

Draft minutes

Weston under Wetherley Parish Council
Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Monday 16th November 2015
Weston under Wetherley Village Hall 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr Miss B Roberts (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, Cllr Pam Redford and 3 members of the public

1	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr Stephen Richards.
2	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.
3	Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council on the 5th October 2015 The minutes of the ordinary meeting on the 5 th October 2015 were unanimously agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
4	Progress reports: a) Clerk: i) The clerk had been in contact with Tom Mannion of the Highways Department who confirmed that jetting of the gullies would take place within the month. ii) The clerk had been advised by the Housing Department of Warwick District Council that the Tenancy Officer would be undertaking checks of the garages in St. Michael's Close to ensure they were being used in accordance with the terms of the tenancy agreement. iii) A request had been made to Warwick District Council for signs to be placed on Sabin Drive indicating the numbering system in use on Alderman Way though no response had been received as yet. iv) A letter had been received from Gavin Callard of the Forestry Department in response to the request for assistance in restoring the bank beside the church, but no offer of help was forthcoming. v) Cubbington Parish Council had decided to defer consideration of Weston's request to join them in making a joint bid to the HS2 Community Benefit Fund until nearer the date when details of the funding programme were due to be released. b) Cllr Haine: i) HS2. Cllr Haine reported that the Select Committee were still hearing petitions, and it was anticipated that these would be complete within three or four months. The petition to lower the railway through the Leam Valley had met with no success. The group of petitioners to which Weston belongs would now consider making a petition to the House of Lords if the bill were to achieve a third reading. Cllr Haine expressed his disappointment that Warwickshire County Council

	<p>were not more vocal about the impact of construction of HS2 on the local landscape and particularly the roads. He cited the example of access from the A46 near Ashow and Stoneleigh. Cllr Wallace Redford, however, said that the latest proposals submitted by Warwickshire County Council had been endorsed by Ashow and Stoneleigh, both villages most directly affected by the proposed route. ii) Community speed checks had been carried out by the police, although they had been conducted on the corner near the former Bull Inn, as being the most covert place to site the equipment. Spare equipment was available on loan from the police who will also arrange training for volunteers willing to carry out future community speed checks.</p> <p>c) Cllr Richards: There was nothing to report on the proposed all weather sports facility.</p> <p>d) Cllr Atkinson: There was nothing to report on the proposed footpath/cycleway to Cubbington.</p> <p>e) Cllr Haine: Cllr Haine had met with the Parish Plan Steering Committee to discuss the possibility of drawing up a Village Design Statement. The Committee concluded that they did not have the resources to undertake this work at the present time, and also that based on the input to the Parish Plan Review, residents are “survey weary.”</p> <p>f) Chairman: The Chairman stated that enquiries had been made of the governing bodies of the professional association to which she belonged, contending that she had inaccurately stated her professional occupation on her DPI form. She had also been made aware of Freedom of Information requests made to Warwick District Council concerning her recent successful planning application. Whilst recognising that members of the public were entitled to scrutinise public documents, she felt she should draw to the attention of the Council that both of these requests came from the same source – namely, two former Councillors, who had been found to be in breach of the code of conduct whilst serving Councillors and who had been censured by the Standards Committee of Warwick District council.</p> <p>Correspondence from these two individuals was now becoming a regular occurrence. The most recent were a complaint that a councillor had not completed a DPI form; another that the Council had been attempting to mislead the public, and the most recent, received earlier this afternoon, that the meeting would be audio recorded, and the Council were notified of the intention to film/photograph/tweet/blog proceedings as the individual saw fit.</p> <p>She felt it important that residents be made aware that these challenges were part of a pattern of behaviour which distracted the attention of the Parish Council from the projects they were devoting their time and energies to, and contributed nothing to the well being of the residents of Weston.</p> <p>She questioned the motives of the individuals concerned, and noted that she found this behaviour disquieting.</p>	
5	<p>Action List: It was resolved that the action item list be reviewed at each Parish Council meeting.</p>	MN
6	<p>St. Michael’s Library and Internet Cafe: It was resolved to contribute the sum of £85.00 towards the cost of a printer for the Internet Cafe on the understanding that Parish Council newsletters and other literature will be printed for the cost of materials only.</p>	SC
7	<p>Parish Council Newsletter: The draft newsletter written by Cllr Chambers was unanimously approved. Cllr Chambers anticipated publishing it shortly before Christmas.</p>	
8	<p>Film Club: Mr Robert Birkmyre informed the Council that the first meeting of Weston Film Club had been a great success and greatly enjoyed by those attending. Although a small loss had been made on the first showing, the Club would be able to reduce future costs by reusing the banner to advertise future films, and reducing the hours spent in the hall. He expressed the hope that the Council would consider making a further donation to support the Club. The Chairman invited him to submit an application via the Council</p>	

	Grant Awarding Fund.	
9	<p>Village Maintenance: Cllr Pam Redford reported that responsibility for maintenance in Weston was now being undertaken by Nick Gray. She had been informed that litter bins were emptied every Tuesday, and that the village was cleaned every two months. Councillors questioned that the litter bins were emptied weekly as they were frequently overflowing. Cllr Redford also confirmed that maintenance of the hedgerows was not within the remit of the District Council; the responsibility belonged to the landowner, whether the County Council or a private landowner. After discussion it was resolved that a) the ditch to the east of Sabin Drive should only be cut by the County Council once the Ladies Smock has set seed each year; it was also resolved that b) the area of public open space should only be cut by the District Council maintenance team in line with the schedule agreed between them and the Parish Council and c) it was resolved that both of the previous resolutions should be communicated to the County and District Councils.</p>	PH
10	<p>County Council Forestry Department: It was agreed that the lack of communication between District and County Council officers and the Parish Council was impeding the progress of the Parish Council. It was resolved that the Clerk should write again to the Forestry Department requesting either a supply of weedkiller to deal with the elm shoots on the bank beside the church, or a contribution towards its purchase.</p>	MN
11	<p>Footpath/cycleway to Cubbington: It was resolved to write to Cubbington Parish Council asking if they would consider making a joint bid with Weston to Warwickshire County Council's Transformation Fund for support in creating the footpath/cycleway between the two villages.</p>	MN
12	<p>All weather sports facility: Owing to the absence of Cllr Richards, no discussion took place on this point.</p>	
13	<p>Recording policy: It was resolved that future meetings of the Parish Council would be recorded.</p>	
14	<p>Draft precept: The provisions of the draft precept were discussed by the Council and it was agreed to defer a final decision on the precept demand until the next meeting.</p>	
15	<p>Finance:</p> <p>The clerk presented the financial report 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>	
16	<p>Planning applications: No planning applications had been received</p>	
17	<p>Business from members of the public:</p> <p>A member of the public had complained that two councillors were still to complete their Disclosable Pecuniary Forms for publication on the District Council website. The Chairman, responding, said that only one councillor was yet to submit his form, and that he would be reminded again of the importance of completing it as soon as possible.</p>	
18	<p>Councillors' reports and items for future agenda:</p> <p>No items were noted.</p>	
19	<p>Correspondence not noted in other items:</p>	

- i) Warwick District Council: Agenda and report for 13th October 2015
- ii) Warwick District Council: Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
- iii) Decision notice W/15/0788 Wethele Manor
- iv) Cubbington Parish Council: response to request re cycleway/footpath
- v) Email A Coles
- vi) Warwickshire County Council: Transformation Fund
- vii) Email L Mobb to Cllr Richards
- viii) Warwickshire County Council Forestry Dept: email from Gavin Callard

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

Cllr Haine and Cllr Chambers signed the supporting documents.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 4th January 2016

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