



WEST HOATHLY PARISH COUNCIL

representing Highbrook, Selsfield, Sharpthorne, Tyes Cross and West Hoathly

West Hoathly Parish Council Clerks Report July 2023

Actions Taken and points of information not on the agenda

- The portable SID (speed indicator device) has been added to the insurance schedule and asset register. Arrangements have been made to install the device at three agreed locations.
- As in previous years, the Parish Office will be closed in August. The Clerk will be on leave w/c 7th August and w/c 21st August.
- The RFO will be on leave for the month of August.

Information for items on the agenda-

Item 9- Grant request from Highbrook Village Hall Committee

Highbrook Village Hall committee have agreed on a way forward which includes building a new buttress to match the one already in place and to make repairs to the crack in the wall itself. The requested amount is £2,800.

Item 10- 1 year bond

As agreed previously, £20,000 will be invested in a bond. The Clerk & RFO have found a 1-year bond that has now become available with Cambridge & Counties bank. The forms are in the process of being completed, details are required from each councillor before it can be submitted.

Item 11- Local History Archive - report by Cllr Martin Robinson has been circulated via email

Item 13- Mulberry & Co - details have been circulated to councillors via email.

Item 14- Bluebell Woods – meeting notes circulated via email

Item 16- Correspondence

Email from LGW Airport

Good Afternoon

I am pleased to confirm that we have submitted our Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Northern Runway Project to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) today. This is a significant milestone in our journey towards achieving long

term, sustainable growth at London Gatwick, a journey which started with the publication of our draft Airport Masterplan in 2018, which included our proposal to bring our existing standby runway into regular use for departures – the Northern Runway Project. Here is a link to our press release concerning the DCO submission issued this afternoon [London Gatwick's growth plans expected to boost region's economy by £1 billion every year and generate 14,000 new jobs \(gatwickairport.com\)](https://www.gatwickairport.com/press-releases/london-gatwicks-growth-plans-expected-to-boost-region-s-economy-by-1-billion-every-year-and-generate-14000-new-jobs)

The Planning Inspectorate now have 28 days to review our application and confirm formal "acceptance". If this is confirmed, the DCO documents will be published by PINS on their website and will then be accessible for review by everyone.

Following any acceptance, there will be an opportunity to register with PINS to become an interested party and participate in the examination process. Being registered as an interested party gives you the right to make representations about the application to share your views on our proposals. Registered interested parties can also attend and speak at the preliminary meeting or hearings that take place during the examination. Further information can be found on the [PINS website](#).

We will publish further information throughout the process to ensure that you have the information you need should you wish to register with PINS within the prescribed timeline.

Email regarding Blackland Farm- In response to my email notifying that WHPC did not agree to register the site as an Asset of Community Value

Hi Leanne,

I understand that the council's opinion may have been impacted by news that a local investor may have been looking to purchase the site for use as an activity centre.

I just wanted to let you know that we now aware of at least one approach by a housing developer who are targeting former Girlguiding sites as potential "brownfield sites" for development. I'm not sure how this would be permissible in terms of the planning regime, but I am aware that "brownfield" can be interpreted very broadly, and far more so than I had previously anticipated.

We attended a meeting with Richard Antcliffe, the finance director at Girlguiding, on 1st July. He was very clear during the meeting that Girlguiding would sell the land as property rather than as going concerns, and that as a charity Girlguiding has a duty to obtain the best return for the assets disposed of.

Given this, we are thinking of re-exploring options for ACV that would prevent the site from being used for housing but should not prevent its use as an activity centre. It may be too late now, but we'll keep you updated.

Item 3- request to investigate the status of the ROC post at Finche Field

Could I get permission to investigate the status of the ROC post at WH.

Initially survey the site and ascertain the true location of all existing features.

Then at one location do a 600mm x 600 max exploratory dig to a depth of 500mm max to confirm structure. All material will be kept off grass and site returned back to normal on the same day of investigation.

At no time will any other person be able to access area as a 3m x 3m safe zone.

Other members of parish Council could join in the exercise.

The old record said the site was demolished, I have good reason to believe it's still there just capped off at one location.



Email from Best Host regarding Village Hall website

Dear Leanne Andrews,

We will no longer be offering the Site Builder system after the end of November 2023. Unfortunately, the people providing us with the Site Builder application have set their prices at a level where it is no longer possible for us to make it competitive.

This means that you will have until the end of November to find an alternative to build and manage your website. I am very sorry for the inconvenience this may cause you and hope that we can help you find an alternative.

The way forward... There are several options that could be used so that you can continue to manage your website, some of which may end-up costing you less. But they all require that your website is re-built by transferring its content (copy/paste) onto a new system.

1. Using a ready-made WordPress theme (design template). WordPress is a free application that includes hundreds of themes, many of which are completely free. It works in similar ways to the Site Builder in that, once it is set-up, you drag blocks (called widgets in the Site Builder) onto the page (image blocks,

text blocks, etc...) and add your content into these blocks. WordPress is used by millions of sites and is a very reliable system.

To find out more about WordPress, please go to <https://www.wpbeginner.com/beginners-guide/what-is-wordpress/>

To view a list of ready-made themes, please have a look at <https://en-gb.wordpress.org/themes/>

As you have a hosting package with us, we can install WordPress for you free of charge, set-up the theme of your choice (either a free theme or one you have purchased), make it secure and give you a one-to-one online tutorial on how to use it. There are also a huge amount of resources online for learning how to use WordPress.

2. Using a custom-made WordPress theme. Again using WordPress, we can create a website design for you. Once done, we will set-up WordPress for you and provide you with one-to-one online guidance on how to work with it. The cost of creating a new design for a site not requiring a shop would be in the region of £300 to £400. A design for a shop would cost from £800.00. This doesn't include transferring the content from your existing site to WordPress.

Of course, you may want to continue with using a Site Builder system. In that case, there are many options out there, such as Wix or Squarespace.

We need to make sure that you have received this message and know about the Site Builder termination. Please either reply to this message to acknowledge receipt or open a support ticket via the client area if you have any questions and would like to discuss options.

We will do our very best to facilitate a transfer to a new system.

Kind regards.

Pascal Bourguignon
Besthost - www.besthost.uk

Email from Utility Aid – circulated via email.