increase the cover required. Clerk to arrange appropriate cover for the Hog Roast.

e) The following payments were authorised:

Payee

The first 2 items were approved at 6<sup>th</sup> March meeting but not issued

	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Amount</u>
King George's Hall (Mulled wine for the Carols)	437	£30.00
J Warren (re-housing of village cat)	438	£100.00
WALC (New clerks Training Day awaiting invoice)	439	£102.00
H Woodward (Clerk's fee)	440	£279.68
H Woodward (clerk's expenses)	441	£37.37

Signed: J. Gimpel (Chairman)

Date:

WALC Annual membership	442	£73.96
Community First (Annual Insurance Renewal)	443	£497.27
J Gimpel (Printing of Newsletter & refreshments for meeting)	444	£68.73
J Gimpel (Annual Chairman's allowance)	445	£100.00
A Ellis (Clerks fee including a day on Clerk's course)	*	£350.14
A Ellis (Clerk's expenses for course)	*	£27.90
*TBC when PAYE set up		

There are now only 2 Cllrs who are signatories for the bank accounts. Clerk to arrange another two to be added.

### **31/13 Transport, Roads and Footpaths:**

a). Parking at Dean Station: The new land owner has been informally approached about parking by Dean station; they seem responsive to the idea. If WD Council can resurface the area for 10 cars then they have said they will collect monies and pay for the upkeep. The Council will now arrange to meet with them formally. It is agreed that Cllr J Gimpel, Cllr W Seabrooke and Cllr M Cordingley will form a Car Park Committee for this purpose. Clerk to arrange for Wiltshire Highways Engineer to meet with them.

#### **Footpaths**

b) Cllr C Warry reported that no-one had yet expressed an interest in joining Nick Cowden and his team for Volunteer Day on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013 but details to be forwarded to Cllr Warry so that they will be available if anyone from the Spring Clean comes forward to volunteer.

c) Footpath 15 – the owner of the land crossed by this footpath when approached about the suggestion that the stiles be replaced with kissing-gates had no objection. Cllr Warry to approach Southern Area Board for a firmer price for the gates. Decision now pending.

d) Footpath 8 - In 2006 when the application had been made, advice from HCC had been that evidence should relate to 1951 when the path was omitted from the Definitive map. Now HCC say details of use from 1951 to date are needed. This could be short-circuited if landowners could agree on and dedicate a route. Landowners to be approached.

d) Footpaths 22 – Collection of user statements almost complete. Applications to HCC normally join List A in chronological order. This list is still very long so a decision on the application, when made, cannot be expected for a considerable time. HCC has drawn attention to List C which applies where it can be shown to be “in the public interest to expedite a claim”. Cllr Warry will report to the September meeting whether this is a possibility.

### **32/13 Planning:**

S/13/00090/TCA: There were no objections to: Work to trees in Conservation Area at Wayside

S/13/00218/FULL: New application for part single, part 2 storey rear extension to house in Hillside Close. Initial thoughts were that there were unlikely to be any serious objections. Paperwork has started Cllr circulation.

No decision has yet been made to Woodside Farm application although new material looks unfavourable to development. Clerk to “track” application on TVBC website.

### **33/13 Village Maintenance:**

a) The annual village spring clean will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

b) Flooding of footbridge on Village Green was discussed. The cause being that large amounts of weed and now bulrushes/watercress are getting caught up and causing a dam in very wet weather. A lot of weed has been removed but further work will need to be done to clear the current problem and help prevent flooding in the very near future. The need for a new footbridge has been discussed with West Tytherley Parish Council and they have spoken to Alan Gibson, Hampshire county Councillor.

Signed: J. Gimpel (Chairman)

Date:

**34/13 Southern Wiltshire Area Board** Cllr Urquhart gave a report on the last meeting. The next meeting is on 6<sup>th</sup> June and Cllrs Urquhart and Greene will attend.

Cllr Devine asked if we had the grit bins we need. He was informed that we are still waiting for a bin to be installed on the road at the top of Dean Hill. Clerk to find out what happened with this request.

**35/13 Emergency planning exercise** on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Clerk to find out more information and circulate for decision on whether we can commit to this.

**36/13 Maltings 106 money** Cllr R Garrett has said that West Tytherley and Frenchmoor have sympathy with our quest to secure this money for West Dean Playground funds as the development was within the village. However there could be a problem as the recreation ground is in Wiltshire. Working party comprising of West Dean and West Tytherley councillors to be set up to find a way forward.

**37/13 Hampshire Police** were represented by PCSO Jo Cole and Police Sergeant Alison West. Speedwatch was discussed and although there are been volunteers to use the equipment there has been little support in favour of purchasing it – this would cost £2500 to £3000. Cllr Devine said he would raise the matter at the Area Board. Crime trends were reported and Hampshire Police said heating oil theft was now down, but that no significant arrests have been made. Although it was recognised that the closure of the Front Office at Romsey Police Station has not been welcomed, Sgt West made it clear that the police are still available and that if not urgent, appointments with the right person can still be made as easily.

**38/13 Correspondence:** One matter arising from correspondence sparked a discussion on the unsuitability of the road over Dean Hill to Whiteparish for HGVs. Current signs to be examined and addressed if deemed not strong enough to dissuade HGV drivers.

**39/14 Date of Next Meeting:** The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 9.50 pm

Signed: J. Gimpel (Chairman)

Date: