

## Weston Under Wetherley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 6:30pm,  
19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 Weston Under Wetherley Village Hall

**Present:**

Councillor Nick Harrington (Chairman)  
Councillor Danielle Williams (part)

Councillor Rachel Tighe  
Councillor Tim Robbins

**In Attendance:**

Clerk & RFO Jane Chatterton  
Warwickshire District Council: Councillor Valerie Leigh-Hunt  
Warwickshire District Council: Councillor Andrew Day

Public: 0

**162. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors; Councillor Mandy Bradshaw and Councillor Helen Adkins and WDC Councillor Wallace Redford.

**163. Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**164. Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were discussed.

**RESOLVED THAT** the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were approved.

**165. Councillor's reports and items for future Agenda****Councillor Valarie Leigh-Hunt**

Riverside House - It was reported that Riverside House was now closed.

Link up with Warwick District and Stratford District. Documents were on the website for review including the consultation document. There are pros and cons to the merger. People were advised to look at the documents.

The main advantages were the financial savings that could be made. Both Councils were short of money especially due to the impact of the pandemic. There are limits to what the uplift in Council Tax can be and everyone is under pressure. If the merger is agreed, then the next stage is for this to be approved by Central Government.

Consultation documents and Questionnaires are also available at:

Town Hall, Parade, Royal Leamington Spa CV32 4AT

Council Office, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6HX

Whitnash Library, Franklin Road, Leamington Spa CV31 2JH

Kenilworth Library, Smalley Place, Kenilworth CV8 1QG

Alcester Library, Globe House, Priory Road, Alcester B49 5DZ

Shipston-on-Stour Library, 12 Church Street, Shipston-on-Stour CV46 4AP

Southam Library, Tithe Place, High Street, Southam CV47 0HB

**Councillor Andrew Day**

Green Bin Service - Councillor Day reported that WDC had announced the temporary suspension of its Green Bin service next week due to ongoing driver shortages.

The decision to postpone the collections due from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October, would allow the refuse and recycling services to continue as normal. Residents who were due to have their green waste collected during this period were being asked to re-present their bin for their next scheduled service (week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> November).

Currently WDC were the only authority in Warwickshire who doesn't charge for green waste removal. Discussion was taking place and the choice is to either discontinue altogether or start to charge.

Finances – Central Government had promised to meet all additional costs that local councils had incurred due to the Covid pandemic, but they had only received 71%. The impact of this was that "Discretionary Services" would have to be stopped due to the inability to fund these. Last year £1.3m had been required to run the leisure centres. The reserves in the Discretionary Budget had taken a big hit.

WDC and Stratford Merger - this would save £10m - £5m for each council.

Both were having to make tough decisions about their finances. A third of councils throughout the country had not opened their leisure centres or had now stopped their green waste collection.


Planning Applications – WDC had seen a 40% increase in planning applications. This along with people working from home, shortage of staff and the increase in applications was leading to the process taking longer and more being decided by Delegated Decision.

NDBR grants – WDC had been the sixth in the Country for getting the grants out to businesses during the Pandemic.

When the pandemic hit WDC had paid the grants to businesses from the reserves. WDC were now looking for charities to apply, there was £1.5m left in the budget. One off grants were available to local charities who were lacking funds to run their service.

**166. Correspondence**

Nothing to report.



**167. Finance**

167.1 to approve payments: -

**2021-22**

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAILS	PAYMENT
07.09.21	E27	SPS	Monthly payroll Aug 21 8915	£12.00
07.09.21	E28	J Chatterton	Expenses Sept	£32.63
21.09.21	E29	J Chatterton	Sept Salary Clerk	DPA
21.09.21	E30	HMRC	Tax & NI Clerk	£94.60
21.09.21	E31	SPS	Monthly payroll July 21 8822	£12.00

**RESOLVED THAT** the payments be approved.

**167.2 Bank Reconciliation 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

The Bank Reconciliation 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 was received and discussed.

30th September 2021

Balance per bank statement as at **30th September 2021**

Account 1	£18,674.42	
Account 2	£8,960.50	
		<b>£27,634.92</b>
Petty cash float (if applicable)	£0.00	£0.00
Less: late payments 30th Sept 2021	£0.00	£0.00
Add: any un-banked as at 30th Sept 2021	£0.00	
Net balances as at 30th Sept 2021		<b>£27,634.92</b>

**The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book as follows:**

**CASH BOOK**

Opening Balance 1st April 2021		
Account 1	£11,615.65	
Account 2	£8,960.04	
		<b>£20,575.69</b>
Add Receipts up to 30th Sept 2021		£11,000.46
Less: Payments up to 30th Sept 2021		£3,941.23
Closing balance per cash book as at 30th Sept 2021		<b>£27,634.92</b>

**RESOLVED THAT** the Bank Reconciliation 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be approved.

**167.3 Quarterly Report 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

The Quarterly Report 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 was received and discussed.

**RESOLVED THAT** the Quarterly Report 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be approved.

#### **167.4 Budget 2022-23**

The Budget for 2022-23 was received and discussed.

A proposal was made to purchase a new bench for St Michael's Close. It was agreed that this would come from reserves and not be included in the 2022-23 budget.

#### **RESOLVED THAT:**

- (i) The Budget for 2022-23 be approved.
- (ii) The Precept for 2022-23 was approved at £10,962.00 (no change from 2021-22).
- (iii) The new bench for St Michael's Close be purchased from reserves.

#### **167.5 Fund withdrawal for Christmas event**

The date for the Village Light Switch on was arranged for 11<sup>th</sup> December

A request had been made to draw funds from the Events Budget to pay for community events planned between now and the end of the Financial Year.

**RESOLVED THAT:** The £500.00 in the budget could be spent on community events.

#### **168. Planning**

Nothing to discuss.

#### **169. Speed Camera Road Safety Partnership**

Councillor Williams updated that a team of volunteers were being gathered for the speed check partnership. This would be advertised on the Facebook page. Anyone wishing to become a volunteer would be required to complete the forms provided by the Police for vetting purposes. Once a group of volunteers had been identified the training would take place.

It was noted that the data from speed watch initiatives was a useful way of gathering data when discussing future safety issues.

**RESOLVED THAT** the update be noted.

#### **170. WDC Complaint**

It was reported that a long time ago a formal complaint was sent to Chris Elliott. This had been delegated to Zoe Court for action, many of which remained outstanding.

A letter had been sent to Councillor Andrew Day requesting his assistance with resolving the issues.

#### **Idverde damage to orchard trees**

WDC Contract Services stated that they were unable to find a record of the complaint, however they actioned the first report in an email (damage to a metal fence) completing repair a few weeks after removal of a fence section.

An email was sent to [Contract.Services@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:Contract.Services@warwickdc.gov.uk) by Councillor Williams on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021 20:50.

To eliminate any future damage to trees, the Parish Council will request a reduction in mowing with four areas reserved for a single October mow.

**ACTION:** Councillor Harrington to send an email entitled "*Idverde reduced mowing at Weston Under Wetherley*" including satellite images of these respective areas.

#### **Epicormic Growth to Lime Trees at Sabin Drive**

The Parish Council believe the trees should be on an annual maintenance cycle as the footpath is used by Villagers and dog walkers.

The long-term vision is to make this footpath accessible for adult wheelchair care home residents to visit the sensory area next to the Play Area in the playing field. Without regular maintenance of the annual epicormic growth, further loss of branches and limbs will occur leading to a loss of the colonnade of Lime Trees.

#### **Sabin Drive play area refresh**

Application for a Football Association MUGA Grant was raised extremely late by WDC on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The Parish Council believed WDC would be making this application as it owned the land and were the subject experts in play areas.

The Parish Council also believe that proceeding with a FA Grant Application which may be unlikely to succeed will again significantly delay the play area refresh.

**ACTION:** The PC will notify Helen Hancox by email of this decision.

**ACTION:** unanswered email to Helen Hancox dated 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021 to be forwarded to Councillor Day.

#### **Nuisance bonfires (changed email address)**

It was noted that WDC have set up a redirection from [ehpollution@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:ehpollution@warwickdc.gov.uk) to [pollution@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:pollution@warwickdc.gov.uk). However, the WDC website still references the old address. Using a Google search expression:

<https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/> "ehpollution" will show the 14 pages that need updating to the new address.

#### **Incomplete Footpath through Lime Trees**

**ACTION:** Councillor Harrington to email Gary Fisher about Enforcement of a s106 Agreement condition for Bloor Homes Ltd.

#### **Additional Parking provision at St.Michael's Close**

**ACTION:** Councillor Harrington to email Gary Fisher asking for ownership of the new parking area and for help in making an application for a grass-grid parking area.

#### **Overgrown Hedges**

For a considerable time, the Parish Council has had difficulty in getting to know who was responsible for cutting the hedge. Proving ownership was impossible.

**171. Damage to the Orchard Trees**

As discussed previously Councillor Harrington to send an email entitled "*Idverde reduced mowing at Weston Under Wetherley*" including satellite images of these respective areas.

**172. Grant Funding**

Councillor Robins updated that the Football Association were not funding play areas.

There was still funding available from HS2.

**ACTION:**

- (i) A list of projects to be gathered for an application to HS2 Community Fund.
- (ii) Ahead of attendance at November's meeting a list of community projects (eg hedge cutting) to be made to be sent to Gurcharan Singh.

**173. Village Hall Committee & Weston PC**

Councillor Williams updated that the Village Hall were continuing with the proposed veranda and planning permission had been submitted.

The Memorial Bench was being sourced and would be installed.

**174. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda**

HS2 Community Liaison team would be attending November's meeting

**ACTION:** List projects to give to Gurcharan

Increase in dog fouling on the park – issue to be raised with the dog warden

Agenda item - Meeting dates

**175. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 7:30pm