

Minutes of Westerham Town Partnership Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

22nd November 2021 at 1 Squerries Park Cottages at 10am

Attendance: Bill Curtis, Christina Cusick, Melvin de Bono, Stuart Merrylees, Nick Tonge

Apologies : Shelia Preston

The Directors had felt unable to call a public AGM during the last 18 months because of Covid-19 restrictions, but are optimistic that one could be arranged for early 2022. In the interim, we called this Extraordinary General Meeting with four current Directors and invited a further prospective Director to join the CIC Board.

Following a telephone meeting on 26th October 2022, we had appointed Christina Cusick as a new Director on 29th October. Christina has been part of the WTP Steering Group for the last two years and is a Churchwarden of St Mary's Westerham.

A warm welcome was given to Sundridge resident Melvin De Bono who has helped at recent WTP events. MDB is a Sundridge and Ide Hill Parish Councillor and a leading figure in the Sundridge & Ide Hill Community Support Group. He was invited to attend the EGM as a prospective new Director of the Westerham Town Partnership.

1) Minutes of last meeting 12 December 2019 at Grasshopper-on-Green

Agreed.

Matters arising:

BC Remembrance poppies: We would like the 50 ceramic poppies, created for the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, to find new homes in the houses where the fallen servicemen from WWI and WWII once lived. BC has made a list of addresses and written an invitation letter which he and CC will deliver to the relevant addresses over the coming weeks

MDB commented that the Sundridge Community Support Group has created a network of Road Reps – an idea we would like to get running in Westerham. They have a network of volunteers who do shopping, provide transport for surgery visits and help with minor household repairs. The group produce a newsletter, printed by a local ex-councillor, which is delivered to all houses by the road reps.

CC reported that the Royal British Legion Role of Remembrance display cabinet, which used to be kept in the RBL clubhouse in Mill Lane, has been rebuilt by Tony York to a design conceived by the late David Boston, and is now in the Church.

2) November newsletter and Contact List

Content and layout agreed. SM has created a mailing list of VisitWesterham Gmail account Contacts. Currently 170 members. Will circulate today and try to put some printed copies in suitable places around town

3) Other recent events

- a) A new secure shed funded by WTP has been sited in the churchyard for storage of jointly owned community gardening and power tools.
- b) WTP and Westerham Society are finalising agreement with WTC for storage of Westerham Heritage Collection in a secure cupboard on Fullers Hill.. We hope to find storage for chairs, notice boards, etc still to be cleared from the cellar at Churchgate.
- c) WTP applied for SDC Community Grant of £3500 for coppicing trees alongside the Darent adjacent to King George's Field. Work would be carried out by North West Kent Countryside Partnership (NKCWP) and if successful (March 2022-June 2023) could allow coppicing on other stretches of the Darent further downstream.

4) Finance Summary

NT reported a bank balance of £5000. He presented a list of current supporters, and thanked the PDB subscribers who contribute £10/month to support WTP activities. Our annual accounts have been prepared by NT and audited by Smart Accounting of Oxted for the year ending March 2020.

It was noted that Westerham Town Council (WTP) still held £3000 of WTP monies given as a donation towards new town signage in 2017.

5) Appointment of new Directors

The appointment of CC was registered at Companies House on 29 October 2021. It was unanimously voted to invite MDB as a WTP Director, which he enthusiastically accepted. Companies House registration to follow - **action SM**

- 6) **Revisiting the CIC Constitution** - Members: All our PDB subscribers, Steering Committee members position to be redefined - held over, Newsletter: All Members to be asked 'do you wish to continue to receive our newsletter by emails..'? We propose producing a newsletter every three months from now on.

7) St Mary's Festival of Trees, Christmas lights switch-on and Father Christmas

Our WTP tree will be decorated with pieces of a jigsaw with pictures of events in town and faces of our five directors - **action BC**.

MDB will be appearing in town on Thursday 25th as Father Christmas, riding in a vintage Oldsmobile driven by Linda Johnson of Wolfe Garage

8) Future events in 2022

BTB May 2nd: Westerham Society organise and signpost the walking route. WTP and Edenbridge & Westerham Rotary jointly organise the Fair on the Green, marquees, musicians, maypole, posters, banners, permits and insurance. Stalls will be organised through Zena Belton via Rotary

We agreed that special attractions like our woodturning bodger should be saved for the Country Fayre on September 3rd.

Maypole – meet with Kathy Jax in January to help school set dates for rehearsals with John and Liz Scholey. As previously, WTP will cover rehearsal fees ~ £100

9) Communication

- 1) SM to set up Whatsapp group for communication between directors.
- 2) Maintenance of visitwesterham is done by SM. Kate Streets is working on getting Facebook, Instagram and twitter operational again, possibly with help from MDB. SM says we all have ability to post on Flickr and YouTube
- 3) With retailers and PDB subscribers Business Forum...- not discussed, held over
- 4) Noticeboard on the Green needs revision for new shops. (SM has the keys)
- 5) WTC - BC and SM have been having monthly breakfast meetings with Angela Howells, which has proved very useful in keeping a dialogue going between WTP & WTC
- 6) SDC - BS,CC and SM met with Diana Pearsall (SDC chair) Oct 2021 to update her on current WTP activity and ask for clarification of Sevenoaks and District Stakeholder Zoom meetings and the brief given to consultants Allies and Morrison.
- 7) Community support groups - held over
- 8) New DUDA website pilot - held over, BC and SM to contact Nod Stephens

9) Date and venue for full AGM

No date has been fixed but we agreed to try to find a Thursday in February 2022 where we could book the upstairs at GHOG for a meeting at 6pm. It was felt that a guest speaker or two could help to draw a larger audience.