

**WEST HILL PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> JULY 2018 AT 7.30 P.M.  
AT WEST HILL VILLAGE HALL**

Present:	Chairman Margaret Hall (MH) Cllr Jo Talbot (JT) Cllr Jill Ingle (JI) Cllr Alan Cook (AC)
In attendance:	Alison Carr, Parish Clerk; 1 member of the public
Absent:	Cllr Christopher Hall (CH); Cllr Jessica Bailey (JB)

Item (a)	Discussion and decisions (b)	Action (c)
18/242	<b>Welcome and Chairman's announcements</b> MH welcomed everyone, reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded and started the meeting at 7.30pm	
18/243	<b>Public question time (3 minutes)</b> There were no questions or comments from the public.	
18/244	<b>Apologies.</b> To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence. Cllr Christopher Hall – on holiday – approved Cllr Jessica Bailey	
18/245	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> There were no declarations of interest.	
18/246	<p><b>Planning applications received</b></p> <p><b>18/1397/TRE</b> Babbling Brook, Lower Broad Oak Road Proposal: OAK tree (numbered as NO-4 on the attached drawing and provided documents) to be felled to allow the mains services connections to be constructed to the new dwelling. The change of use from the former cow shed to dwelling was granted on 12-June-2018 by EDDC as permitted development Class Q. The previously issued EDDC Decision Notice 17-2952-TRE 08-03-2018 stated : "A prior approval application (18/0015/PDQ) for change of use and construction of a dwelling has recently been refused on this site. The works to T4 (Oak) to facilitate this development are therefore not considered necessary." Now the re-submitted application was granted and we apply for tree No-4 to be removed/felled. No need for re-planting as trees T3 and T5 are in place.</p> <p>Councillors noted that the plans indicate that the reason for removing the tree is to enable the laying of a BT cable, which they felt was not a good enough reason to remove a mature oak tree. They also noted that the applicant has already removed a large number of trees. The approval granted under Class Q permitted development does not bestow automatic grounds for the removal of trees. For these reasons, Councillors voted unanimously to not support the application.</p> <p><b>18/0753/TRE</b> 3 Warren Close Proposal: 2 conifers on drive - reduced by half; Cedar tree - 4 foot off lateral branches and 10 foot reduced in height; 2 conifers to be removed</p>	

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	<p>Councillors agreed that the 2 conifers at the rear could be removed. However, they disagreed that the 2 conifers on the drive should be reduced as they will not regrow properly and will look unsightly. Likewise they thought that the Cedar would be adversely affected by pruning and look unsightly. Councillors were of the opinion that no pruning should be done on the Cedar. For these reasons, Councillors voted unanimously to not support the application.</p>	
<b>18/247</b>	<p><b>Planning decisions received</b> for information (*denotes WHPC differed)</p> <p>Councillors noted the following planning decision:  <b>18/1149/FUL</b> Pinegrove, Lower Broad Oak Road – approved with conditions</p> <p>Councillors noted the following planning appeal decision:  <b>APP/TPO/U1105/6479</b> 14 Warren Park – appeal decision: no further action (original application 17/1912/TRE, dated 27 July 2017, was refused by notice dated 19 September 2017)</p>	
<b>18/248</b>	<p><b>Play park press release photo – to agree arrangements for the photograph</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported that following advice from Jamie Buckley at EDDC, Cllr Andrew Moulding (Chairman) and Cllr Tom Wright (Portfolio holder for Environment) should be invited to participate in the photo opportunity.</p> <p>As various parish councillors will be available at different times, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Clarissa Place at Archant South West newspapers to find out if she would be interested in covering the story with a photographer. Once that date is confirmed, invitations can be sent out to everyone.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>18/249</b>	<p><b>Correspondence received</b> for information</p> <p>Email from resident regarding the Woodland Trust Land (previously circulated)</p> <p>Councillors discussed the fact that the woodland is the village's only outside space and it is there for all residents to enjoy. The Woodland Trust has been encouraging the local community to become more active in looking after this site and the parish council is keen to do so. The idea is to make the woodland more inviting for people other than just dog walkers. Councillors stressed that they were not wishing to harm wildlife or make drastic changes, simply improve what has been rather neglected.</p> <p>It was agreed that MH would draft a letter to the resident, circulate for comment, and ask the Clerk to send.</p>	<b>MH/Clerk</b>
<b>18/250</b>	<p><b>Councillors questions, reports and items for future agenda</b></p> <p><b>Play park</b> – Clerk to add this to the agenda for the next meeting.        MH reported that following a complaint from a resident regarding a safety issue, she and the Clerk inspected the wooden ramp at the tree house and authorised its removal by Steve Radcliffe. Steve has removed it and made it safe. Councillors will need to think about what to replace it with.</p> <p>MH said that Steve had quoted to do extensive work to improve the grounds – replacing the wooden edging, weed the paths and cover with bark.        The Clerk will circulate it and put it on the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>He also said he could do the painting and it would be 2-3 days' work. This will also be on the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p><b>School field</b>        MH mentioned that there would be a meeting with the school Governors about the school field and getting it open to the public during the holidays. Councillors will receive an update at the next meeting.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>  <b>Clerk</b>

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	<p><b>Village Hall Committee AGM</b>          MH went to the AGM and presented a short report on behalf of the parish council. The committee was concerned about McColls and agreed to forward their views to District Cllr Paul Carter and copy to the parish council.          MH said it was hoped that the planning application would be submitted to DMC and if so, that the parish council will have the right to speak (3 minute limit) and Cllr Carter could also speak. There is no indication as to the date for this yet.</p> <p><b>Handyman</b>          MH asked Councillors to think about the requirement for a handyman as there are many tasks that need doing and volunteers are difficult to find. Clerk to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Verges</b>          MH reported that Highways had appointed Simon Hart to do verge cutting for DCC. Clerk to put on the agenda for the next meeting to talk about verges and the survey done by JI and JT.</p> <p><b>Air ambulance landing site</b>          MH reported a letter received about the village having a community landing site for the air ambulance. Clerk to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.          The site should be a minimum of 50m x 50m and be clear of trees and overhead cables. The School field might fit the bill as it is flat and in a central location.</p> <p><b>Parish Paths Partnership (P3)</b>          The Clerk reported that a £350 grant has been received for P3. This will go on the agenda for the next meeting.          Clerk to inform Eileen Perkins and ask her to come to the meeting with ideas or pass them on to AC for discussion at the meeting.</p> <p><b>Parish Council Newsletter</b>          The newsletter was distributed but not all councillors received it.          Clerk to check with Alan Marriott about the reliability of the service.</p> <p><b>Resurfacing at Beech Park/West Hill Rd roundabout</b>          AC queried whether the parish council had been consulted about the recent resurfacing work at the Beech Park roundabout. Councillors thought the double roundabout at Eastfield was a higher priority as it was in a worse state.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>
18/251	<p><b>To approve excluding the general public for discussion of confidential and commercially sensitive items</b>  <b>It was resolved</b> that none of the items 18/252, 253, 254 or 255 contained any confidential or commercially sensitive information, so it was not necessary to exclude the general public from these discussions.</p>	
18/252	<p><b>To receive an update on Councillors' meeting with traffic consultant</b>          Some councillors met the traffic consultant on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July and showed him the key areas of concern regarding road safety and walking routes to the school. He has agreed to provide a quotation for his services (Clerk to put this on the agenda for the next meeting). It is necessary for the parish council to construct a strong case for any proposed work to convince DCC Highways to support them. Other key allies will be County Cllr Claire Wright, the school governors and village hall committee.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
18/253	<p><b>To receive an update on Councillors' meeting with Blue Cedar re footpath</b>          Some of the councillors plus Ian Heard met with Nick Yeo, Area Director of Blue Cedar Homes to discuss a possible footpath route through from Eastfield to the village hall and school. The idea was one of the recommendations in the Public Realm study to improve connectivity through the village and encourage walking. Nick Yeo was encouraging and offered to let the parish council have some topographical survey and tree survey information that Blue Cedar had gathered previously. There was some discussion</p>	

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	amongst Councillors about the route that the footpath could take, particularly the end nearest the school and village hall, and there are some considerable difficulties with each option. ACTION: MH to raise the idea at the meeting with school governors.	<b>MH</b>
<b>18/254</b>	<b>To receive an update on the playing field land</b> There was no update to report on this item.	
<b>18/255</b>	<b>To approve the registration of an Asset of Community Value</b> <b>It was resolved</b> to proceed to register the school field as an Asset of Community Value. ACTION: JB to fill in the form	<b>JB</b>
<b>18/256</b>	<b>Next meeting</b> The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> August 2018. There being no further business, MH thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 8.18pm	

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