

Minutes of the meeting of Westbere Parish Council held on Monday 28 March 2022 in Westbere Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present: Parish Councillors:

Paul Glover (Chairman),

Sylvia Harlow (Vice Chairman),

Kathy Wilson and

Ken Dekker.

Canterbury City Councillor Georgina Glover (for part of the meeting).

Clerk to the Council, Amanda Sparkes.

One member of the public (for part of the meeting).

149. Chairman's welcome

Cllr P Glover welcomed everyone to the meeting.

150. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were noted from Canterbury City Councillor Louise Harvey-Quirke, and Kent County Cllr Alan Marsh.

151. Vacancies on the council

There has been no interest in the three parish councillor vacancies on the council.

152. Update on Clerk vacancy

Of the two applications discussed in confidential session at the end of the last meeting, one candidate dropped out. The other was interviewed but not deemed suitable. The current Clerk is willing to continue in post. The vacancy remains advertised but there have been no further applications or enquiries.

153. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

154. Minutes of the last meeting held 21 February 2022

Cllrs approved the Minutes as a true record of the meeting and the Chairman duly signed them.

155. Chairman's Report and Councillors' Reports

Cllr Sylvia Harlow

Cllr Harlow reported several blue tits arriving from early March in her garden, along with robins too.

Cllr Ken Dekker

Cllr Dekker had nothing to report.

Cllr Kathy Wilson

Cllr Wilson reminded everyone about the village hall quiz on 02 April 2022.

Cllr Wilson also asked that the next newsletter runs an article that if residents suspect any car abandoned in the village to report this to CCC. CCC will take action after a month.

Cllr Paul Glover

Cllr P Glover advised he had attended another joint meeting with Sturry Parish Council and Fordwich Town Council, which was also attended by representatives of the sailing club and Model railway club, re the future of Bretts land at Westbere lakes. He explained that there was no update to report. He suggested that the parish council raise the profile of all the constituent parts that use the Westbere lakes site, and explained he has started gathering information. This can be run in the next or a future newsletter. There is to be another joint meeting in a few weeks' time.

There is an update on the faster broadband scheme with Openreach now moving to the build phase. Everyone who signed up has been emailed with a request that they now pledge their voucher. The

Clerk will do an article in the next newsletter about this, and confirm that the email is genuine and the link contained in it is safe. She will also do a website Newspost and update the front page information. Cllr P. Glover will do another letter to households to encourage them to pledge; thank the team that got the project this far, and to also ask residents to send the Clerk their email addresses to sign up to receive parish business alerts in the future.

Cllr P Glover explained he has checked and reported faulty streetlights in the village.

Cllr P Glover commented that the CCC notification that roads would be added to a four-weekly schedule is now overdue? The Clerk will check with the CCC officer.

156. Canterbury City Councillor, Cllr Georgina Glover report

Cllr G Glover reminded everyone that the Sturry Road Park and Ride consultation ends soon for anyone wishing to comment.

The CCC Community Committee and the Audit Committee has met. This is not a busy time meeting-wise but CCC is busy balancing the budget.

157. CCC Cllr Louise Harvey-Quirke

Cllr Harvey-Quirke had sent apologies but also provided the following written report:

Canterbury City Councillor report, Westbere Parish Council, 28th March 2022

We have now entered our final cycle of meetings for this Council year. Last week, I attended the last of the Community Committees, as this will be replaced from May with Cabinet.

At this meeting, I spoke about the importance of Rural/neighbourhood policing, being aware of anti-social behaviour and crime in the rural areas, and briefly discussed matters that will come before the Waste Cllr Working Group, of which I am a member.

Earlier this month, I attended the Joint Transport Board (JTB), where I made several suggestions of parking restrictions in and around Sturry.

There is now a pavement parking ban on Island Road, which should make it easier for you if you happen to be walking into Sturry Village or Fordwich.

Finally, I'd like to remind you that The future of Sturry Park & Ride consultation closes on 3rd April. The findings of this will then go to the final Policy Committee later in the month.

Kind Regards

Louise Harvey-Quirke

Sturry Ward Councillor

158. Adjournment of the meeting

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Event Sunday 05 June 2022

The Chairman changed the order of the agenda to enable resident Alison Evans to give an update on her organisation of an event to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Alison gave a finance report and update report. Three invoices given to the Clerk were authorised for payment.

Alison explained that a resident is to donate two generic community celebration banners to fit across the width of the road, and these will be available for use afterwards. She has sent thank you letters to residents that returned a survey. Over 150 people have now said that they will attend. There has been a huge response to people wanting to share food. A couple of singers are now confirmed and giant games hired. Alison has been emailing companies for raffle donations with the proceeds going to residents-chosen charities. She commented that she thinks there will be sufficient budget to provide strawberries and cream free of charge to all.

By registering the event on CCC's events page 70 events will be randomly chosen to receive a £70 Sainsbury's food voucher for their event. The Clerk will register Westbere's event. will register Westbere's event.

Alison explained she is getting information for a community board/leaflet to be available on the day with information about the village organisations – the Clerk will draft an article for Cllrs approval about the parish council, plus contact details – and forward this to Alison when approved. Cllr Wilson offered to write and provide something about Neighbourhood Watch.

The leaflet when finished may be uploaded to the parish council website.

NOTED a road closure application was finalised and submitted on 27 February and a letter sent to the properties directly and indirectly affected by it. This has been approved by Kent Highways. Kent Highways will deliver closure signs to Cllr Harlow before the event.

The Clerk and Alison are to meet on 20 April to finalise a risk assessment which will be sent to the parish council's insurance company.

Thanks were recorded to Alison by the Chairman for a fantastic job. He commented that what she has done and is doing is very much appreciated.

The resident left the meeting at this point.

The meeting continued.

159. Planning

New applications:

None this month.

View and comment on applications online at <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/planningsearch>

Notifications:

CA/21/02928 - The Barn, Westbere Lane, Westbere, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 0HH

Application for listed building consent to replace existing pine fenestration and French doors with European Oak. *GRANTED by CCC*

NOTED that the consultation on the CCC's Call for Sites and options for the Canterbury District Local Plan to 2040 is now anticipated late June/early July 2022.

Cllr G Glover advised that Quinn Estates is going to start construction of the college at Hoplands in Hersden in May 2022. Cllr Dekker confirmed that the plans have been granted for the doctors surgery and children's nursery too.

Village Green application to KCC for the Two Fields site

On 25 January 2022 Winckworth Sherwood Solicitors lodged a claim for Judicial Review brought by their clients Bellway Homes Ltd against the Kent County Council Regulation Committee Member Panel decision on 02 December 2021 to accept the advice of the Inspector that no trigger event had occurred in respect of the site.

There is no update yet.

160. Use of Section 101 since the last meeting – None.

161. Parish Council banking arrangements:

NOTED Cllrs Harlow, Dekker and Wilson are now successfully set up as signatories.

Cllr P. Glover is still to set himself up.

162. Finance

The payments listed on Appendix 3 were noted.

RECEIVED the bank statements and bank reconciliation for February 2022 and RESOLVED the signature of a councillor other than the Chairman thereon.

NOTED that on 28 February 2022 the National Joint Councils agreed a pay rise of 1.75% with effect from 01 April 2021. The new monthly amount was implemented in the March 2022 pay roll along with 11 months of back pay as a one-off taxable and pensionable payment.

RECEIVED an End of Quarter 3 income and expenditure report, for information, and TO NOTE this has been uploaded to the parish council's website to satisfy the Transparency Regulations.

NOTED a Tree Inspection for T41 A Western red Cedar in the Church yard, opposite the church, has been ordered and is in hand.

Damage to Church wall pillar

NOTED that a pillar of the Church wall suffered vehicle damage on 15 January 2022. Cllrs discussed the two quotes received for the pillar to be repaired/rebuilt. Cllr P Glover proposed and Cllr Dekker

seconded, and all councillors were in agreement to accept the lower quote. The Clerk will appoint the preferred contractor and notify the unsuccessful one also.

CCC Capital grant 2022-2023

The CCC Community Committee has resolved to fund the Westbere Parish Council capital grant of £155.00 to replace the green salt bin. The Clerk returned the signed Funding Agreement, BACS form and an invoice for the amount to commissioning@canterbury.gov.uk on 20 March 2022.

The Clerk will now order the new bin and salt bags to be delivered to Cllr P Glover's address and Cllr P Glover will arrange for its installation.

164. Grant request from Westbere preschool

Cllrs CONSIDER a request from Westbere preschool for a grant from the parish council of £50 for an apple tree for the preschool to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. They were happy to support this in principle but asked the clerk to ask for a photograph to clarify its potential position and location to avoid any problems in the future, eg, with roots. And to also seek confirmation that if the location affects any neighbour that the preschool has got the neighbour's agreement.

Cllr G Glover explained she is to receive some member funding in the new financial year and she would be happy to pay for the tree once the above questions are resolved.

Cllr G Glover left the meeting at this point.

165. Clerk report – nothing this month not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

166. TO CONSIDER any new residents that a Westbere Parish plan may be delivered to. None this month.

167. Change of April parish council meeting date

NOTED that the April 2022 parish council meeting date of 18 April falls on Easter Monday Bank holiday, so it will be changed to 25 April 2022.

168. Annual Electors Meeting 2022

Cllrs CONFIRMED Monday 23 May 2022 at 7pm as the Annual Electors Meeting.

As no members of the public were present there was no requirement to make a resolution to go into confidential session and the meeting continued although by its nature is confidentially minuted here.

169. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: Staffing matters:

The vacancy will continue to be advertised and the current clerk will continue in post for the time being. It was agreed that the Clerk may carry forward a further 5 days annual leave into 2022-2023 in addition to the 5 days agreed in the Clerk's contract.

The Clerk will prepare a new annual leave record for 2022-2023.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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Signed: Cllr Paul Glover, Chairman

Date:

Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until they are approved by the parish council at their next parish council meeting

Next Meeting dates for 2022: Third Monday of each month except no meeting in August and December – 25 April, 16 May, 20 June, 18 July, 19 September, 17 October, 21 November 2022