

West Dean - Annual Parish Assembly

Wednesday 1 May 2019 at 7:00pm in King George's Hall, West Dean

Present:

Harry Urquhart (HU) - Chair, Jane Higgins (JH), Bill Seabrooke (BS), Christine Warry (CW), Astrid Jahn (AJ), Mike Marx (MM), Sarah Hurst (SH)

Apologies:

Melanie Camilleri (MC) - Parish Clerk

Welcome

HU welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and explained the format of the evening.

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

Alan Bannister gave a presentation on the draft NDP. Consultation period will be 13 May – 24 June. This time frame encompasses not only the meeting but the two forthcoming fetes (West Dean and West Tytherley) and the Annual Parish Meeting of West Tytherley which will allow parishioners to receive copies of the plan.

Alan encouraged as many parishioners as possible to peruse and comment on the plan. The NDP will also be available on the website www.wtwdplan.org.uk as from 13 May. Any comments made about the plan may be used publicly but will be anonymised. Responses are not restricted to one per household – the more responses received, the better.

HU, on behalf of the parish council, thanked Alan for all his time and effort in creating the plan.

New Parish Councillors

HU introduced the new parish councillors to the meeting; AJ & SH

The River Group

The group is a sub committee of the Parish Council and comprises: Nick Hiddleston, Sally Hiddleston, Jayne Francis, Andy Francis, Clare Sutton, David Sutton, Kevin Harrington and BS.

Nick provided an update on the status of the River Group – the group continues to monitor the water levels (with thanks going to Pat Hargreave for regularly measuring the water levels). There will be a full years data available by 6 December 2019. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) visited on 10 April for a follow-up survey. The group are presently awaiting the report.

Andy Francis organised the river clearance on 6 October 2018, which was well attended. A further river clearance will be organised this year once the weed returns.

CW advised the meeting that she was present during the visit of WWT. 6 water vole burrows and evidence of water voles were found between the two bridges.

Nick Hiddleston advised that flooding issues were not in the remit of the River Group.

IT Vision for West Dean

SH will be giving a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting on 8 May about the Parish Council's social media and web presence along with the results of the logo vote.

West Dean Club

HU on behalf of Sonya Whittick (Secretary of West Dean Club), provided an insight into the club and their vision for the club, fund raising and events that take place at the club (see attachment for full details).

West Dean Village Fete

The fete is on Saturday 1 June. Nick Hiddleston encouraged householders to take part in the scarecrow competition (no theme).

This year's fete has a traditional theme and there will be a procession from West Dean Club to the recreation ground at the beginning of the fete. As well as the fete there will also be an evening event.

Andy Francis asked for prizes for the Silent Auction (which last year raised £1800).

Volunteers are still needed to help out on the day – if anyone is able to help they should contact Julie Rowe.

Norman Court Estate 75th Anniversary (in 2020)

Richard Parsons advised that in the last 3 days of June in 2020, it will be the 75th Anniversary of the selling off of the Norman Court Estate, at which time King George's Hall, West Dean was gifted to the village.

Hog Roast

AJ advised that the Hog Roast will take place on the Village Green on Saturday 20 July at 6pm. Botley Hog Roast will supply the hog. Music has been booked. Help will be needed with putting up marquees on the day and those attending will be encouraged to bring along a salad. More details will be published in June, along with a flyer in the Dun Valley News

Village Spring Clean

CW advised that the annual spring clean will take place on Saturday 11 May at 10am. Hi-viz, black sacks, litter pickers etc will be available. Helpers are welcome to bring along tools and gloves.

Wiltshire Electoral Review

CW explained the premise of the review; moving the electoral boundary of the parish of West Dean to that of Downton & Whiteparish. CW has documented all the reasons why West Dean should not join Downton & Parish and has asked that the review's proposals are reconsidered. Final recommendations will be published on 2 July 2019.

Broadband

MM will contact Openreach before the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 8 May to ascertain the current status of Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) within the village. Members of the meeting advised

that some already had FTTP. Clare Sutton raised the question of when those living outside of the village but within the parish would get fast broadband (particularly those living on or near Dean Hill). MM will contact Whiteparish Parish Council to ascertain whether there is a solution available to all those householders who are on the Whiteparish Exchange but live in West Dean.

Defibrillator

Clare Sutton advised that the battery for the Defibrillator has stopped working so it is currently not available for use. A replacement battery is being sourced.

Plant Sale

Jane Gimpel advised that there is a Plant Sale & Coffee Morning at West Dean Club on Monday 6 May from 10 –12pm

There being no further business, HU thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed at 8:30pm.