

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at West Grimstead Village Hall on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020. Present: Cllr Sowerby, presiding, Cllrs. Wilkinson, Daffern, Christie and Shrapnell, Wilts. Cllr R. Britton plus 4 members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllr. Sharp.**

**Ten Minutes speaking** - It was reported that the defibrillator in West Grimstead had recently been taken to a resident's house but not needed. As the pads will be out of date in March, councillors authorised the purchase of new ones.

Councillors felt the code number should be on the apparatus and not left arrange this.

There were no **Declarations of Interest**

**Wiltshire Council Report.**

1. The Police and Crime Panel meets this week to veto or approve the commissioner's precept request.
2. It was hoped to get the annual budget approved for this year.

**Minutes** The Minutes of the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, having been circulated were taken as read and signed.

**Items dealt with by the Clerk**

**11.20 Playing Field Update** Nothing further to report

**12.20 Highways:** *Bugmore Lane Ditch* Email from Highways stating that it is now with the Drainage Team to deal with.

*Barriers – Butterfurlong Road* More Barriers have been ordered and as soon as they are in, these will be erected.

*Windwhistle Lane* Julie Watts, head of the Transport Team said the Parish Council could apply to have this lane closed. Legal costs would be in the region of £1000. Bollarding would be needed at the A36 end and unlocking ones at the other end which would allow farmers etc. to access the lane if necessary. There may also be the cost for signage on the A36. Highways England would expect to see evidence of consultation and a log would have to be kept of unauthorised vehicles, etc. using the lane. A statement to be drawn up to go to all the relative parties and villagers.

*Mirror and Road Signs, Butterfurlong Junction.* Cllr Sowerby and the clerk met Julie Watts of the Transport Team following which suggestions had been sent. It was agreed to go ahead with the Reduce Speed Now sign at an approximate cost of £500, 25% of which would come from the Parish Council. It was also decided to have the SLOW sign on the road re-painted. This matter to be raised at a forthcoming CATG meeting. The clerk to contact Julie Watts. **Clerk**

*Road Signs* These are proving to be more complicated as there are different names on the system to that which we have requested!. When the Street Naming Team has sorted out the problem, the Parish Council would look at it

again. The approximate cost for five new signs would be in the region of £1000 – again 25% of which would come from the Parish Council funds with the remainder from CATG.

*30mph sign* In view of the speeding traffic along Long Drove. Julie Watts said she could carry out a metro count even in 60mph areas and will consider moving the 30mph sign to edge of village.

*Metro Count, Farley Road* Results are still awaited.

*Potholes Maypole Green* The clerk to ask Boswells to carry out the necessary repairs.

*Grit Bins* A resident had asked for one but it was considered these were not required in East Grimstead as the roads were already being gritted.

Clerk

It was felt these were not needed in East Grimstead as the roads were already being gritted.

*Parish Steward* Attending to potholes in the parishes is the main priority for the parish steward during February/March

*Overgrown Hedges* Complaints had been received of hedges that need cutting back. The clerk to write to the various householders.

**13.20 Footpath Update** Nothing further to report

**14.20 Going Green** Cllr Wilkinson has purchased two green recycling bins, at a cost of £38, to be used for things that cannot be put into the Blue Bin, e.g. Toothpaste tubes, inhalers, etc. These to go outside Cllr Wilkinson's and Cllr Sowerby's houses.

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**15.20 Maintenance of Big Pond** A detailed email had been sent by Cllr Wilkinson. She had met with the Manager of Wildlife and Conservation at the New Forest Land Advice Service (Trace Williams). It was her opinion that the pond looks very good for wildlife and does not need dredging at all. It was agreed to pay £175 + VAT for an eDNA to test to ascertain which species of fish, frogs and newts are living in the pond e.g. Great Crested Newts. A small gully has been dug into the pond to take water off the road but this will be polluting the pond. It is proposed therefore to rebuild the kerb along the roadside edge to prevent further polluted run-off into the pond and seek an alternative solution for pooling water on the road in that area. Cllr Wilkinson has also met Rob West of Vesper Ecology who would be able to carry out the work, including cutting back a third of the rushes and some of the other vegetation. Julie Watts to be approached for her advice about rebuilding the kerb and closing the road for a day. Cllr Wilkinson offered to see Trace Williams regarding the state of Horsepond in West Grimstead.

**16.20 Litter Pick-up** Letter received from Alderbury Scouts stating that picking up the litter along the roads was considered too dangerous for the scouts. The litter pickup for both villages will take place on or around the 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**17.20 Vacancy** Although there is a person in West Grimstead willing to come on to the council, because the Vacancy Notice in the Dun Valley news stated the closing date as the 27<sup>th</sup> March, a co-option cannot be made until that date in case other people apply to be a councillor.

An email received from Election Services states that only two weeks from the date of advertising is necessary before co-option takes place, not 60 days as was the procedure.

**18.20 Alderbury and West Grimstead School** Letter received from the headmaster of the school asking for funding for the next part of the school improvement plans, e.g. Laptops, iPads and ICT provision through to enhancements to our libraries and Studio area. Alderbury Parish Council has provided a grant of £5000 from their CIL funds. After some discussion, it was agreed that Cllr

Sowerby would arrange to visit the school to meet with the headmaster.  
Cllr Daffern declared his interest as his daughter is a governor of Pitton School.

**19.20 Remembrance for the Queen – Operation London Bridge”** The Parish Council to consider if it wishes to mark a remembrance when the Queen passes away. This item to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

**20.20 Accounts for Payment** It was agreed to pay the following:

£38.00 Mrs R Wilkinson (two recycling bins)

£35.00 East Grimstead Reading Room

**21.20 Date of Next Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> March, East Grimstead Reading Room at 7.30 p.m.**