

Weston Under Wetherley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:00pm,
25th February 2020, Village Hall, Weston Under Wetherley

Present:

Councillor Nick Harrington (Chairman)	Councillor Carolyn Bloom (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Rachel Tighe	Councillor Danielle Williams
Councillor Mandy Bradshaw	

In Attendance:

Clerk & RFO	Jane Chatterton
WDC	Councillor Valerie Leigh-Hunt
WCC	Councillor Wallace Redford
Public:	0

246. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

247. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

248. Public participation

There were no members of public present.

249. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 28th January 2020 were discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2020 were approved.

250. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not listed as agenda items

251. Councillor's reports and items for future Agenda

Councillor Wallace Redford

WCC Finances 2020-21

Councillor Redford reported that WCC had settled their budget for the next financial year and this would mean an increase. The figure for a Band D property would be £57.00 per year. The increase was 3.99%. 2% was ringfenced for Adult Social Care specifically.

Impact of the Bad Weather

The bad weather continued to hold up highways repairs. Due to the storms and rain the potholes were full of water, repairs could not be undertaken if the potholes were wet because the tarmac comes straight out again and breaks up.

Gripping

Gripping work had been begun. This involved work to dig out a channel from the side of the road to allow water to drain into the ditch. The work had been completed on the road from Weston to Cubbington where there were no drains. It was noted that around the HS2 compound it was down to HS2 to carry out work to help direct the water.

Councillor Valarie Leigh-Hunt

WDC Budget for 2020-21

It was reported that WDC would be setting their budget on the 26th February. It was proposed that there would be an increase. If approved the increased worked out at £52.00 per year for a Band D property. The Council tax demands would go out after the meeting. It was noted that a referendum would be required. Elections would take place on 7th May.

A referendum was required because the increase would be over the amount that the Government allowed as an increase. However, it should be noted that the referendum incurred a large cost. The increases if voted through would be used to pay towards the combat against climate change eg electric vehicles.

160,000 new trees are to be planted throughout the District. These trees are free from the WDC in conjunction with the Woodland Trust. Available for planting on green sites.

HS2

It was noted that HS2 had been granted Notice to Proceed. Further updates next month.

Roadside bins

After consultation WDC had said that they were not responsible for emptying the bins. It was confirmed that they are emptied under contract with Viola, but they were WDC contractors.

It was clarified that the Parish Council were not part of the Contract and have no responsibility for the contract. Bins should be emptied on a Thursday.

252. Parish Councillor Vacancy

It was reported that Notification had been received from the Elections Team that the Parish Council did not require an Election and could proceed to fill the vacancy via Co-option.

Work would now commence on advertising and filling the vacancy via co-option.

RESOLVED THAT the update be noted.

253. Correspondence

Nothing to note.

254. Finance

254.1 to approve payments: -

Payments (Current Account)					
Date		Reference	Payee	Details	Value
14.02.20	E48	BACS	N Harrington	Sundries	£43.00
20.02.20	E49	BACS	J Chatterton	Clerk Salary February DPA	
20.02.20	E50	BACS	HMRC	Tax for Clerk	£92.00
20.02.20	E51	BACS	J Chatterton	Office Allowance	£10.00

RESOLVED THAT the payments be approved.

254.2 Audit Process - Internal Auditor

The Parish Council's accounts for 2019-20 were required to be internally audited by an independent and competent auditor.

RESOLVED THAT it was agreed to instruct Louise Best, who completed the internal audit previously to carry out the 2019-20 internal audit.

255. Planning

Nothing to consider.

256. Governance

The following Policies had been reviewed and updated.

- 256.1 Risk Assessment 2020
- 256.2 Financial Control Document 2020
- 256.3 Health & Safety Policy 2020
- 256.4 Asset Register 2019-20

RESOLVED THAT the above Policies were approved.

257. Grant funding

Discussion took place on various grant funding opportunities that could be applied for to complete Parish Council projects.

ACTION:

- (i) Look at Severn Trent Grant.
- (ii) Clerk to obtain prices to hire a large marquee for the Fete.
- (iii) Parish Council to purchase some pop-up marquees.
- (iv) Parish Council to look into joining Costco.
- (v) Quotations to be gathered to replace the Village Gates.

258. Progress with Playing Area refresh

Councillor Harrington updated that the Green Spaces team now had the capacity to take the lead on the project and as such they were currently in the process of handing over to Simon Richardson (Green Space Development Officer). By the end of March, Simon would be the project lead and the point of contact.

With fair weather hopefully on the horizon they were intending to move this project forward promptly over the forthcoming months. An independent play inspector would be visiting the site in March and the subsequent report would be used alongside the previous consultation findings to determine what needed replacing, repairing and upgrading.

A budget had been allocated of up to £30,000 to improve the site and its play value through the introduction of new play equipment. They were aiming to have new equipment and other ancillary works installed and completed by the school summer holidays.

A meeting was taking place this afternoon regarding the MUGA element of the project.

It was noted that the self-closing gate had now been repaired.

RESOLVED THAT the update be noted.

259. Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was scheduled for 28th April 2020.

The Parish Council meeting would start at 6:30pm, followed by the APM.

RESOLVED THAT

- (i) Parish Council meeting starts at 6:30pm.
- (ii) Annual Parish Meeting to start at 7:00pm.
- (iii) Nibbles and drinks to be available.
- (iv) APM to be advertised on Facebook and via a leaflet drop.
- (v) Councillor lanyards to be purchased.

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

It was noted that the work on Sabin Drive had been completed. It had been decided that the trees on Aldermen Way were not dangerous and not urgent. These would be done after the clear up from the storm damage. However, it was noted that branches were dropping off the trees and into people's gardens.

RESOLVED THAT the update be noted.

261. Working party to complete removal of moss from Alderman Way footpath

Councillors Bradshaw and Harrington would set up a working party to clean the pavement on the corner of Alderman Way. Community Payback had undertaken some pruning work but had not worked on the path.

ACTION: A Saturday to be allocated to complete the work. Councillor Harrington to advertise on Facebook requesting assistance.

262. Following threshing of hedges

It was report that following the threshing of the hedges there were a collection of dog waste bags on the bank running down to former PH, The Bull

ACTION: New posters to be displayed.

263. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda

Drains badly blocked

Following the recent storms, and from the debris left following the last repair by Severn Trent the drains had become blocked

ACTION: Photo to be sent to Councillor Harrington and it would be reported.

264. Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 28th April 2020 followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.

Meeting closed at 7:50pm

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