

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at West Grimstead Village Hall on Monday, 3rd December 2019.
Present: Cllr Sowerby, presiding, Cllrs. Doran, Shrapnell, Wilkinson, Daffern and Sharp, Wilts. Cllr R. Britton plus 14 members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllr. Christie.**

Ten Minutes speaking The majority of the public in attendance came to explain about their purchase of the field situated behind Chapel Hill. Some concern was shown over the width of the footpath crossing this field which is a very wet and muddy area but the Council was assured that the footpath width would not be affected. Cllr Sowerby congratulated them on the purchase and thanked them for working with the parish.

There were no Declarations of Interest

Wiltshire Council Report. Councillor Britton had nothing to report.

Minutes The Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th November, having been circulated were taken as read and signed.

Items dealt with by the Clerk

141.19 Playing Field Update A total of 83 replies had been received in respect of the cycle track around the field. 42 Yes: 40 No and 1 Maybe: - A very good response. However it was felt it would have a very limited appeal and the costs involved were prohibitive. It was decided to wait and draw up another plan for developing the playing field. Both villages to be involved in providing ideas. The area is quite small and there are good facilities at Farley and Alderbury. A vote was taken by the Councillors which resulted in not going ahead at the present time. Cllr Sharp will take this project on. **JPS**

142.19 Highways: *Bugmore Lane Ditch* Cllr Sowerby explained the position regarding the ditch which overflows into the lane. Following a meeting with Wiltshire Council Footpath Department, the issue has been passed to the Highways Dept. The clerk was therefore instructed to approach them. **Clerk**

Barriers – Butterfurlong Road Although these have at last been repaired, it was felt they had been left very open. The clerk to write to Highways asking for safety posts to be put up at both places. **Clerk**

Windwhistle Lane Regarding the proposed one-way, residents in the lane are in favour of changing the lane to one way only (up). This will be a CATG project. One resident was concerned that horse riders would be one way only but the clerk to check on this. **Clerk**

An open meeting to be arranged for the parishioners to put their views forward. Also Alderbury people to be invited.

Mirror As this is not recommended, Cllr Sowerby and the clerk will meet up with the Highways Manager (Julie Watts) and ask for her suggestions as to what signage can be put up.

Metro Count This has been applied for along the Farley/East Grimstead Road where the 60mph limit ends. It was also suggested that the 30 mph sign along the Butterfurlong/Long Drove road could be moved back by the culvert bridge. **Clerk**

The clerk to write.

Road Signs Although one resident asked for signs to be erected in East Grimstead, another resident did not want them. It was proposed that signs should be erected but the vote was defeated. It was then decided to ask the residents in East Grimstead (via the email system) what they wanted. **Clerk**

143.19 Footpath Update Although Mr Wilkinson has carried out some work on the Circular path there is still more work needed especially by the bridge/stiles. Cllr Sharp agreed to walk the path and report back to him. Apparently for repair and replacing old stiles the landowner can claim up to 25% of the costs from the Highways Authority. Clerk to confirm that this is the case with the Highways Authority **Clerk**

144.19 Going Green A lot is going on at the moment. Wiltshire Council is striving to be carbon neutral by 2030 and encouraging all residents to make the “Wiltshire Green Pledge” and commit to being as environmentally friendly as possible. Details about the Pledge will be sent to the Dun Valley News.

Local Electricity Bill - The Bill, if made law, would empower local communities to sell locally generated clean energy directly to local customers by establishing a statutory Right to Local Supply. This is currently impossible because of the huge setup and running costs involved in doing so. The ultimate result of this would be:

1. Local communities and businesses could buy their electricity from a local energy company. Building more local renewable energy would be financially viable.
2. Communities would benefit from the revenues that new local energy supply companies would generate, such as more local skilled jobs, energy efficiency schemes and investment in local facilities. It was agreed that Grimstead Parish Council would support the bill.
3. *Recycling Shed* The Reading Room Committee does not want the shed outside the Reading Room. It was decided it would be put next to the layby by Bugmore Green.

145.19 Maintenance of Big Pond Following the clearance of the small pond, it was agreed that supporting wildlife should be the priority from now on. How best to proceed with the maintenance of the big pond therefore requires the help of an expert’s advice. Cllr Sharp knows of such a company and will seek their views. **JPS**

146.19 Wiltshire Council Wild Flower Trials on Crockford Green. Instructions will be issued to the contractors to cut the grass next season as wildflower. They will not be cultivating the area but will provide seeds for villagers to plant.

147.19 Litter Pick-up Although the next litter pick-up will not be until the spring, residents are being asked to continue pick up when out walking etc .

148.19 Planning: 19/10516 – *Oak framed garage set on brick plinth at The Old Rectory, West Grimstead* - No objections.
Nightwood – Councillors were very pleased with the outcome of the recent planning enquiry.

149.19 Budget/Precept 2020 This was discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Sowerby and seconded by Cllr Shrapnell that the precept beset at £10,000 for the forthcoming year. All councillors were in agreement with the exception of one.

150.19 Phone Box/Book Exchange Both boxes need repainting and volunteers are needed to carry out the work. The Parish Council would pay for the paint.

151.19 Accounts for Payment It was agreed to pay the following:
Hurdcott Estates (grass cutting) £71.64

152.19 Date of Next Meeting – 6th January at East Grimstead Reading Room at 7.30 p.m.