

Weston under Wetherley Parish Council
Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 14th January 2015
Weston under Wetherley Village Hall 7 pm

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

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

1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Norman Pratt and Cllr John Hammon.</p>
2	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
3	<p>Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Council on the 15th December 2014</p> <p>The minutes of the Extraordinary meeting on the 15th December were unanimously agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.</p>
4	<p>Warwickshire Rural East Community Forum.</p> <p>Mrs Bernadette Allen was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting to advise the Council on the Community Speed Watch Programme. She expressed her willingness to advise a delegation from the Council and the Clerk was asked to liaise with Mrs Allen to set a date.</p>
5	<p>Progress Reports:</p> <p>Clerk: i) Lengthsman Scheme. The clerk had been in contact with Warwickshire County Council to acquire further information on this scheme, which enables Parish Councils to employ someone to carry out minor maintenance works within the village. These include, but are not confined to, cleaning gullies, litter picking and pot hole repair. Warwickshire County Council has embarked on a pilot scheme with a number of Parish Councils in the Rugby area, and if successful, will be offered to other parishes within the county.</p> <p>ii) acquisition of community assets The clerk advised the Council on the necessary procedures to be undertaken if it wished to acquire a community asset, such as the former Bull Inn. She also advised on grants which could be applied for, an essential requirement</p>

	<p>being clear evidence of support from the local community.</p> <p>iii) flooding problems</p> <p>Although work had begun on the drainage problems on the Hunningham bend, these had still not been fully rectified and the clerk had been unable to obtain an answer from Warwickshire CC about an expected completion date. Cllr Redford advised that the engineer responsible for overseeing the work had been ill for some time which would explain the lack of response. The clerk was asked to contact Warwickshire CC again.</p> <p>iv) Freedom of Information request.</p> <p>The clerk reported that a Freedom of Information request had been received from a member of the public and that the documents requested had been supplied in full to the applicant.</p>	MN
	<p>b) Cllr Haine: update on appearance before HS2 Select Committee</p> <p>Cllr Haine reported that the petition submitted by Weston under Wetherley Parish Council, together with those of Cubbington and Offchurch Parish Councils and the Cubbington Action Group would be heard by the Select Committee on Tuesday 20th January. He and the other petitioners were in discussion with their barrister in preparation for their appearance. Progress reports on this issue had been posted on the website.</p>	
	<p>c) Cllr Boardman: report on Bubbenhall Liaison Committee meeting</p> <p>Cllr Boardman reported that concerns had been voiced by some residents in Bubbenhall about tree felling rights in Bubbenhall woods. Other issues were mud deposits and rubbish from recycling lorries left on the main road. Cllr Boardman had been asked whether Weston residents had noticed an increase in heavy traffic through the village, and she had informed the Committee that there had been no increase in HGV traffic.</p>	
6	<p>Flooding problems:</p> <p>Cllr Haine was anxious that the Parish Council should be able to respond to legitimate concerns from residents by providing them with information about the measures the County Council proposed to take to alleviate the drainage problems. This information had not been forthcoming from the County Council. Cllr Redford advised that if the clerk had received no response to her requests for information within a week, she should copy him into the correspondence and he would follow up her request.</p>	MN
7	<p>Public meeting 13th December 2014</p> <p>The meeting hosted by the Parish Plan Steering Committee on Saturday, 13th December had been attended by 38 people. Various projects had been discussed, and a questionnaire had been prepared to ascertain the level of interest for these projects. These would be distributed along with the Parish Council newsletter.</p>	
8	<p>Election timetable</p> <p>The Council discussed some of the proposals outlined in the WALC election timetable and agreed to defer further consideration until a later meeting.</p>	
9	<p>Grant Award Scheme</p> <p>The Council discussed the Grant Award Scheme policy document (see Appendix A attached) and resolved to adopt it. The scheme will be used to support projects which are of benefit to the community. The clerk was asked to prepare a draft application form for approval by the Council at its next meeting.</p>	MN
10	<p>Parish Council newsletter</p> <p>The Council approved the draft newsletter prepared by Cllr Chambers and expressed their thanks to her.</p>	
11	<p>Councillor responsibilities:</p> <p>This issue was discussed by the Council and it was agreed that the subject be revisited as and when necessary.</p>	

CLlr Richards left the meeting at 8.30 pm.

12 **Finance:**

The clerk presented the budget sheet and 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.

13 **Precept:**

The Council discussed the draft precept document and agreed to request the sum of £6911 from Warwick District Council.

14 **Planning applications:**

No planning applications were received.

15 **Business from members of the public:**

Mr Stephen Evans asked the Council to contact Mr Moreton again with regards to moving the stone heaps on his land. The clerk was requested to action this.

16 **Councillors' reports and items for future agenda:**

Provision of allotments; defibrillator; handyman.

17 **Correspondence not noted in other items**

- i) NALC: Modernising Parish Polls Regulations
- ii) Community Governance Review
- iii) WALC: Affordable Rural Housing
- iv) WALC: Nomination for Royal Garden Party
- v) Warwick District Council: Small Grants Scheme 2014-2015
- vi) Bubbehall Liaison Committee: agenda
- vii) WCCC: Guidance on Lengthsman Scheme
- viii) WALC: 2015 Election timetable
- ix) Freedom of Information request and reply
- x) Grant Awarding Policy (draft) Weston under Wetherley Parish Council
- xi) WALC: Transparency Code for small Parish Council

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

The Clerk and Cllr Chambers signed the supporting documents.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 26th February 2015.

Appendix A

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Weston under Wetherley Parish Council – Grant Awarding Policy

Weston under Wetherley Parish Council has a small budget for the award of grants to provide support for voluntary groups or charitable organisations within the parish.

To qualify for an award, the applicant must be able to demonstrate that the funds provided will benefit the parish or some of its residents.

Applications will be considered for, but are not limited to, the following purposes:

1. For the purpose of purchasing equipment either in full or in part
2. For training activities, or to purchase the expertise of an outside trainer/facilitator
3. For activities that raise the profile of the area
4. For hosting special events or celebrations
5. For the provision of recreational activities
6. For the running costs of a community group which is experiencing hardship

Conditions:

1. The award must be used for the purpose for which the application was made.
2. The size of the grant awarded is at the discretion of the parish council.
3. Grants will not be awarded to individuals.
4. The Parish Council cannot fund activities which are the responsible of a statutory authority.
5. The Parish Council cannot fund activities which are outside the scope of its powers.

Eligibility:

1. Any charity, voluntary group or community organisation.
2. Any agency which is of benefit to the residents of Weston under Wetherley.

Grant applications will be considered by the full Council. Applicants are invited to attend the Parish Council meeting when their grant is being considered where they will have the opportunity to provide further information in support of their application.

Grant application forms are available to download from the website www.westonunderwetherleyparishcouncil.net or by application to the Clerk westonpclerk@gmail.com

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