

WEST HORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: - Kim Harding – 27 Cadogan Avenue, West Horndon, Brentwood CM13 3TU

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEST HORNDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2023, AT 7.30 PM AT ST FRANCIS CHURCH, THORNDON AVENUE, WEST HORNDON, BRENTWOOD.

In the chair: Councillor Foan

Present: Councillors Hannah, Houghton, Lister, Marchant, Moorcroft, and Petty

Also attending: Fourteen members of the public

Clerk: Mr K Harding

PUBLIC FORUM

No items were raised.

23/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATION/NATURE OF INTERESTS

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs McKinlay (ECC), Murphy (BBC) and Pearson (BBC). Cllrs McKinlay (ECC) was unable to attend as she was attending another function. Cllr Murphy was recuperating following hospitalisation and Cllr Pearson was not present due to work commitments.

Cllr Houghton declared a non-pecuniary interest relating to Planning Application No. 23/00094/FUL. The property relating to this application was next to her home address.

23/23 MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26th JANUARY 2023

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th January 2023 were authorised as a true record.

[Proposed Cllr Lister, Seconded Cllr Hannah – Six in favour, 1 abstention]

23/24 CLERK'S REPORT/PROGRESS REPORT – Clerk

The Clerk reported that he was making one final effort to secure a meeting with Thurrock Council about the proposed housing development on the airfield at King's Farm, close to Orsett Village.

It was agreed that the Clerk would undertake an individual assessment of the waste bins in West Horndon Park and Station Road and then liaise with BBC about items that needed to be replaced.

{Action – Clerk}

The Clerk confirmed that he had now heard from the external auditors and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22, along with the Accounts for 2021/22, had received approval on 3rd February 2023. However, it was noted that it had not proved possible for the Notice of Exercise of Public Rights to be published on the Parish Website.

Progress against other actions was shown in the distributed report. Many actions had a bearing on items being dealt with later on the agenda. Where appropriate any information discovered would be disclosed under the relevant agenda headings.

23/25 FINANCE – Responsible Financial Officer

The payments for February 2023 were approved.

[Proposed Cllr Foan, Seconded Cllr Hannah – All in favour]

The budget/spend analysis for 2022/23 to date was noted.

The bank reconciliation as at 27th January 2023 was noted.

23/26 REVIEW OF FINAL REGULATIONS – Responsible Financial Officer

This matter was delayed until the next Parish Council meeting.

23/27 PLANNING UPDATE – Cllr Foan

23/00094/FUL – 76, Station Road, West Horndon – Partial change of use of property to a part time car detailing business. Construction of a single storey outbuilding to comprise a summer house, garden storage facility and a garage. Demolition of existing garage to allow access to proposed outbuilding.

Parish Councillors considered the application inappropriate and totally unacceptable. A considerable increase in vehicular traffic to the property would result (a) through the delivery and collection of vehicles undertaking car detailing treatment; (b) the delivery of supplies; and (c) the collection of waste products from the commercial activity. Considerable noise would occur through the operation of the jet washing facility, machine polishing equipment and the hydraulic platform, which were planned to be installed in the proposed outbuilding. Also the jet washing would create water droplets and particles causing health and safety issues.

A number of the members of the public who were present at the meeting were neighbours to the property in question. They voiced their concerns regarding the noise

that would emanate from the proposed commercial activity and how this would spoil the character of the area and the enjoyment of their gardens and homes.

It was also noted that the manner in which information had been presented in the planning application gave a false impression of the size of the proposed car detailing business e.g. the size of the new building compared with the size of whole plot rather than just the garden where the proposed new outbuilding would be constructed.

The Councillors verified that they believed the application should be rejected. If it was recommended for approval through the delegated decision making process the Parish Council would request that the application be referred for discussion at a future BBC Planning and Licensing Committee meeting.

[Proposed Cllr Foan, Seconded Cllr Hannah – Six in favour, 1 abstention]

{Action – Clerk}

23/28

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN/LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – Cllr Moorcroft

A meeting with CEG, the company leading on the Dunton Hills Garden Village (DHGV) took place on 2nd February 2023. The meeting had revealed that (a) medical services at the present doctors' surgery could be severely impacted once new medical facilities in DHGV were available; (b) it was still proposed that vehicle access to DHGV be limited to the A128; (c) planned access arrangements for residents of DHGV wishing to use West Horndon Railway Station had only been made to the edge of West Horndon Village; and (d) insufficient details of necessary improvements at West Horndon Railway Station were available. The Parish Council would be seeking clarification on these issues, and possible solutions, over coming months.

Following a future meeting with Justin Booij of BBC it was still intended that a public meeting regarding DHGV would be held.

Cllr Moorcroft left the meeting at 8.25 pm.

23/29

HIGHWAYS UPDATE – Cllr Houghton & Clerk

The 'No Entry' sign next to McColl's Store had been removed from the ground. The Clerk confirmed he had again reported this matter to Essex Highways. He had also requested that a temporary sign be made available pending a permanent sign being installed.

Cllr McKinlay assistance in attempting to repair the street lights at the junction of Station Road with the A128 had now been secured.

It was noted that the light emitted by the Belisha beacons at the pedestrian crossing in Station Road was very poor. There was concern that motorists would not be able

to see clearly if someone was attempting to use the crossing at night. It was agreed that enquiries would be made to see if extra lights could be installed.

{Action – Cllr Houghton}

The condition of the grass verges in Cadogan Avenue and Thorndon Avenue had been discussed at the January 2023 Parish Council meeting. Poor weather conditions and vehicles being driven over the verges so residents could gain access to their front gardens meant that a large amount of mud and debris had been taken onto the footpaths. The mud made the footpaths slippery and created a health and safety hazard. The Clerk had undertaken a survey and discovered that there were too many properties involved to merit writing to the residents concerned individually. It was agreed that an article for inclusion within the next Parish Newsletter would be prepared.

{Action – Cllr Houghton and Clerk}

It was noted that it would be beneficial for West Horndon Village if the '20s Plenty For Essex' Campaign could be pursued. However, previous efforts to encourage adoption of a reduced speed limit had failed and it appeared that the local community had mixed views on this subject. It was confirmed that the Parish Council would continue to be kept informed by the campaign whilst monitoring local opinion on the subject.

23/30

PARK UPDATE – Clerk

The three designated Parish Councillors had now completed their review of the quotes received from companies wishing to undertake the repair/replacement of the fencing surrounding the Children's Play Area in West Horndon Park. It was agreed that their views would be passed to the Clerk who would contact the recommended companies to verify that the selected firms were still interested in undertaking the work and their estimates remained valid.

{Action – Clerk}

The report on the recent RoSPA inspection had been received. It was pleasing to note that no high risk problems, or items demanding immediate attention, had been highlighted. It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a spreadsheet summarising the inspector's findings and a plan of action discussed at the next Group meeting to be held on Thursday 16th March 2023.

{Action – Clerk}

23/31

COMMUNITY MATTERS – Cllr Houghton & Clerk

BBC intended to hold a Coronation Celebration Event at King George's Playing Fields on Monday 8th May 2023. Recognising this it was thought prudent not to organise a similar event at the Village Hall but encourage local residents to enjoy the Coronation in their front gardens and celebrate the event with neighbours.

23/32 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE FOR AMERICAN AIRMEN – Cllr Lister

Cllr Lister was continuing with the arrangements for the 80th Anniversary of the air crash close to West Horndon when American airmen had lost their lives. She would be liaising with Cllr Murphy (BBC) regarding her and the Borough Council's involvement in the event.

23/33 WEST HORNDON PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE – Cllrs Foan, Hannah & Petty

Following discussion it was agreed that the present operating system was not user friendly and following updates to software had proved difficult to manage. It was thought prudent for any new system to utilise 'WordPress'. Cllr Hannah and Petty would attempt to get quotes from web designers to prepare a new website. Further discussions would take place at the Group meeting to be held on Thursday 16th March 2023.

23/34 PARISH NEWSLETTER – Cllr Houghton

Cllr Houghton advised that she intended for the next edition of the Parish Newsletter to be made available by the end of March 2023. She gave details of a number of articles which she considered would be suitable for inclusion within the Newsletter. Individuals to write the articles were assigned and it was requested that these be completed and forwarded to Cllr Houghton as soon as possible.

23/35 DELEGATED AUTHORITY – Clerk

No items were carried out under delegated authority since the Parish Council meeting held on 26th January 2023.

23/36 REPORTS

A report summarising planning applications dealt with by the Parish Council during 2022 and 2023 was presented.

23/37 CORRESPONDENCE LIST

The correspondence list for February 2023 was noted.

23/38 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

No items were put forward.

23/39 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of West Horndon Parish Council is planned to take place on Thursday 30th March 2023.