

Weston Under Wetherley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:00pm,
8th September 2020 via Zoom

Present:

Councillor Carolyn Bloom (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Mandie Bradshaw
Councillor Nick Harrington (Chairman)

Councillor Rachel Tighe
Councillor Danielle Williams

In Attendance:

Clerk & RFO: Jane Chatterton
Warwickshire County Council: 0
Warwick District Council: Councillor Valarie Leigh-Hunt

Public: 0

25. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wallace Redford (WCC).

26. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

27. Public participation

There were no members of the public present.

28. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 2nd and 17th June 2020 were received and discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 2nd and 17th June were approved.

29. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

30. Councillor's reports and items for future Agenda

Councillor Valarie Leigh-Hunt (WDC) reported:

- WDC were hoping to have staff return to working in the offices in September. Working from home had been difficult.
- WDC Shielding report had been published and was available on the WDC website.
- Climate Emergency – work was progressing.
- 48 charging points were being installed in WDC car parks in the District. Electric vehicle owners could park for free in WDC car parks (permit required).
- WDC were trying to go plastic free.
- Free tree scheme – coming into effect during the Winter.
- Acquired 2 electric pool cars.
- WDC had purchased the land at Waverley Riding School (Cubbington), planning permission to build low carbon homes and 17 affordable homes.

- Heritage open days were starting again from 11th to 25th September, details available on the WDC website.

31. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

32. Finance

32.1 to approve payments: -

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAILS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
12.06.20	E13	Louise Best	Internal Audit		£105.00
12.06.20	E14	J Chatterton	Salary June		DPA
12.06.20	E15	HMRC	Tax June		£92.00
12.06.20	E16	J Chatterton	Expenses		£28.00
30.06.20	R2	Interest	April May June interest	£3.07	
13.07.20	E17	Village Hall	Defibrillator partial payment		£85.19
13.07.20	E18	J Chatterton	SLCC partial payment		£75.00
13.07.20	E19	J Chatterton	Zoom partial payment		£40.00
29.07.20	E20	J Chatterton	J Chatterton July salary		DPA
29.07.20	E21	HMRC	Tax July		£92.00
29.07.20	E22	J Chatterton	Expenses July		£19.12
29.07.20	E23	J Chatterton	Reimbursement Clerk		£36.25
19.08.20	E24	WALC	Training Chairmanship		£30.00
19.08.20	E25	J Chatterton	Salary August		DPA
19.08.20	E26	HMRC	Tax for Clerk		£92.00
19.08.20	E27	J Chatterton	Expenses August		£19.12

RESOLVED THAT the payments be approved.

32.2 Bank Reconciliation up to 30th June 2020

The Bank Reconciliation up to the 30th June 2020 was received and discussed.

Balance per bank statement as at **30th June 2020**

Account 1	£14,981.84	
Account 2	£8,959.37	
		£23,941.21
Petty cash float (if applicable)	£0.00	£0.00
Less: late payments 30th June 2020	£0.00	
Add: any un-banked as at 30th June 2020	£0.00	
Net balances as at 30th June 2020		£23,941.21

The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book as follows:

CASH BOOK

Opening Balance 1st April 2020

Account 1	£14,599.37
Account 2	£8,956.30

		£23,555.67
Add Receipts up to 30th June 2020	£5,478.07	
Less: Payments up to 30th June 2020		£5,092.53
Closing balance per cash book as at 30th June 2020		£23,941.21

RESOLVED THAT the Bank Reconciliation up to the 30th June 2020 be approved.

32.3 Quarterly Report up to 30th June 2020

The Quarterly Report up to the 30th June 2020 was received and discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the Quarterly Report up to the 30th June 2020 be approved.

33. Planning

Nothing to discuss.

34. Progress with Playing Area refresh

The Chairman reported that no further progress had been made. It was noted that WDC first raised a play area refresh along with other works in October 2018 with the Parish Council organising a Village Survey in February 2019. We had seen a succession of Council officers appointed but moved onto other projects or leave WDC. It was noted that Helen Hancox was the new Green Space Officer and looked forward to working with her. The Parish Council had a 2nd October meeting scheduled with Helen, but we understood that the play area equipment and installation tender process had still not started. We were very unlikely to see any progress until Spring 2021 unless a tender process can start immediately with a short response timescale.

RESOLVED THAT the update be noted.

35. Removal of remaining Epicormic Growth from Lime Trees over to Alderman Way / rear of The Old Courtyard

The lack of progress with the removal of the remaining epicormic growth was discussed.

It was noted that around the 16th September 2019, following more fallen branches Contract Services organised for the Forestry Team to remove epicormic growth from the colonnade of Lime Trees along Sabin Drive. These specimen trees run from Sabin Drive opposite the Village Hall across Alderman Way to the rear of The Old Courtyard. The five Lime Trees to the rear of The Old Courtyard were missed by the Forestry Team. This was passed onto Dave Anderson on the 4th October 2019 who stated he would forward to Contract Services.

Ward Councillor Valerie Leigh-Hunt then reported in March 2020 that Simon Richardson would organise for the work to be completed once storm damage works had been completed.

Contract Services had failed to carry out the work.

RESOLVED THAT the matter be escalated.

36. Waste Bins

It was noted that the Parish Council had been battling for over 12 months to have a bin (of unknown origin) at the Bus Stop emptied, removed and then subsequently replaced.

Councillor Valarie Leigh-Hunt had been assisting with the issue and reported that this had finally been acknowledged and should be progressed within the next 5 weeks.

RESOLVED THAT the situation to be monitored.

37. Anti-Social Behaviour

It was reported that an incident had taken place where a member of the Parish Council had been "door stepped" by a Parishioner. Their behaviour was questionable. This had resulted in the matter being reported to the police who had visited them and explained this behaviour would not be tolerated.

Members of the Parish Council were told that this type of behaviour was totally unacceptable (and fortunately rare). Should this occur they were advised to call the Police and report the incident.

RESOLVED THAT the situation to be monitored.

38. Governance

It was noted that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were normally discussed and approved at the Annual Parish Council Meeting held each year in May. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the meeting had not taken place.

The Clerk updated that she had reviewed the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, no updates were required and requested they be approved.

RESOLVED THAT the Standing Orders September 2020 and Financial Regulations September 2020 be approved.

39. Delegated Authority to the Clerk

The restrictions due to Covid-19 had meant the Clerk had dealt with items under Delegated Authority.

The formal document (based on a WALC model) was discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the Delegation Authority to the Clerk document be approved.

40. General Power of Competence

The Parish Council adopted the General Power of Competence (GPC) in September 2018. The Parish Council discussed whether to re-adopt GPC.

RESOLVED THAT the Parish Council re-adopted the General Power of Competence.

41. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda

41.1 The followings issues were raised.

Resurfacing of the footpaths.

- The tarmac is soft, breaking up, the edges are patchy and overlapping the grass verge.
- They already have weeds growing out of them.
- Generally, they were poorly laid. These works were undertaken by WCC, WDC Contract Services are not weeding the paths to a good standard.

Grass cutting

- The cutting of the grass is spasmodic.
- Some areas are often missed completely. The main areas are mowed but no strimming takes place around road signs etc, resulting in a shabby finish.
- Cut grass is left scattered on roads and footpaths and the Parish Council receives complaints from Parishioners.

Viola officers

- The workers drive to Sabin Drive to empty a single dog bin and then park on the Village Hall car park. They are regularly seen sat in their vans for anything up to 2 hours instead of carrying out their duties within the District. Our Ward Councillor Valerie Leigh-Hunt had witnessed this and reported it to Contract Services.

Tree & hedge trimming

- Contract Services are refusing to complete hedge trimming upon the shared driveway from No. 10, 11, 14, 15 and The Paddocks, Hancox Close. We are being told that the adjacent trees and hedge are now too high to be dealt with by Contract Services and would require input from the Forestry Team.
- Repeated requests have been ignored. This is now encroaching on the shared driveway.

RESOLVED THAT a Formal Complaint be sent to Chris Elliott, Chief Executive WDC detailing the issues that the Parish Council are encountering. The Parish Council are working hard to enhance the lives of their electorate and promote a sense of pride and wellbeing amongst our villagers; this is hampered greatly with inadequate delivery from the Contract Services, Green Spaces Team and Warwick District Council generally.

Inconsiderate parking, St Michael's Close

Complaints had been received by residents of St Michael's Close that due to inconsiderate parking from 3 residents this resulted in the waste disposal lorry not being able to drive down the close to empty residents' bins. Delivery drivers couldn't get through and this raised concern that emergency services would not be able to attend houses at the bottom of the Close.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The Parish Council to write to the residents.
- (ii) Raise the matter again with the PCSO Safer Neighbourhood Team.
- (iii) Write to the landlord of the property.

41.2 Agenda Items, October's meeting

1. Advent windows
2. Installation of lights on Sabin Drive
3. Christmas activities (observing social distancing)

42. Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 20th October 2020. The meeting would take place via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 8:52pm

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