



Meeting of West Dean Parish Council

Tuesday 13 April 2021 commenced at 7:00pm

Held by video conference (in order to protect the health and safety of councillors and members of the public during the COVID-19 pandemic)

Present: Harry Urquhart (HU) – Chair, Jane Higgins (JH), Bill Seabrook (BS), Andy Francis (AF), David Sutton (DS), Christine Warry (CW), and Sarah Hurst (SH)

Others present: Melanie Camilleri (MC) – Clerk/RFO, Councillor Richard Britton (Alderbury and Whiteparish division), Cllr Deborah Hook (West Tytherley, Frenchmoor & Buckholt Parish Council), and one member of the public

Before proceedings commenced, the council and members of the public observed a one-minute silence as a mark of respect following the death of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

45/21 Apologies for Absence: None

46/21 Declarations of interest: None

47/21 Minutes: The minutes of the West Dean Parish Council Meeting held on **Tuesday 09 March 2021** were approved.

48/21 Public Forum

49/21 River Dun Restoration and Vegetation Clearance

i) After a lengthy discussion, voting took place by a show of hands. It was resolved by a majority decision to proceed with WWT's proposal **b. to narrow the channel with bundles of wood to create berms.**

AF to acquire written confirmation from WWT stating this is their recommended option over all others, so as to satisfy the audit trail for insurance purposes.

JH expressed her thanks to DS for his efforts on the Reports, working with WWT, and bringing this matter to the point of Parish Council approval.

ii) WWT has quoted for option b. (£5480 excl VAT). Grant funding now to be sought. WDPC has earmarked £400 in the 2021/22 budget.

iii) It was unanimously agreed that weed control will be tackled professionally on an annual basis. WDPC has earmarked £1,000 in the 2021/22 budget.

iv) The River Group Terms of Reference: discussion deferred

50/21 Finance

i) AF proposed, seconded by CW and resolved unanimously to approve the End of Year Accounts 31 March 2021

ii) AF proposed, seconded by CW and resolved unanimously to approve the Cash Flow Report and payments

Bank balances

Treasurers Account 01 April 2021: £4,568.04

Business Bank Instant 01 April 2021: £1,113.64

Payee	Detail	Amount £ (incl vat)	Method
M Camilleri	Monthly gross salary	483.99	S/O
WALC/NALC	Annual subscription	102.31	BACS
Total debit		£586.30	

- 51/21 Annual Parish Meeting 2021 (must be held each year between 01 March and 01 June)**
i) Unanimously agreed to cancel the 2021 meeting due to COVID19
- 52/21 Annual Parish Council Meeting 2021 (in an election year must be held on, or within fourteen days after, the day on which the elected councillors take office i.e the fourth day after the day of the election. Meaning between 10 May and 20 May)**
i) Given concerns over the health and safety of councillors if physical meetings were to recommence in the current environment (CV19 vaccination programme hasn't yet rolled-out to all adults and one new councillor will not have yet received their 1st vaccination) as well as the fact that the government's lockdown restrictions remain in place until June 2021 (it isn't legal to convene indoors before then), it was resolved unanimously to hold the Annual Parish Council Meeting on **Tues 11 May 2021 7:00pm via video conference (zoom).**
- 53/21 Time to acknowledge and thank the Councillors who'll not be standing at the election 06 May**
CW's hand-over of business:-
 - updated the councillors on WDPC's application to Hampshire County Council to have a right of way included on the Definitive Map (Minute 38/21): this application has been handed over to a different officer of HCC who has advised he will be starting work on it in May
 - reminded of the need to add maps etc to the Parish Council's website and Parish Online (Minute 40/21 i)) – in particular that relating to the areas of registered village green and common land
 - reminded if BT ever decommission the phone box, the PC has agreed to buy it

Cllr Urquhart expressed his thanks to Cllrs Hurst, Sutton, and Warry for all their hard work for West Dean Parish Council over the years. This was echoed by all.

Being no further business, HU closed the meeting at 8:09pm.

DRAFT MINUTES TO BE SIGNED AT THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING