

Weston under Wetherley Parish Council
Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 18th September 2013
Weston under Wetherley Village Hall 7 pm

Present: Cllr Miss B Roberts(Chairman)
Cllr Mrs S Chambers
Cllr Mr P Haine
Mrs M Norman (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Also present: Cllr W Redford, Cllr J Hammon, Cllr N Pratt and 3 members of the public

1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllrs McAllan, Mobbs and Coles.</p>	
2	<p>Declaration of Interests</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of previous meeting on 31st July 2013</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the 31st July were unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
4	<p>Warwick District Council</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed Mr Martyn Stacey who explained his role as Contract Officer for the District Council. Mr Stacey is primarily responsible for refuse recycling, street cleaning and grounds maintenance. In April of this year the District Council formed new contracts to carry out essential work and Mr Stacey was pleased to report that the contractors are working well. Weston is visited monthly by the street cleaning team to ensure that channels and gutters are swept and the litter bins emptied. The Parks team visit weekly to inspect and clear the grounds. New equipment will shortly be forthcoming which should improve the service offered.</p> <p>The English Landscape contracting team are also performing well and will work to attract wildlife whilst still maintaining their statutory obligations with regards to road safety. Mr Stacey is acutely aware of the importance of establishing the right balance between the wildlife considerations and the Highway requirements.</p> <p>It is hoped that the new litter bins will be installed within the next two months, though Mr Stacey advised that it could be six months at most. In response to a point raised in the Parish Plan Mr Stacey also advised that it would not be possible to revert to the system of weekly emptying of the grey bins as these would, of necessity, have to go to landfill. The District Council needs to be mindful of the costs incurred in transporting the waste as well as ensuring that all recyclable material is recycled. At the moment there is no capacity for</p>	

5	<p>Tetrapak collection on the re-cycling vehicles, but there may be in the future plus an ability to cope with additional types of plastic material.</p> <p>A member of the public congratulated Mr Stacey on the maintenance and cleaning work carried out by his team. The Chairman added her compliments too and thanked Mr Stacey for his very informative talk.</p> <p>Progress Reports:</p> <p>Clerk: The clerk noted that the new collection plate had been installed on the post box and that the trees which were obscuring the street lamp had been cut back. She also advised that Warwick District Council would be repairing the fence adjacent to the Village Hall. An application to remove the restriction on Offchurch playing field had been submitted to the Land Registry together with supporting evidence in the form of the draft minutes of the previous meeting. The clerk advised that it was likely that approved minutes would be required therefore there may be a delay in processing the application.</p> <p>Cllr Haine: Cllr Haine gave a report on HS2 and the Gateway project (see Appendix A attached). Cllr Hammon added that HS2 had announced that there would be no more Community Forums; the route would now go ahead without further consultations. Cllr Haine reported that a former MP resident in the village felt that our MP should be invited to a public meeting to justify his support of HS2.</p> <p>Cllr Haine also drew the Council's attention to the Underground Coal Gasification report which may impact upon Weston and suggested that our local MP be also asked to brief concerned residents about this. The Chairman suggested the Council could consider holding the two together.</p> <p>Cllr Chambers: Cllr Chambers reported that the Weston Wildlife Conservation Group which had been established by a band of willing volunteers led by Sarah Haine, were keen to act on the encouragement of wildlife areas sponsored in the Parish Plan survey. They realised that anything done in public areas would need to be worked through the Parish Council and in liaison with the District and County Councils, but in the meantime had two areas of privately owned land to be worked on.</p> <p>These areas are: three areas in the churchyard (by request of the Parochial Church Council who are very keen to have areas for wildlife within the churchyard) and the bank opposite the lay-by further along the road from the church. This is owed by Michael Hammon who is also keen to see the area managed for wildlife.</p> <p>On the 30th August Peter and Sarah Haine met Chris Redstall from the Wildlife Trust. He is working on a project in Princethorpe to improve wildlife corridors in the area and is keen to see the corridor extend from Princethorpe through Weston towards Leamington.</p> <p>The group met on the 31st August and discussed the areas to be planted and also a management plan for these and future possible sites for wildlife planting. Mindful of not trying to deal with too big an area too soon, the group will be concentrating on getting the areas above planted next spring. With this in mind they are keeping a lookout for any young seedlings in their own gardens to pot up and also germinating and cultivating seeds into plug plants for planting next spring. The areas will be made bare patches in readiness.</p> <p>Local Councils' Charter: The Council expressed itself as satisfied with the draft Charter</p>	MN
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	(previously circulated) and the Clerk was requested to inform WALC accordingly.	
6	<p>Flooding Pressure Group: Cllr Redford informed the Council that many rural parishes were receiving insufficient support from the County Council when they experienced flooding problems. Responses he had received from affected parishes indicated a strong desire to form an action group to help resolve their problems. The first step would be to convene a meeting to discuss issues involved. The Parish Council agreed that a representative from Weston PC would attend the meeting if possible.</p> <p>Offchurch Playing Field:</p> <p>Owing to the absence of Cllr Coles, it was resolved to defer this item until the next meeting when Cllr Coles would be asked to explain the necessity of the restriction.</p>	
7	<p>Website:</p> <p>Cllr Haine having previously circulated the proposal from the Parish Plan Steering Committee regarding the website provider (see Appendix B attached) the Council discussed the proposal. It was resolved that the Parish Council be responsible for the £300 annual maintenance charge for the website.</p>	MN
8	<p>Warwickshire Housing Strategy:</p> <p>It was agreed that residents' views of housing strategy in Weston had already been incorporated into the Parish Plan. The Clerk was asked to send a copy of this document to Mr Bruno.</p>	
9	<p>Jubilee copse and commemorative bench:</p> <p>Cllr Haine reported that Mr Duncan Brown had completed his restoration work on the bench and was congratulated on his hard work. Smiths' Nurseries had advised on suitable trees and the Council agreed that the 19th of October would be the date for the planting of the trees and installation of the bench. It was resolved that the Council allocate the sum of £350 to cover the cost of purchase of the trees, stakes and perforated pipes for watering.</p> <p>It was further resolved that a budget of £30 would be allocated to provide refreshments for those attending the event on the 19th October.</p>	
10	<p>Finance</p> <p>The clerk presented the financial report (payments and summary schedule attached) together with the budget sheet. Listed payments were authorised.</p>	
11	<p>Clerk's contract:</p> <p>A copy of the final proposed contract had been circulated to all councillors. It was agreed that clause 22.2 of the contract required amending for clarity. The amendment was agreed and initialled and the contract signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.</p>	
12	<p>General Village Maintenance:</p> <p>a) It was resolved that no remedial action was necessary on the Sabin Drive notice</p>	MN

	<p>board. Regarding the fencing opposite the village hall raised by Cllr Mobbs, it was agreed that it appeared to be in an adequate state of repair and two residents had remarked that it supported a good variety of useful brambles and other flora, which did not impact on the footpath.</p> <p>b) As the District Council already mow the grass verges between the Church and Wetherly Lodge it was agreed that they should be asked if they would also trim the hedges in order that the footpath should remain clear. The clerk to action.</p> <p>c) The clerk was also asked to contact Martyn Stacey regarding the drainage problems in the lay by adjacent to Garyvoe Lodge. This had been raised on the County Council's "Report it" site and we were informed that it had been referred to Mr. Stacey's department for investigation.</p>	
13	<p>Planning application:</p> <p>No planning applications had been received.</p>	
14	<p>Business from members of the public (that has been notified to the Clerk by the Thursday before the meeting)</p> <p>There was no business from members of the public.</p>	MN BR
16	<p>Councillors' reports and items for future agenda</p> <p>Cllr Haine proposed that a meeting be arranged with our local MP. He also suggested that the Council may wish to consider holding a Parish Council surgery so that members of the public could raise any concerns they may have.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that there were as yet no staff policies in place with regards to employee sickness, or grievance and disciplinary procedures. These policies would be drawn up and circulated to all councillors for consideration.</p> <p>Cllr Redford advised that significant cuts were to be made to the County Council's budget which would inevitable impact upon the services they were able to provide.</p> <p>Cllr Redford also offered to assist in any difficulties the Parish Council may have with regard to work being carried out by the County Council. He suggested that the PC contact him the week before the meeting to appraise him of any outstanding issues which he may be able to help resolve. The Chairman thanked him for his offer.</p>	
17	<p>Signing of cheques and payment list</p> <p>The Chairman and Cllr Chambers signed the payment list and supporting documentation.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.</p>	
15	<p>Correspondence not noted in other items:</p>	

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>i)</i> Warwickshire Rural East Community Forum Grant Fund – application for bids by 3rd September 2013.<i>ii)</i> Email: Ken Bruno re Warwickshire Housing Strategy<i>iii)</i> WALC newsletter<i>iv)</i> WALC: guidance on Renewable Energy Planning<i>v)</i> Graham Leach: appointment of Independent Persons<i>vi)</i> Notification of Local Plan meeting<i>vii)</i> Warwickshire Rural East Community Forum: Housing Strategy invitation<i>viii)</i> Warwickshire County Council: Chairman's Open Evening invitation<i>ix)</i> WALC: Briefing event – Parish and Town Councils' Induction Day<i>x)</i> WALC: Briefing event – Budget setting 2014-2015 for Local Councils<i>xi)</i> WALC: Local Councils' Charter Revised draft<i>xii)</i> WALC: AGM of WALC 9th October – letter from Robert Nash <p>The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 23rd October 2013</p> | |
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