

Weston under Wetherley Parish Council
Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Monday 5th October 2015
Weston under Wetherley Village Hall 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr Mr S Richards (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Mrs S Chambers
Cllr Mr P Haine
Cllr Miss R Tighe
Mrs M Norman (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Also present: Cllr Wallace Redford and 2 members of the public

1	<p>In the absence of the Chairman, the Chair was taken by the Vice Chairman Cllr Stephen Richards</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Beth Roberts, Cllr Pam Redford and Cllr Nick Harrington.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council on the 24th August 2015</p> <p>The minutes of the ordinary meeting on the 24th August 2015 were unanimously agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
4	<p>Warwick District Council:</p> <p>Cllr Richards welcomed Mr Graham Leach, Deputy Monitoring Officer of Warwick District Council who advised the Council on Warwick District Council's revised Code of Conduct. The Code had been reviewed since its original issue in June 2012 and was now more comprehensive than before. The section relating to members' interests had been broadened from a declaration of pecuniary interests only, to include membership of outside organisations. Mr Leach also commented on the Localism Act 2011 which had removed many of the sanctions previously available to the District Council. Representations had been made to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government requesting a reversion to the previous system, but this had been refused.</p>	
5	<p>Progress reports:</p> <p>a) Clerk: The clerk reported that she had been advised by Bernadette Allen of Warwickshire Rural East Community Forum that the speed checks scheduled for the village were on track to be completed by the 15th October. As Councillors had not seen any evidence of speed checks to date, it was possible that all six were to be carried out in close proximity to each other. Ms Allen had also promised to forward details of the Urban/Rural Grant Scheme to Cllr Richards. The clerk had been copied in to correspondence between the Planning Department of Warwick District Council and the owners of the former Bull Inn, which indicated that planning permission for three houses on the</p>	

	<p>site was not likely to be granted. The clerk had also written to Mr Gavin Callard requesting assistance from the Forestry Department in restoring the bank beside the church, but had not received any reply to date.</p> <p>b) Cllr Richards: Cllr Richards and Chambers had met Mr David Skoppek of Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs to provide him with some information about the needs of young people in the village and to give him a copy of the Parish Plan. His aim is to co-ordinate with other villages in order to provide activities suitable for young people.</p> <p>c) Cllr Haine had met Mr Paul Cowley of the County Highways Department who confirmed that he was satisfied that the installation of the Village Welcome signs could be safely carried out by volunteers. Cllr Haine will provide Mr Cowley with a work plan in advance of the installation, specifying the safety precautions to be taken – namely, high visibility jackets, clear signage of the work in progress, cones in the road protecting the workforce. Cllr Haine’s report on his meeting with Mr Jonathon Huxley was deferred until item 10 of the agenda.</p> <p>d) Cllr Chambers reported that the Wildlife Conservation Group have continued to work through the last six months attending to the trees and the wildlife areas. Two trees have been lost; a newly planted cherry tree and an older tree but it is hoped to replace these during the autumn. The group is anxious to hear whether the County Forester will be able to provide assistance in eradicating the elm shoots which are taking over the bank and the grass verges beside the church. It has been suggested that some of the shoots should be left to repopulate the trees destroyed in the felling, but the others should be removed as quickly as possible. It is likely to take between two and three years for this problem to be resolved completely. The wildlife areas are being scythed, raked and cleared in preparation for the dormant period over the winter. The verge by the lay by is to be planted with bulbs and shrubs in consultation with Andrew McGregor for ease of management for him for his hedge. He has also kindly offered to help with the removal of hay and brash from the cleared areas. The fruit trees round the village are now bearing fruit ready for picking. An article has been put in the village newsletter and on the website inviting people to help themselves.</p> <p>Cllr Chambers also informed the Council of a Community Engagement meeting to be held on the 9th November at Wethele Manor, by kind permission of Mr Simon Moreton. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust are making a short presentation about the Princethorpe Woodlands Project and Mr Moreton will talk about the work carried out on his land to encourage wildlife.</p>	SR
6	<p>St Michael’s Close: It was unanimously resolved that the clerk should write to the District Council voicing residents’ concern about the obstruction caused by the parking problem in the close, and requesting them to verify that the garages are leased to tenants who are compliant with the terms of their lease.</p>	MN
7	<p>Code of Conduct: It was unanimously resolved to adopt the Code of Conduct issued by Warwick District Council.</p>	
8	<p>Standing Orders: An amendment to the published proposal was put forward, namely “where a response to a planning application is required before the next due date of an ordinary Parish Council meeting, power to respond to the application shall be delegated to the Clerk if the majority of councillors are unanimous in their support of, or objection to, the application.” It was unanimously resolved to adopt this amendment.</p>	
9	<p>Parish Council newsletter: Cllr Chambers agreed to write the newsletter, to be published before Christmas.</p>	SC
10	<p>Village maintenance: Cllr Haine reported that he had had a meeting with Jonathon Huxley from the maintenance section of Warwick District Council who confirmed that the District Council would carry out the maintenance schedule determined by the Parish Council, provided that there was no conflict with road safety. It was also</p>	

	<p>confirmed that clearing the gutters of weeds was the responsibility of the District Council and that the work would be carried out immediately. After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Haine would review the schedule which Mr Huxley will provide and agree it with the Parish Council, especially with regard to the Council's requirements in respect of the management for the ditch on Sabin Drive, and the adjacent public areas.</p>	PH
11	<p>Road signage Alderman Way:</p> <p>It was resolved that the Clerk should approach the Highways Department requesting that signs be erected on Sabin Drive indicating the numbering system in use on Alderman Way.</p>	MN
12	<p>Finance:</p> <p>The clerk presented the financial report (payments and summary schedule attached). Listed payments were authorised and approved. Cllr Haine and Cllr Chambers were authorised to sign the finance sheets and supporting documentation. The external auditor certificate and report was presented to the Council by the clerk. The Council noted that the auditors were satisfied that the information in the annual return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met. Other matters not affecting the auditors' opinion which they wished to draw to the Council's attention were also noted (see Appendix A attached). The clerk informed the Council that the Annual Return would now be posted on the website, in accordance with the requirements of the Transparency Code.</p>	
13	<p>Planning applications: No planning applications had been received</p>	
14	<p>Business from members of the public:</p> <p>A member of the public had complained that she had received no response to her emails to the Chairman and Clerk. The clerk informed the Council that she had replied to the resident's email.</p>	
15	<p>Councillors' reports and items for future agenda:</p> <p>Parish Council newsletter; contribution to the internet cafe in St. Michael's Church; verify that speed checks have been carried out; report on first showing of Cinema Club. Cllr Redford reminded the Council that funding was still available through Warwickshire Rural East Community Forum and applications needed to be submitted before the next meeting on 10th February 2016. As a member of the public was observed to be recording the meeting, to determine the Council's policy with regards to the recording of meetings.</p>	
16	<p>Correspondence not noted in other items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Warwickshire Rural East Community Forum – Funding Workshop ii) Planning application Wethele Manor iii) Warwickshire County Council – HS2 Meeting with Action Group Representatives iv) Warwickshire County Council – HS2 Agenda Action Group October 2015 	
17	<p>Signing of cheques and payment list:</p> <p>Cllr Haine and Cllr Chambers signed the supporting documents.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 8.45 pm</p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 16th November 2015</p>	

Appendix A

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