

Weston under Wetherley Parish Council
Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 26th February 2014
Weston under Wetherley Village Hall 7 pm

Present: Cllr Miss B Roberts(Chairman)

Cllr Mrs S Chambers

Cllr Mr P Haine

Cllr Mrs L Mobbs

Cllr Mr A Coles

Mrs M Norman (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Also present: 3 members of the public

1	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr Norman Pratt, Cllr Wallace Redford and Cllr John Hammon.	
2	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.	
3	Minutes of previous meeting of the 15th January 2014 The minutes of the meeting on the 15 th January 2014 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.	
4	Progress reports: a) Clerk: The clerk informed the Council that she had reported the uneven pavements in St. Michael's Close to the County Highways. She had also discussed the car parking problem in the Close with them. Although it would be theoretically possible to increase the number of car parking spaces available, there would be no guarantee that this would solve the problem as the area is Public Highway and therefore open to all. County Highways suggested that the residents concerned write to their Housing Association, in the hope that they may be able to implement a policy of considerate parking. The garages in the Close are leased, with first priority being given to residents of the Close, followed by residents of the village and lastly any applicant. The clerk had been unable to obtain any further information about when the drainage problem in the lay-by beside Garryvoe Lodge may be solved. She was asked to contact Cllr Redford to ask for his assistance. b) Cllr Haine reported that the Joint Action Group has finalised its response to the Environmental Statement issued by HS2 Ltd. The response focuses on the destruction of agricultural and amenity land from the	MN

Offchurch Greenway, across the Leam valley and through South Cubbington wood and close to the B4453 by the currently proposed route. HS2 Ltd had paid scant attention to the submission made in response to the draft ES and the revision therefore reiterates many of the arguments made by the Joint Action Group in favour of lowering the trackbed height across the Leam valley and through South Cubbington Wood in order to minimise the impact in these areas. The Joint Action Group response can be found on the Weston website on the miscellaneous documents page.

More than 85 people attended the Public Meeting organised by the Parish Council and the Joint Action Group. It received very good feedback about the initiative taken in organising this event and gave local people an opportunity to learn more about the current proposals for the project, and the process that will now ensue for the government to gain parliamentary permission to go ahead with it. Our MP, Mr Jeremy Wright, made it clear that he does not support the currently proposed route and thanked the Offchurch and Cubbington Action Groups for their hard work in building a body of evidence that the route was ill judged.

There was strong support for the proposed action in petitioning Parliament for changes to the route and attendees have made pledges of financial help with the costs of such action.

Warwickshire County Council has submitted its response to the ES which can be found on the County Council website.

In the immediate future the responses to the ES will be analysed by Dialogue by Design Ltd, and a summary submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport who will need to consider whether the Parliamentary Bill needs to be updated before its second reading. There now seems considerable doubt that the Bill will complete its passage through Parliament before the General Election in May 2015.

c) **Parish Plan Steering Group:** The proposal to site the All weather playing surface area to the north of the village hall has been abandoned due to the space restriction there, and the concern for noise nuisance to residents adjoining that area. Preliminary discussions are taking place with the District Council about the possibility of siting the amenity elsewhere on the playing field. If the response is positive, the Committee will bring a proposal to the Parish Council and consult with residents.

Underground Coal Gasification: Cllr Haine reported that discussions were taking place with other local groups about an information campaign to ensure that local residents have a better understanding of the possible implications of potential, local extreme energy initiatives.

Footpath Group: A representative from the Footpath Group had had a meeting with the organiser from Warwickshire County Council, who had inspected three of the footpaths in the village; the footpath to Eathorpe, the path through McGregor land, and the path through land owned by Mr Moreton. He made suggestions about possible improvements to the existing footpaths, recommending land drainage for the footpath on MacGregor land. The County Council organiser will write to the landowner suggesting this. As the footpath on the land owned by Mr Moreton crosses a brook, the Footpath Group proposed building a set of steps leading down to the brook. This idea was approved by the CC organiser, who offered to supply the materials if the Footpath Group were willing to undertake the work.

The clerk was asked to contact Margetts again to remind them of the request made on the 25th October 2013.

Councillor resignation: It was noted that Cllr McAllan had resigned her post as Councillor on the 16th February 2014. The Chairman expressed her thanks to Cllr McAllan for her hard work and commitment during her time as Councillor. The clerk confirmed that the statutory notice of a Councillor vacancy had been posted. If an

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	election is not called for, the clerk will advise the Council when it may co-opt a Councillor.	
6	Village pavements: After discussion, it was resolved to request the County Highways to repair identified potholes or cracks in the pavements.	
7	Drainage problems: The overflowing water near Campbell's Farm has been reported to Warwickshire County Council using their website facility. This is open to all members of the public. The County Council has large numbers of pressing issues concerning standing water to deal with, and they will be cleaning the drains when they have the opportunity to do so.	
8	Website: It was confirmed that the Clerk is responsible for uploading documents on to the Parish Council section of the website.	
9	Community Orchard: Cllr Haine reported that the Village Hall would be delighted to have some trees planted at the rear of the hall. He had notified the District Council of the revised proposed plans for the siting of the orchard, and had received confirmation that these had been approved (see Appendix A attached). It was proposed that trees would be planted on the site in Alderman Way, to the rear of the Village Hall and alongside the pavement on Sabin Drive. The Council resolved to accept the proposal.	
10	Dog fouling: Complaints have been made about dog fouling, particularly around the recreation area. There is only one dog waste bin in the village and the Clerk was asked to contact the District Council to ascertain when the new all purpose waste bins were due to be installed and the possibility of acquiring more bins to be located in strategic positions. She was also asked to contact the Dog Warden to see if more notices could be displayed.	MN
11	Parish Plan objectives: Satisfactory progress was being made with many of the projects identified in the Parish Plan. The clerk was asked to contact the District Council to obtain a schedule for grass cutting on the play area and the verges.	MN
12	Offchurch playing field: It was resolved that the Council would re-examine the documents previously circulated in relation to this issue, and that a draft letter to the resident who had requested an explanation for the imposition of a restriction, would be produced for the Council's approval.	
13	Finance: a) The clerk presented the financial report (payments and summary schedule attached). Listed payments were authorised and approved. The Chairman and Cllr Chambers were authorised to sign the finance sheets and supporting documentation. b) The budget sheet was reviewed by the Council. c) It was unanimously resolved to donate a further £150 to St. Michael's Parochial Church Fund for upkeep of the churchyard. d) It was unanimously resolved to contribute £650 to the Joint Action Group for the purposes of petitioning Parliament regarding the HS2 Hybrid Bill.	
14	Planning applications: W/13/1609 LB Fields Farm Planning Appeal was noted. No objection was raised to planning application W/14/0188 (14 Sabin Drive).	MN
15	Business from members of the public: There was no business from members of the public.	
16	Councillors' reports and items for future agenda: Cllr Haine suggested investigating the possibility of establishing a funding group to promote the welfare of young residents of Weston.	

17 **Correspondence not noted in other items:**

- i) Weston under Wetherley Standing Orders
- ii) Invitation to public interest debate on Unitary Authority
- iii) Planning appeal Fields Farm Weston W/13/1609 LB
- iv) Planning application 14 Sabin Drive W/14/0188
- v) WALC: Pre Determination Rules Guidance from Government
- vi) WALC: Proposing new Wards guidance
- vii) Letter on UCG Moratorium
- viii) Community Orchard – revised plans
- ix) Electoral registers 2014

18 **Signing of cheques and payment list:**

The Chairman and Cllr Chambers were authorised to sign the cheques and other supporting documentation.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 9th April 2014.