

MINUTES OF PARISH MEETING FOR WESTONBIRT WITH LASBOROUGH PARISH ON 7th MARCH 2018

PRESENT – Parish Councillors: Geraldine Shepherd (GS) Chair, Colin Baber (CB) and Mark Winston-Davis (MWD).
Parishioners: Maureen Aldridge, Natasha Dangerfield and June Goatley
John Shepherd (Parish Clerk)

APOLOGIES – John Hatherell (JH), Annabella Scott (AS)

MINUTES FOR MAY MEETING 2017. Read and approved. Proposed Maureen Aldridge, Seconded Colin Baber.

MATTERS ARISING

Geraldine Shepherd said that these would be covered in her Chairman's Report.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

GS reported as follows:

State of the Weigh House

Cotswold District Council had misinterpreted some For Sale signs and had initially been under the impression that the Weigh House was for sale and had taken no action. Subsequently, on being informed that this was not the case, they had written to the owner who had had replied, apologising for the delay in sorting it out and saying that there had been multiple thefts of tiles from the building. She was short of money and was applying for grant funding which was taking time.

Pickards Lodge

Planning permission had at last been granted for internal changes to the building, the scaffolding was up and work had started.

Traffic at Arboretum Concerts

GS had been liaising with the Arboretum's new Entertainments Manager, Kit Beauchamp, the replacement for Simon Hough, who had been extremely helpful. The real problem was that since the incorporation of "The Downs" into the main Arboretum there was less parking available, now only 600 permanent spaces. They had tried to overcome this last year by routing all the traffic coming from the north down the Easton Grey Road and into the school grounds. This had worked on the first night but it was a long way from there to the site of the actual performance and the queue to leave the school after the concert took over 45 minutes to clear. On the second night, word had obviously got around and only about half the number of cars parked in the school. GS was going to talk to Kit Beauchamp again prior to this year's concert and see what arrangements can be put in place for the villagers.

New Road

In response to our letter with photographs to Gloucestershire Highways (GH), repairs had been done to the badly pot-holed section of road adjacent to the Embryo Transplant Centre. However, the repairs had been done very badly by Amey, GH's contractor, and were now as bad as before if not worse. GH pointed out to us that this was a very minor road with limited traffic and with the shortage of finance there were other higher priorities.

Posh Nosh Signs

These had now been removed.

Aldacre Sign

After lengthy correspondence with Gloucestershire Highways, Richard Gray had visited the site, had agreed the location of the boundary between the verge and the Cardales' land and instructed them to move the sign off the verge onto their own property. Prior correspondence with Cotswold District Council had established that a sign of this size (1.26 sq. metre viz 0.3 sq. metre) required planning permission, so the planning department had been notified with a request for action. We had recently been informed that the Enforcement Officer had visited the site and is writing to the householder asking him to remove the sign.

Parking Outside the Arboretum

Mark Lineham had not provided the promised information about the collapsible white bollards and we had not pursued the cost of double yellow lines as it had already been established that a Parking Control Order would be required at a cost of around £10,000.

Lighting at Sports Centre and Traffic Through the Village To and From the School

These matters had been referred to the Headmistress, Natasha Dangerfield, who had agreed to come to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Planning Applications

An application to build a very unusual house on a site adjacent to the A46 beside Aerodrome Garage had been opposed by the Parish Council and has been refused by Cotswold District Council. The application to build staff accommodation at the Hare & Hounds Hotel received planning approval and it was believed that construction was about to start.

Parish Council Website

The development of the professionally developed website for which the Parish Council received government funding was almost complete and was about to go live. Parishioners would be updated on both the interim website and in the parish newsletter.

Cost of Hiring "The Village Hall"

GS said that there had been some confusion over the cost of hiring "The Village Hall", the former Tiggers Hut, also formerly known as Woodlands Lodge. This had originally been agreed as £5 per hour for parishioners but Westonbirt Leisure were now charging £10 per hour for parishioner bookings. She had queried the £10 per hour charge with the manager who had said that he had always charged that amount. This had been raised with the Headmistress.

That concluded the Chairman's report.

In response to the items referred to her, the Headmistress, Natasha Dangerfield, responded:

Lighting at Sports Centre

The school were carrying out a Lighting Audit with a view to toning down the amount of lighting used and, in particular, they were looking at the lighting at the Sports Centre which was likely to be switched off at around 1030pm.

Traffic Through the Village To and From the School

Parents would be reminded again about speeding through the village and, indeed, on the school grounds. The school was aware of the problem of unauthorised cyclists riding through the school grounds and were trying to control it. However, Google Maps show the entrance to the school as being the entrance from the village street. The school was trying to have this corrected but were finding it difficult to do so.

Cost of Hiring "The Village Hall"

Natasha Dangerfield said that the matter had been resolved and that the charge to the village was £5 per hour.

Post Meeting Note: An email has been received from Luke Bedwell, Westonbirt Leisure Operations Manager, confirming that the hire of "Woodlands Lodge" will be charged at £5.00 per hour to the residents of Westonbirt.

VILLAGE CLEAN-UP – SUNDAY, 18TH MARCH 2018

The annual Village-Clean-up will be on Sunday 18th March 2018. Volunteers are requested to meet at John and Geraldine Shepherd's house, Woodlands House, on the Easton Grey Road at 10:30am to collect tabards, picking sticks, gloves and rubbish bags and agree areas to be cleaned. Please phone Geraldine on (01666) 880287 so she knows who is coming.

QUESTIONS BY PARISHIONERS NOTIFIED AT LEAST 3 DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING¹

Only one question had been received, on the day before the meeting, from Maureen Aldridge: "Just received our Parish Newsletter. Obvious delay due to snow but I will be attending. Two enormous pot holes by the Bund as you leave the village. Did one of the members of the parish council ever approach the school about speeding parents and other visitors in cars using the village entrance to the school. The school may be interested to know that this entrance is being used as a rat run by cyclists! Sorry for the late notification.."

The existence of the pot holes was noted and would be referred to Gloucestershire Highways. The other aspects of this had been dealt with in the Chairman's report and the response by Natasha Dangerfield.

That concluded the formal agenda of the meeting.

¹ This meeting had been notified on the Parish Council interim website 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

Geraldine Shepherd then invited parishioners to make their views known and raise issues in open discussion.

OPEN DISCUSSION

The issue was raised that the sign notifying the route for construction traffic to Cranmore Farm in Shipton Moyne was interfering with the visibility at the road junction and creating a traffic hazard. Colin Baber volunteered to move it so that it no longer did so.

Action: Colin Baber.

GS referred to the state of the Notice Boards and felt that they needed oiling. She said that she had the correct oil from the makers at home. MWD volunteered to oil the notice boards.

Action: Mark Winston-Davis

Mark Winston-Davis referred to the pot holes previously mentioned by Maureen Aldridge. He was concerned at the amount of heavy traffic using the road, including lorries transporting material from the neighbouring quarry in Wiltshire, and was worried that the road might collapse into his field. He felt that a weight limit was necessary to preclude such an event occurring. He felt that the matter should be raised with Gloucestershire Highways. The meeting concurred and he was asked to do so.

Action: Mark Winston-Davis

There being no further issues raised, Geraldine Shepherd declared the meeting closed.

CLOSE MEETING

DRAFT