

Weston Under Wetherley Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.30pm,
31st October 2016, at St Michael's Church

Present:

Councillor Jenny Arnold

Councillor Pam Redford (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Nick Harrington (Chairman)

Councillor Wallace Redford

Councillor John Hammon

In Attendance:

Jane Chatterton Clerk & RFO

Villagers: 4

24. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jeff Arnold.

25. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

26. Minutes of previous meetings:

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2016

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2016 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

27. Public Participation

The Chairman suspended the standing orders.

Parish Plan

Stephen Evans spoke at length about the Parish Plan, its creation and the work involved. It was reported that the Parish Plan was produced between April 2012 and May 2013 through a community effort by the residents of Weston under Wetherley, facilitated by a Steering Committee. The Parish Plan was adopted by the Parish Council on the 31st July 2013.

Copies of the Parish Plan were circulated to Councillors for information.

A grant was provided by the Warwick Forum for the welcome gates and the planters at each end of the village. An idea to slow traffic down coming into the village. Sub-committees were formed, a village conservation group, an internet café in the church, a library in the church, updated the conditions of the footpaths, village fate, cinema and pop up pub.

The Parish Plan was created independently of the Parish Council, the previous Parish Council were not asked for anything but came on board and were enthusiastic. The previous Parish Council validated the Parish Plan two years ago.

Mr Evans stated that he was disillusioned when he had heard what was said about the validity of the Parish Plan at the last meeting.

Councillor Wallace Redford reiterated that the validity of the parish plan was not doubted, the question was whether the Parish Council, at that time, had ownership and had signed up to it. At the last meeting this was not known and the new Parish Council did not know if that had occurred and had sought confirmation of that.

Councillor Harrington added it was a matter of regret that the Parish Council at that time did not offer full support and involvement in the development of that parish plan. At the last meeting the Parish Council sought the status of the parish plan, that plan should be reviewed at some point and what the policy would be. They were a new Parish Council and were trying their best to get organised.

Stephen Evans clarified that the Parish Plan Committee were independent of the Parish Council and were in partnership with the Parish Council.

Agreed that the Parish Council whole heartedly supported the Parish Plan.

Pathways

Peter Haine talked about issues in relation to pathways. Previously meetings had taken place with HS2 and were asked if they supported a bid to the Community Bid Fund.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to pursue this but this was a question of timing.

Councillor Wallace Redford confirmed that the County Council had received notification that they should start looking at applications but take into account that the £30m was from London to Birmingham and wouldn't go far. The Minister had been asked for support in obtaining more funds from HS2.

It was confirmed that a meeting would take place on the HS2 update on 24th November 2016. Update for the next meeting would be provided.

ACTION: Parish Council to write to Sara Boad WCC and ask for the details required for a compensation amount from the Community Benefit Fund.

Footpath/cycleway/All-weather pitch

Stephen Richards raised the issue in connection with 3 items:

- reinstatement of the footpath from the 'new development' to Hunningham
- The provision of a footpath/cycleway between Weston and Cubbington as part of the HS2 compensation for communities
- The provision of an all-weather sports area for young people

At the last meeting the Parish Council had asked for a ball park figures.

Stephen Richards explained that the footpath had existed previously but the County Council weren't going to pursue this with the farmer and this had prevented the matter from being progressed.

Work had been done previously in relation to the all-weather sports area. Liaison with WDC would be required to obtain a licence to use the land. Councillor Pam Redford confirmed that there was grant money available which could be applied for from WAYC, but this was ring-fenced to be used for facilities for youth.

ACTION:

- (i) the Parish Council would liaise with the known contact at WAYC in relation to requesting funding and advice with the process.
- (ii) A detailed outline plan would be required.
- (iii) Maintenance costs to be obtained.

The Chairman reinstated the Standing Orders.

28. Policies and Procedures

28.1 Standing Orders

The Clerk had reviewed and updated the Parish Council Standing Orders.

Resolved: That the Parish Council Standing Orders be approved and adopted.

28.2 Financial Regulations

The Clerk had reviewed and updated the Parish Council Financial Regulations to ensure that correct processes were followed.

Resolved: That the Parish Financial Regulations be approved and adopted.

29. Councillor's reports and items for future Agenda

To receive reports from County Councillors, Cllr. Wallace Redford and District Councillors Cllr. Nick Harrington and Cllr. Mrs Pam Redford.

Councillor Pam Redford reported on:

Concurrent Services

16 responses had been received from parish councils and were under consultation. The request had been made for a tapered reduction. A further update would be made at the November meeting.

Local Plan

The local plan does not directly affect Weston as no new builds would occur within the village but there would be an impact of increased traffic from building in Cubbington. Hearings on the local plan would be completed mid December. The inspector's findings would be available shortly after.

Further updates would be provided once known.

30. Finance

30.1 to approve payments: -

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council bank account was finally up and running and all outstanding amounts had been settled.

The following payments had been made by BACS.

Cheque Payments (Current Account)				
Date	Reference	Payee	Details	Value
31.10.16	BACS	J Chatterton	Clerk's Salary September 2016	
31.10.16	BACS	J Chatterton	Reimbursement for Sept Tax Payment clerk paid due to banking difficulty	£80.80
31.10.16	BACS	J Chatterton	Clerk's Salary October 2016	
31.10.16	BACS	HMRC	Oct Tax Payment for clerk	£80.80
31.10.16	BACS	J Chatterton	Office allowance & expenses September & October 2016	£20.00
31.10.16	BACS	WALC	Subscription to WALC	£121.00
31.10.16	BACS	Village Hall Facilities	Hire of Village Hall for Meeting	£24.00
31.10.16	BACS	Select Payroll Solutions Ltd	Payroll Provider	£89.47

30.2 Accounts

As per the Standing Orders a financial report was circulated which detailed the accounts from 1st April to the 30th September 2016. The report also provided Councillors with full details of both accounts, receipts and expenditure.

Bank Accounts

There are two bank accounts for Weston Under Wetherley:

Main Account	as of 30.09.16	Balance	£8,155.17
Business Money Manager	as of 30.09.16	Balance	£8,919.19
Total			£17,074.36

Precept Income 2016 - 2017

The Precept for 2016 17 was paid in	April 2016	£4,980.50
	October 2016	£3,690.50
Total		£8,671.00

Resolved: That the accounts from 1st April to 30th September be approved.

31. Planning:

No planning applications had been received.

32. Issues Raised from Previous Parish Council business**32.1 Parish Council Assets**

A request for discussion had been received in relation to the refurbishment and ongoing maintenance of the parish council assets. A report had been provided which gave helpful background information to allow full discussion.

The assets for discussion included:-

- the bus shelter opposite St Michael's Close
- the seat on Rugby Road
- the memorial bench around the tree in St Michael's Close

Other assets included the Jubilee bench and the two noticeboards.

Background

Over many years whilst Weston was part of the Joint Parish Council, very little maintenance work or refurbishment was undertaken on these three items, causing them to fall into a near state of disrepair.

In 2011 the Parish Council agreed that all three should be repaired and work was undertaken. Work included the bus shelter (repaired following vandalism in March 2012), the bench on the main road and the memorial bench around a tree in St Michael's Close erected in 1969.

The request was made to prevent the assets becoming neglected again and for agreement for the Parish Council to initiate repair and refurbishment of all these items and for their continued maintenance.

Resolved:

- (i) Quotes for the repairs to be obtained from Tom Stanley and David Moorcroft.
- (ii) To be reviewed at November's meeting.

32.2 Tree damage

As previously reported damage had occurred to several trees in various locations by a strimmer. The Wildlife Group formally requested the Parish Council raise a complaint with the District Council's maintenance team.

Mr Haine had provided details and photographs of the damaged trees this included:

- Tree at the top of Sabin Drive on East side verge:
- Two of the tree had died off due to bark removal at the base
- Another on Jubilee Copse on the playing field, to the East of the children's playground
- Three Silver Birch trees had all been similarly damaged, which could be seen from the photographs.

Resolved:

- (i) Clerk to find the invoices for the purchase price of trees (Peter Haine to assist)
- (ii) The Parish Council would write to the District Council's maintenance team informing them of the damage – Councillor Harrington to contact David Shilton, Contract Services, WDC.

32.3 Issues from Parish Plan and Annual Village Meeting

The issues had been raised by the Parish Plan and the Annual village meeting:

32.3.1 reinstatement of the footpath from the 'new development' to Hunningham

Resolved:

- (i) identify the footpath number
- (ii) identify a start and finish point for the footpath
- (iii) Parish Council to progress once the above was known

32.3.1 The provision of an all-weather sports area for young people

Item was discussed in public session. The Parish Council were grateful to Mr Richards for the work he had already done.

Resolved:

- (i) the Parish Council would liaise with the known contact at WAYC in relation to requesting funding and advice with the process.
- (ii) A detailed outline plan would be required including costing.
- (iii) Maintenance costs to be obtained.

32.4 Entrance gates/planters

It was reported that the entrance gates/planters on either side of the B4453 were handcrafted for the village by a woodcraft company in Hereford.

The Parish Council confirmed that they would be happy to fund the planting of the boxes and a request for funds to be made in the Spring.

Resolved:

- (i) The Parish Council would carry out an annual inspection from a safety perspective
- (ii) The Parish Council would make provision in the parish precept for planting in the spring and autumn.

33. AOB

To discuss urgent items occurring after agenda publication.

Scarecrow Competition

Thanks was noted to the Weston Events Group members, Bren Boardman, Glynis Hooper and Amanda Bradshaw for organising the very successful Scarecrow competition and event at the Village Hall.

34. Confidential Session

Members of the public left the meeting to enable the Parish Council to go into Confidential Session.

Signed
(Chairman)

28th November 2016