

Weston under Wetherley Parish Council
Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 15th January 2014
Weston under Wetherley Village Hall 7 pm

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

Also present: 7 members of the public

1	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr Norman Pratt, Cllr Wallace Redford and Cllr John Hammon.
2	Declarations of interest Cllr Beth Roberts (Chairman) declared a personal interest in relation to items 8 and 10 of the agenda.
3	Minutes of previous meeting of the 4th December 2013 The minutes of the meeting on the 4 th December 2013 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
4	Progress reports: Clerk: The clerk reported that the District Council had cut back the overgrown hedgerow on the footpath leading to the church. Mr Jo Bell, of Warwick District Council had confirmed that the District Council would take responsibility for maintaining the bank belonging to Mr Michael Hammon currently being cultivated for wild flower growth. The epicormic growth on the lime trees on Sabin Drive had been removed. Cllr Haine confirmed that he had also been in contact with Mr Bell who was very supportive of the Parish Council's objectives. Mr Bell would now ensure that the trees on Alderman Way were properly managed. The clerk also advised that Councillors were invited to submit applications for attendance at a Royal Garden Party on the 21 st May 2014. Chairman: The Chairman had attended the Bubbenhall Liaison Committee held twice yearly. Representatives from Smiths Concrete, FCC, the Environmental Agency, Warwickshire County Council, Bubbenhall Parish Council and residents from Bubbenhall were present. Anyone with issues they wish to present to the committee is encouraged to do so and the Chairman expressed her willingness to forward any issues on behalf of residents in Weston. A query had been raised at the meeting as to whether Smiths' Concrete had been approached on Underground Coal Gasification. They confirmed that no approach had been made.

	<p>Cllr Haine: Cllr Haine, together with representatives from the Parish Plan Steering Committee had met Simon Prescott (Warwickshire Highways) shortly before Christmas to discuss the grant funding obtained from Warwickshire Rural East Community Forum in order to place entrance gates, planters and a welcoming sign in the village. Mr Prescott advised that the plan as originally envisaged would far exceed the grant funding available and adjustments would need to be made. He will survey the possible locations for the signs identified by the sub team and give his views on the most effective sites, together with the costs involved. As no further funding is likely from other sources - Cllr Redford having subsequently confirmed that Warwickshire County Council's funds are now committed until at least 2015 - it was agreed that the sub team would meet again to consider Mr Prescott's response.</p> <p>HS2: The closing date for submission of consultation returns on the London-Birmingham section is the 21st January. The joint team has been working with Cubbington and Offchurch on the response they intend to make, namely that the Draft Environmental Statement does not appear to have taken into account the responses made to it previously. These will be reiterated in the final response. Consideration is still being given to petitioning the Transport Select Committee during the passage of the Bill for the line to be lowered across the Leam valley and "cut and cover tunnelled" through South Cubbington Wood in order to limit the damage to the area should the proposal go ahead. Cllr Haine thanked all those involved in delivering the leaflets promoting the Public Meeting to be held on the 17th January.</p> <p>Gateway Project: A decision is being awaited from Eric Pickles, Secretary of State.</p> <p>Underground Coal Gasification: There were no developments to report on UCG, though Cllr Haine asked if someone would be prepared to take responsibility for monitoring this topic.</p>	PH
5	<p>Public Meeting Mr Jeremy Wright MP</p>	
	<p>It was confirmed that arrangements for the Public Meeting on the 17th January were in hand. The meeting had been well advertised and the Council was hopeful that there would be many in attendance. Police had been informed of the event.</p>	
6	<p>Precept</p>	
	<p>During the discussion on the draft precept, Cllr Haine reminded the Council of the proposed petition to the Transport Select Committee regarding the lowering of the HS2 track through Cubbington Woods. Other Parish Councils were contributing funds to the Petition proposal, which is estimated would cost in the region of £20,000. It was agreed that the Public Meeting on Friday would enable the Council to assess the level of public support for a contribution from Parish Council funds and that this would be considered at the next meeting.</p>	
	<p>The Council agreed to the draft precept as presented, and it was resolved that a precept of £7,048 be requested from the District Council.</p>	MN
7	<p>Standing Orders</p>	MN
	<p>It was resolved unanimously that the Council accept the draft Standing Orders as circulated</p>	

8	<p>previously.</p> <p>Community Orchard</p> <p>The Chairman, having previously declared an interest in relation to this item, did not take part in the vote.</p> <p>In view of the concerns expressed by residents adjoining the proposed site for a community orchard to the east of I, Sabin Drive, it was resolved that this site would no longer be considered as an option. It was further resolved that the Community Orchard should now be sited on Alderman Way as no objections had been raised by neighbouring residents. In view of the fact that the trees needed to be planted by the end of March, Cllr Haine proposed to produce a revised plan for planting of the area, which would be submitted to the District Council for their approval. It was suggested that some of the available trees might be planted near the Village Hall. The plan would be circulated to the Village Hall Committee for their comments.</p>	PH
9	<p>St Michael's Close Survey</p> <p>The Warwick District Housing Fund for improvements to neighbourhoods is a forum for council tenants to submit proposals for funding projects which would be of benefit. Cllr Haine had offered to conduct a survey on behalf of the residents in St. Michael's Close and reported to the Council that the issues raised were i) street lighting, ii) uneven pavements in St. Michael's Close and iii) car parking in St. Michael's Close.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) It was resolved to defer the issue of street lighting till a later meeting. ii) The Clerk was asked to contact Warwick District Council to investigate this problem as a safety issue. iii) It was agreed that there is inadequate car parking available and that many cars are parked on the pavements. The Clerk was asked to contact Warwick District Council to clarify their position on renting the garages in the Close, some of which do not appear to be used for parking cars, and request their help in resolving the problem. 	MN
10	<p>3, Sabin Drive.</p> <p>It was resolved that the Parish Council grant its consent to the owners' application to the District Council to purchase the land shown on the attached plan, on condition that the land acquired was used solely as a garden. The Chairman having previously declared an interest in relation to this item, did not take part in the vote.</p>	
11	<p>Offchurch Playing Field</p> <p>No response had been received from Cllr Coles to the open letter sent by the Parish Council in November. Cllr Haine stated that the Council was under an obligation to the residents to provide an explanation for the imposition of a restriction on Offchurch Playing Field. It was resolved that if there continued to be no response from Cllr Coles, the Council would determine what explanation it would give by the time of the Annual Parish Meeting.</p>	

12	<p>Financial Regulations</p> <p>It was resolved that this item should be deferred until the next meeting, when the Chairman and Clerk had reviewed the model guidelines and provided a draft version to submit to the Council.</p>	BR MN
13	<p>Warwick District Council working party Code of Conduct</p> <p>It was agreed that any Councillor wishing to make an independent comment on the documents previously circulated should forward it directly to the District Council.</p>	All
14	<p>Finance:</p> <p>The clerk presented the financial report (payments and summary schedule attached) together with the budget sheet. Listed payments were authorised and approved. The Chairman and Cllr Chambers were authorised to sign the finance sheets and supporting documentation.</p>	
15	<p>Planning applications:</p> <p>Planning application W/14/0017 The Lodge, Rugby Road. As this application had just been received, Councillors were asked to forward their comments to the Clerk who would collate the responses received.</p>	All
16	<p>WALC draft Local Charter</p> <p>The Council had been asked for their comments on the draft Local Charter and to express a preference for the draft models supplied. It was agreed that the Council's preference was for Version 2 of the draft Charter and the Clerk was asked to inform WALC accordingly.</p>	MN
17	<p>Business from members of the public:</p> <p>Mr Beasley of 3 Sabin Drive had requested the Council's support for his proposed purchase of land from Warwick District Council. He had no further comments to make at this juncture having spoken on the matter earlier (see item 10).</p>	
18	<p>Councillors' reports and items for future agenda:</p> <p>After the Public Meeting on the 17th January, the Council would need to assess the issues raised in relation to HS2 and to consider what contribution they may like to make to the Petition Fund.</p>	
19	<p>Correspondence not noted in other items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Letter Mr S Beasley re Community Orchard ii) Warwick District Council – email Mr Makasis re 3 Sabin Drive iii) NALC – Financial Regulations for small Parish Councils iv) Notes on Standing Orders v) WALC – Local Councils' Charter; request for comments vi) WALC – newsletter 	

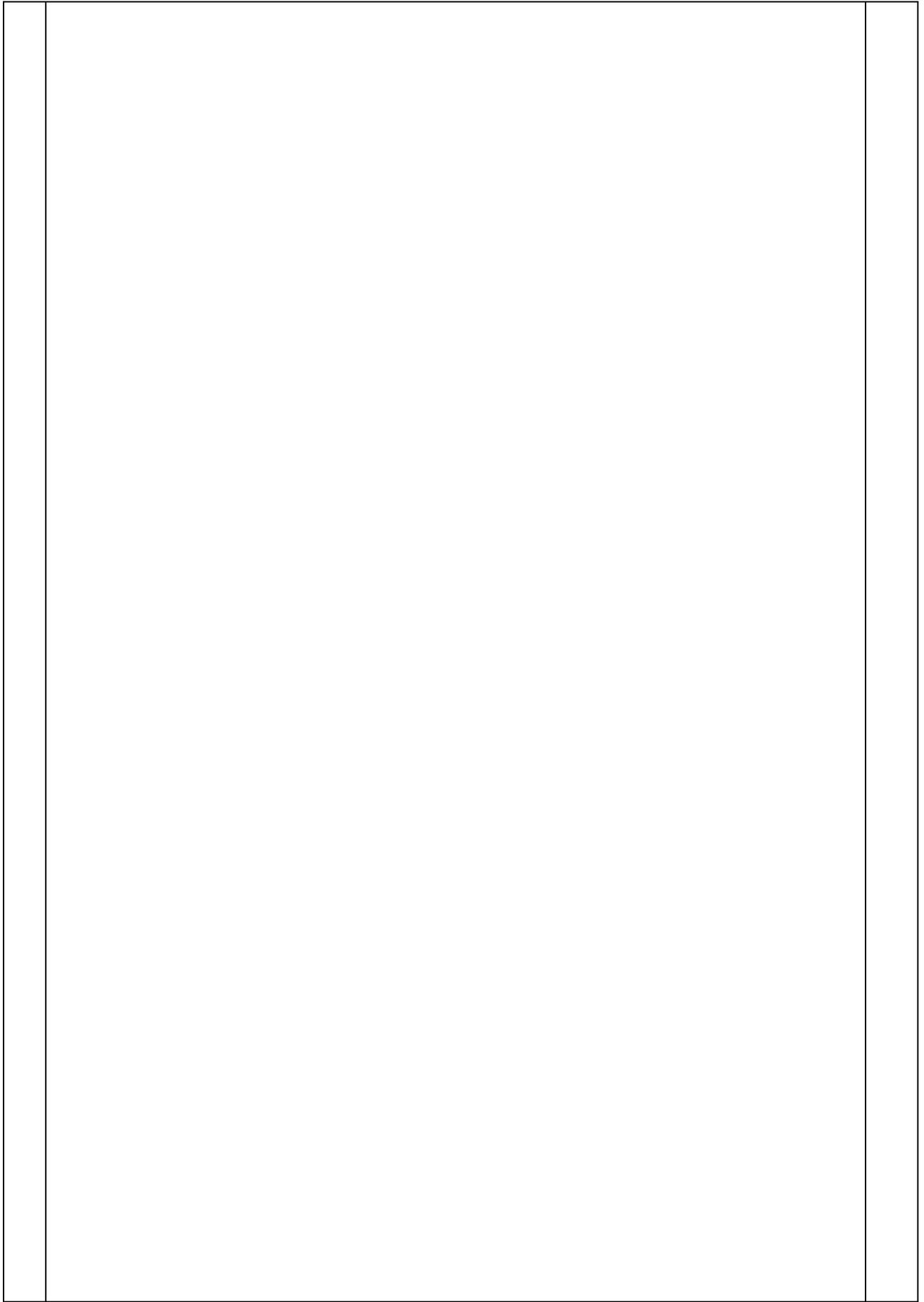
- vii) WALC – minutes of meeting on the 3rd December 2013
- viii) WALC – Government Statement on Local Authorities' Finance
- ix) Letter Ms Roberts & Mr Phillips re Community Orchard
- x) Letter Ms Southwood & Mr Miles re Community Orchard
- xi) Planning application: W/13/1609/LB Fields Farm Decision notice

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 8.05pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 26th February 2014



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