



WEST WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Thursday December 5th, 2024, at 7pm in the Pavilion, Rookwood Road, West Wittering.

WEST WITTERING PARISH COUNCILLORS PRESENT: MRS N PIKE (CHAIR), MR S DEBEGER (VICE-CHAIR), MRS B WRIGHT, MR B BUCKLAND, MR K MARTIN, MRS L HANDFORD, MR I WESTERN AND EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS PRESENT: MRS E HAMILTON.

110/24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Mr H Patel, Mr B Hutton, Mr M Chilton (CDC) and Mr P Montyn (WSCC)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT – None given.

111/24. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING – The minutes of the meeting held on November 7th 2024 were confirmed as a true and fair record by all.

112/24. PRESENTATION FROM GREGORY MERRITT FROM WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL (WSCC) – Gregory Merritt gave a presentation to the Parish Council on the current proposals from Government to improve Broadband provision to the hard to reach areas of the country. He explained that WSCC understands that access to reliable digital infrastructure that is gigabyte capable is key as an enabler for economic growth and quality of life with more aspects of life now requiring an online presence. The private sector are not obliged to deliver gigabyte capable broadband to every household and this is where the County Council will help. WSCC is a key partner in Project Gigabyte which is a government led (BDUK) project across East and West Sussex with £100 million of investment and with a significant amount targeted at rural hard to reach areas. West Wittering does have areas that do not receive good broadband speeds, and these will be included in phase 3 of the project which is planned to commence in 2026. The Parish Council will be kept informed of progress and timeframes.

113/24. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS –

Cllr Hamilton reported on the recent CDC Cabinet meeting where the tax base for 2025/26 was agreed including the extra payment due from second home owners. Bird Aware Solent's revised strategy was also discussed and the Cabinet approved the Bird Aware Partnership's revised Bird Aware Strategy for use in the determination of relevant planning applications. An extension of the Beach Management Plan for Urgent Defence Work was approved and shingle will be placed at Medmerry using a grant from the Environment Agency.

It was agreed to contact CDC to enquire about the number of homes locally that were registered as business for council tax purposes.

Cllr Hamilton was very pleased with the result of the recent Public Inquiry into the proposed development at Stubcroft Farm which supported the CDC decision to refuse the application.

114/24. PLANNING MINUTES – The minutes of the WWPC Planning Committee held on November 27th, 2024 were noted for approval at the next Planning Committee meeting.

115/24 To discuss and approve S 137 grant applications for 2024 – - The Council considered the applications for grant funding which it had received from local organisations and charitable bodies for the 2024/2025 financial year and **RESOLVED** that grants be made to the following organisations using the powers granted to the Parish Council under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972. It was agreed to accept further applications in January.

Organisation	Purpose	Amount requested	Amount agreed for 2024
Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul	Contribution to the maintenance of the burial ground in 2021	£1,600 Total cost- £7350.00	£1600.00
Home-Start	Contribution towards the cost of supporting families in West Wittering.	Support for one family costs £1,500.00 per year. Donation requested.	£600.00
Youth Dream	Provision of a learn to swim course for children in the village from low income households following the success of previous programmes.	£500.00 (total cost of project - 3,800.00).	£530.00
Manhood Mobility Voluntary Service.	Contribution towards the running costs of the service.	Contribution to fund the continued underlying gap in funding from running costs and charges to users of the service (currently £10k).	£650.00
Witterings Twinning Association	Contribution to the costs of Town Twinning activities in 2025.	£100.00	£150.00
Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex.	Contribution to costs of the provision of the	Grant of £500 is requested (to be spent during	£500.00

	Helicopter Emergency medical Service, see subsequent email for more information on this service.	2024-2025 financial year) as a contribution to the operating costs of HEMS – helicopters, rapid-response vehicles, medical equipment, fuel, highly-trained crews. Total cost of project £51,000 daily.	
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116/24. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM WORKING PARTIES

(1) Environment and Green Spaces – The maintenance programme for Snow Hill will be agreed with West Wittering Estate Ltd at a meeting in January 2025.

(2) Community Liaison –The Community Speedwatch group is due to be trained by Sussex Police. All training takes place online initially.

Carols on the Green will take place on December 20th starting at 6pm. A saxophonist will be playing, and mince pies and mulled wine will be served.

(3) Parish Projects – It was **AGREED** that an Emergency Planning package to aid the development of an updated Emergency Plan would be purchased from an organisation recommended by the West Sussex Association of Local Councils.

(4) Parish Administration

- (i) Payments for approval to the sum of £4135.56 for December were **APPROVED** and are listed below.
- (ii) The Budget Monitor for November 2024 was received.
- (iii) Financial support for the Manhood Peninsula Partnership for 2025/26 was **AGREED**.

117/24. Representation on other bodies – A meeting was held between WWPC Councillors and David Hyland from CDC to discuss the current position regarding the S106 funds available from the Sandpiper Walk development. A number of options for using these funds were discussed and this will be re-visited in January 2025. The original project agreed between St Peter's Catholic Church and CDC for an improved community hall may still be possible but an alternative is required as a contingency plan otherwise funds will need to be returned to the developer..

CLlr Debeger reported back on the recent MPP SWiSH meeting the minutes of which have been circulated. The Clerk and CLlr Wright reported back on the GLaM meeting and minutes. It was positive to note that the cycle path improvements from Selsey to Wittering are included in the CDC Infrastructure Business Plan and a meeting will be organised between CDC and some GLaM members to progress matters.

Cllr Handford reported on the recent meeting of the Witterings Health Centre Patient Participation group (PPG). Data from last year showed the Witterings Health Centre performance against other Chichester practices. Care given by the health centre was rated high at 90% satisfaction but some people also felt that it was difficult to get an appointment. It was felt that improvements had already been made to this aspect of the service and it will be monitored closely. The largest cohort of patients are aged between 15 and 44 years which was a surprise. There are plans to use the Pharmacy more for regular medications.

The Clerk reported back on the regular meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner's public engagement officer. Sussex Police will be recruiting new Police Officers in the coming year but also have to balance this with efficiency savings which will be delivered through transformational change.

118/24. CORRESPONDENCE – The King Charles III England Coast Path between Snow Hill and the beach is due to be improved with national funding. The footpath officer from WSCC responsible for the England Coast Path in West Sussex is due to visit the Parish Council office to discuss the work further and the implications for other footpaths on the Coast Path within the Parish Council boundary.

119/24. OPEN FORUM – Cllr Handford reported that the Headmaster of the West Wittering Parochial Church of England Primary School, Mr Nick Matthews, will be leaving at the end of term to take up a Headmasters role in Brighton. The Parish Council wished Mr Matthews well in his future career and thanked him for all he had done for the village school.

A resident requested that the slow sign that has faded on Cakeham Road near the entrance to The Wad be re-instated. This will be considered along with the safety work being progressed by the Parish Council and WSCC Highways shortly.

Mr Barrett expressed concern about the Willow Tree on the Village green as it seemed to be losing a lot of branches. The Clerk will arrange for an arboriculturist to examine the tree.

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There being no further business for discussion the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed:
Chairman

Date:

The next meeting of the Parish Council, which will be held on Thursday January 9th, 2025, at 7pm in The Pavilion, Rookwood Road, West Wittering, PO20 8LT.

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM UNTIL APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL AT THE NEXT MEETING, AND MAY BE AMENDED BY RESOLUTION. COPIES OF ALL UNAPPROVED MINUTES, AND AGENDA AND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WEST WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL CAN BE FOUND ON THE PARISH COUNCIL'S WEBSITE: www.westwitteringparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Appendix 1 - Payments for approval December 2024.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTON	AMOUNT £
A T Hickman	Health & Safety & maintenance.	100.00
	Meter readings, liaison with the football club over weekend activities, fix lock on the football store door.	30.00
	Litter picking.	75.00
CDC	Emptying of waste bin.	80.00
Castle Water	Water supply to the Allotments	7.40
Elektromos	Repairs to the light and cisterniser at the public conveniences.	218.77
English Gardens	Pavilion Garden	50.00
JNR Computer services	IT Support	217.20
NBB Recycled Furniture	Memorial Plaque	75.00
Barry Napper	Trim Trail tidy up and move fence post on the allotments.	110.00
Parish Council administration	Expenses	62.10
SSE	Electricity Supply to The Pavilion	781.47
Sussex Estate Care	Cycle path contracted grounds maintenance	315.00
	Marine Drive Triangle contracted maintenance	113.40
	Tidy wild flower meadow and plant 2x Weeping willow.	552.00
Viking	Printer ink, box files, wall chart and paper.	402.32
West Sussex Drains	Public conveniences – descale the 6" run to main and clear urinal traps.	144.00
Bank payments		
Century 21	CCTV service plan	12.00
Mailchimp	Parish mailing list communications	12.11
Nest	Parish administration.	552.91

PAYEE	DESCRIPTON	AMOUNT £
RAMAR	HR Services	11.29
Website Success	Website support	186.30
Vodafone Ltd	Parish Council mobile	11.70
Zoom	Clerk's license	15.59
Total payments		4135.56