

Weston Under Wetherley Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.30pm,
30th August 2016, at St Michael's Church

Present:

Councillor John Hammon

Councillor Nick Harrington (Chair)

Councillor Pam Redford (Vice Chair)

Councillor Wallace Redford

In Attendance:

Jane Chatterton Clerk & RFO

Villagers: 6

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jeff and Jenny Arnold.

2. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Appointment of Clerk

Consideration was given to the appointment of a temporary Clerk and RFO to the Council. The applicant held the necessary qualifications including ILCA (Introduction to Local Council Administration), ILEX L3 Professional Diploma in Law and Business Administration L3. She is also a Parish Clerk to other Parish Councils and understood the requirements to carry out the role effectively. Certificates of achievement were also available to view at the meeting.

Resolved: That Jane Chatterton be appointed as Clerk and RFO. Contract of Employment including hours and salary to be discussed under Confidential session.

4. Election of Chairman for 2016-2017

Nominations were requested for the election of a Chairman for 2016-17. Councillor Harrington agreed to stand, he was nominated by Councillor Pam Redford and Seconded by Councillor Hammon.

Resolved:

- (i) That Councillor Harrington be appointed as Chairman for 2016-17.
- (ii) The newly elected Chairman made a declaration of acceptance of office on the prescribed form and assumed the position of Chairman.

5. Appointment of Vice Chairman for 2016-17

Councillor Harrington asked for nominations for the appointment of Vice Chairman for 2016-17. A nomination was made by Councillor Wallace Redford and seconded by Councillor Hammon.

Resolved: That Councillor Pam Redford be elected as Vice Chairman.

6. Public Participation

The Chairman suspended the standing orders.

Quad Biking

A report was received in relation to persons riding quad bikes in the woods. This was a regular occurrence and for several hours a day, particularly at weekends. This caused a noise nuisance to neighbours, they had been spoken to previously but had continued.

Action: Councillor Harrington agreed to speak to the PCSO for the area and request a police presence in the woods.

Hedges

Councillor Harrington reported that he had written to the four joint owners of farmland to the north of the B4453 Rugby Road in the village concerning urgent hedge cutting. Pedestrians were forced to walk into the road by the poorly maintained hedge. This had also been followed up with WDC.

It was noted that work had been carried out on 30th August and the hedges were no longer causing an obstruction.

National Garden Scheme

It was noted that Peter Haime was the organiser for Weston Under Wetherley's participation in the National Garden Scheme. 11 gardens would be open to the general public on 10th and 11th June 2017. This would be a fund raising event.

Action: Clerk to write to WDC for permission for use of the playing field for parking.

Website

Peter Haime, Webmaster for the Village website requested individuals only edit the part of the website that they were responsible for. Stating it was unfair to volunteers to have their particular pages interfered with.

After lengthy discussion it was agreed that the Clerk (or Chairman) were the only individuals that were permitted to post information about, pertaining to or belonging to the Parish Council. It was acknowledged that strict rules were required when dealing with websites and the new Parish Council wanted to ensure that all information belonging to the Parish Council was robust, open and transparent.

Now that a Clerk was in post all agendas, minutes, reports and required financial information would be uploaded to the website as dictated by the Standing Orders. To avoid any misrepresentation or confusion other areas within the website were asked not to report on any matters in relation to the Parish Council. This was accepted and agreed by all present including Councillors and villagers.

It was acknowledged that the website was a valuable tool in disseminating information through the village, a tremendous amount of work goes into maintaining it and it was hoped that a joint approach could continue.

The Chairman reinstated the Standing Orders.

7. 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.

7.1 Wild Flowers

Councillor Pam Redford reported that she had been in discussion with WDC and had a plan of the area detailing county responsibility. WDC stated that there was no "Licence to Cultivate" or anything specifically in writing identifying areas to be left for wildflower planting.

It was noted that areas on the plan, marked in green, identified park amenities grass and between March and October this area was scheduled to be cut 14 times. There was no evidence that this occurred.

It was reported that this work had been supported and was part of Princethorpe Woodlands Project and supported by (Chris Redshaw) Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and included designated space in the plan.

Action:

- (i) Councillors Pam Redford and Harrington would discuss further with Nick Grey at WDC and request that areas are left and not cut.
- (ii) Clerk to go through PC filing to locate the Licence issued circa 2014. Clerk to contact Peter Haine for more information.

7.2 Planning/Development South Whitley

Councillor Harrington reported on planning application for redevelopment of land situated between the Stonebridge and Tollbar Island junctions of the A45 and A46. The deadline for comments was midnight 31st August.

It was noted that the public consultation opened on 14th September but before the public consultation opened neighbouring parish councillors were invited to attend a preview exhibition on Tuesday 13th September between 3pm and 7:30pm at Warwickshire Health and Racquets Club.

Further dates for public consultations were 15th, 16th and 17th September.

8. Playing Field and Dog Walkers

Councillor Harrington reported that irresponsible dog walkers were allowing their dogs to foul on the playing field and failing to pick up after their dogs. The dog warden had attended the site this week and refreshed the signage. The site does have two dog waste bins.

Action: Article to be included in the next Village magazine, requesting owners to pick up after their dogs and notifying that the dog warden would be carrying out regular patrols.

9. Planning:

W/16/0280 - Erection of 3 two storey detached dwellings following demolition of existing public house had been refused.

There had been a lot of consultation on the proposed development with various developers and number of dwellings applied for.

It was noted that it would be better for the village if the site was developed but this had to be in line with the look of the village and comply with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Action: Councillor Harrington to find out the name of the officer in charge.

10. Finance

Appointment of Signatories

Councillors were asked to complete a mandate form for HSBC to update the details held on the parish bank account and to appoint signatories to sign cheques on behalf of the Parish Council. A minimum of two signatories per cheque required.

Councillors Harrington, Pam Redford and John Hammon agreed to be signatories and completed the necessary form. Councillor Wallace Redford declined.

Resolved:

- (i) Councillor Harrington to request Councillors Jeff and Jenny Arnold to complete the form.
- (ii) Clerk to make the necessary arrangements with HSBC.

11. Parish Council Meeting

The meeting dates for Parish Council Meetings were confirmed as:

Monday 26th September 2016

Monday 31st October 2016

Monday 28th November 2016

Tuesday 3rd January 2017

Monday 6th March 2017

Tuesday 4th April 2017 (at 7:00pm combined with the Parish Annual Meeting)

All meetings to commence at 7:30pm and would be held at St Michael's Church with the exception of the Parish Annual Meeting.

12. WALC Membership

Clerk to contact WALC re membership renewal.

13. Confidential Session

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

13.1 DPI Forms

Councillors completed their DPI forms. The Clerk to forward the forms to the Monitoring Officer at WDC.

13.2 Contract of Employment

Discussion took place in relation to the Clerk and RFO's contract of employment. The contract of employment contained the main terms and conditions of the Clerk's employment with the Parish Council and included all the written particulars required by the Employment Rights Act 1996.

Action: Contract to be updated and signed by the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk.

Signed
Chairman

Date 26th September 2016