

Weston under Wetherley Parish Council
Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 23rd October 2013
Weston under Wetherley Village Hall 7 pm

Present: Cllr Miss B Roberts(Chairman)

Cllr Mrs S Chambers

Cllr Mr P Haine

Cllr Mr A Coles

Cllr Mrs L Mobbs

Mrs M Norman (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Also present: Cllr W Redford and 3 members of the public

1	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr McAllan and Cllr Norman Pratt.	
2	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.	
3	Minutes of previous meeting on the 18th September 2013 The minutes of the meeting on the 18 th September 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.	
4	Progress reports: Clerk: The clerk reported that the drainage problems in the lay by opposite Garyvoe Lodge had been referred to Mr Stacey at Warwick District Council. Mr Stacey was investigating why this had been done as the issue came under the remit of the County Council. The matter had been referred back to them and the clerk would provide the Parish Council with information as soon as she received it. The clerk also reported that the application lodged with the Land Registry to remove the restriction placed on Offchurch playing field had been successful. She provided the Council with copies of the Official Copy of Register of Title. The Chairman requested that the clerk should send copies of this document to the Joint Parish Council, together with a letter of apology as previously agreed. Cllr Haine: On the topic of HS2, Cllr Haine reported that the only option open now was to lobby Parliament when the Paving Bill is introduced in the New Year. Cubbington and Offchurch Stop HS2 Action Group were working with Weston to agree the basis of the lobbying, following which a joint lobby would be made.	MN

5	<p>The topic of Underground Coal Gasification was also discussed. Cllr Redford stated that public consultation would not be available until an application for a drilling licence had been made to Warwickshire County Council. As yet, none had been received. Cllr Redford had asked to be kept apprised of any such applications and would forward any information he received to the Parish Council.</p> <p>Gateway project: No further information was expected on this topic until the New Year.</p> <p>WALC meeting 9th October 2013: Cllr Haine said that much of the discussion at this meeting related to the Code of Conduct. He also informed the Council of a Community Oil Syndicate which helped to provide cheaper oil and LPG to rural communities. He asked that the clerk prepare a poster to advertise this service until such time as it could be placed on the website.</p> <p>Website: Cllr Haine reported that the website developers had been experiencing delays for which they apologised. Cllr Haine, together with other members of the Parish Plan Steering Committee, was in the process of uploading information and expected the launch to take place early in November. The clerk was asked to upload the Parish Council Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Cllr Chambers: Cllr Chambers provided a report on the most recent activities carried out by the Weston Wildlife Conservation Group (see Appendix A attached). She also drew the Council's attention to the grant awarded by the "Get Growing" organisation who would, in addition, provide funding for a Community Orchard. There was some discussion on sites that would be suitable for such a project. The clerk was asked to contact Mr Stacey at Warwick District Council and invite him to assess the possible sites.</p> <p>Offchurch playing field:</p> <p>The Chairman stated that a resident of the village had asked why a restriction had been placed on Offchurch playing field and asked Cllr Coles for an explanation. Cllr Coles replied that he was not prepared to go into detail on this matter. The decision had been one taken by the Parish Council acting on legal advice and he had no further comment to make on the issue. Cllr Coles left the meeting at 7.35 pm. Following Cllr Coles' departure, Cllr Haine said that according to information received from previous councillors, Cllr Coles had been the driving force behind the imposition of the restriction. Had he used due diligence in assessing the division of assets following the separation of Weston from the Joint Parish Council, it would have been obvious that the action taken was both inappropriate and offensive. Cllr Haine stated that he had no confidence in Cllr Coles and asked that a vote of no confidence be taken. The vote was carried with three councillors in favour, and Cllr Mobbs voting against.</p>	MN
6	<p>Public meeting with Mr Jeremy Wright MP:</p> <p>It was agreed that Mr Wright MP should be invited to attend a public meeting on the subject of the current HS2 route. If sufficient information were available by the date of the meeting, the Council would also like him to address the issue of Underground Coal Gasification. Cllr Haine stated that both Cubbington and Offchurch would publicise such a meeting and residents of neighbouring parishes would be invited to attend.</p> <p>The clerk was asked to arrange a date with Mr Wright's office and copy the clerks to Cubbington, Offchurch and Bubbenhall Parish Councils.</p>	MN

7	<p>Village maintenance:</p> <p>a) Litter bin</p> <p>It was agreed that a litter bin needed to be installed in the bus shelter together with a sign urging people to use it. The clerk was asked to contact the District Council to see if they were willing to provide a bin, failing which she was asked to obtain quotes to enable the Parish Council to purchase one. As it was agreed that a monthly emptying of the bin would be insufficient, there was discussion on employing someone willing to undertake this on a regular basis. The Chairman suggested that an advertisement might be placed in the newsletter asking for anyone interested in undertaking this and other odd jobs to come forward. Such a candidate may also be willing to act as general handyman for anyone in the village in need of these services.</p> <p>b) watering of copse:</p> <p>The Chairman reported that the request to obtain water from the village hall in order to water the copse was on the agenda for the next Village Hall Committee meeting. It was agreed to defer further consideration on employing someone to water the copse until the options outlined in a) above had been explored.</p>	BR
8	<p>Council employee policies:</p> <p>Copies of the proposed sickness, disciplinary and grievance policies having been previously circulated to all councillors, it was resolved that the Council should adopt all these policies.</p>	
9	<p>WALC meeting 13th November 2013</p> <p>It was agreed that councillors would check their availability on that date and that anyone free to attend the meeting would notify the clerk.</p>	
10	<p>Standing Orders:</p> <p>Owing to the length of this document and the limited time scale available to councillors to consider it prior to the meeting, it was agreed that this item should be deferred to a subsequent meeting. Comments and suggestions on the draft version circulated by the clerk should be sent to the clerk, who would collate all responses and forward them to councillors.</p> <p>Cllr Mobbs left the meeting at 8.20 pm.</p>	All cllrs MN
11	<p>Finance:</p> <p>The clerk presented the financial report (payments and summary schedule attached). Listed payments were authorised. The external audit prepared by Grant Thornton for the year ended 31st March 2013 was presented to the Council and the contents noted.</p> <p>It was resolved that one copy of "Local Councils" should be purchased. It was resolved that the clerk be authorised to attend a course on the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Act.</p>	

12	<p>Planning applications:</p> <p>No planning applications had been received.</p>	
13	<p>Business from members of the public:</p> <p>The clerk reported that Mrs Geri Goward had written expressing her concern about proposed Underground Coal Gasification and urging the Parish Council to oppose this. The clerk had informed Mrs Goward that this issue was being monitored by the Parish Council.</p>	
14	<p>Councillors' reports and items for future agenda:</p> <p>Possible sites for a future community orchard were discussed further. As more grants were becoming available from Warwick Rural East Community Forum it was suggested that an application may be made for gates and flowerboxes to be placed at the entrances to the village to enhance its appearance. Interest had been expressed in applying for a grant to purchase sports equipment and there was some discussion about whether the Parish Council or the Parish Plan Steering Committee would be best placed to make such an application.</p>	
15	<p>Correspondence not noted in other items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Planning Forum Meeting 14th October 2013 ii) Warwickshire County Council – HS2 Briefing October 2013 iii) UCG – Gasfield Free Leamington Meeting 17th October 2013 iv) NALC – Model Standing Orders v) Sickness policy vi) Disciplinary and grievance policies vii) Cllr Symes: MS Bubbenhall; Secretary of State Call in viii) WALC: Minutes of Annual General Meeting 9th October 2013 ix) Shaping the future x) Standing for election in the UK consultation paper xi) WALC: Sustainable Communities <p>Available for inspection at the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) External auditor's report ii) Warwick District Council: Minutes of the meeting of 26th September 2013 iii) Warwick District Council: Agenda for the meeting of 23rd October 2013 iv) WALC: Invitation to attend AGM 13th November 2013 v) Warwickshire Rural Housing Annual Report vi) Land Registry: Official Copy of amended Register of Title 	
16	<p>Signing of cheques and payment list:</p> <p>The Chairman and Cllr Chambers signed the cheque payable to Grant Thornton and other supporting documentation.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 4th December 2013</p>	

--	--	--