

# WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
in the Village Hall Reading Room which commenced at 8:00pm

**PRESENT:**

Chair: Councillor Tim Moody  
Councillor John Cherry  
Councillor Judith Evans  
Councillor Matthew Hale  
Councillor Steve Ludbrook  
Councillor Claire Mason  
Councillor Vicky Patmore  
Councillor Alistair Schofield

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lorraine Ellis (Clerk), County Councillor Steve Jarvis,  
Alison Walker (Weston Voices) and 10 residents

**2019/01/001** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillor Wayne Dumpleton.

**2019/01/002** **TO MEET WITH ALISON WALKER, WESTON VOICES:**

Alison thanked the Councillors for the opportunity to attend their meeting to talk to them about her Weston Voices project.

Alison provided Council with her own family history having lived in Weston as a child, with her interest in local history and family trees she now wanted to put something back and this project will do that. An oral history providing memories of the past made by the people who lived through it. Reflecting on what happened in the past with face to face interviews and recordings.

Including current history – why come to Weston? It will be a showcase for Weston for the future. Alison stated that she would also be liaising with the school.

Oral history training will be provided including training on confidentiality. It is a not-for-profit project. Positive feedback has been received for the project. Similar oral history projects are going on throughout the country.

A formal committee will be elected on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019. A business bank account will be opened; any profits will be invested back into the village. Councillors thanked Alison for her presentation and for her work on facebook. Alison left the meeting at this juncture (8:13pm).

**2019/01/003** **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

The Chairman invited Simon Armitage to speak to Council regarding his recent communication relating to broadband issues in Weston.

Simon stated that with a number of other residents who were present that although fibre broadband is available in the centre of the village this was not the case in Warrens Green, several residents from Tilekiln were present and this also applies to them. It was noted that Halls Green may get connected and have a cable. Living only one mile from Weston's hi-speed enabled exchange and less than one mile from Stevenage in the other direction, he stated that they do not live in an out-of-the way rural location.

Simon asked Council for their help and support in speaking to the correct organisation.

District Councillor Jarvis stated that there was a programme to roll out fibre broadband where numbers are commercially viable. He stated that the bulk of the village were upgraded in Phase 3 and indicated that Simon's location was in Phase 6 which is due to happen at the end of 2019, there is a plan however it will not do any harm for residents and businesses to report that this is an

issue. Sometimes there is a long gap between the installation of the cabinets and connecting to them.

County Councillor Jarvis agreed to provide residents with the contact details for the 'Connected Counties Organisation' who was responsible for rolling out the programme.

The residents present agreed to prepare a letter to Connected Counties which the Parish Council will support.

Eight residents left the meeting at this juncture (8:35pm).

The two residents present reported to Council on the traffic issues in Friars Road and The Snipe stating that there is a grassed area which could be converted for parking; it was noted that this is NHH's land and not the County Councils. Friars Road verges have been churned up and is a safety issue, a resident has only recently had a fall at this location.

The Chairman reported that a meeting would be taking place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January with a Herts Highways Officer, County Councillor Jarvis will also attend the meeting and a site visit will be undertaken. Consideration will be given to what can be done and what the costs would be. It was noted that there were land ownership issues in The Snipe.

Two residents left the meeting at this juncture (8:50pm).

**2019/01/004** **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:**

None.

**2019/01/005** **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2018:**

To take the minutes of the meeting as read and approve them as a true and accurate record. The minutes were then duly signed by the Chairman.

**2019/01/006** **PLANNING:**

**Applications:**

**None received.**

**NHDC Decisions:**

**a. Leatherwells Farm, Dane End Lane, Weston** – Works to facilitate conversion of existing barn to habitable space, including re-pitching roof and alterations to existing windows and doors. **Permission granted.**

**b. Green End Cottage, Green End, Weston** – Tree works. **No objection.**

**c. Kwetu, Maiden Street, Weston** – Front dormer window and rear roof light window. **Permission granted.**

**d. 12 Damask Close, Weston** – Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. **Permission granted.**

**2019/01/007** **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:**

**a. Cheque signing and accounts for January 2019** - The accounts for January for £767.39 were duly approved.

**b. Quarterly review of the accounts Jul-Sept 2018** – Councillor Ludbrook reported that the accounts were in order.

**c. Communications & Media** – Councillor Patmore reported that she will liaise with Alison Walker directly and will also contact the Vicar. The Chairman to prepare a document with a link to the NHDC Local Plan main modifications.

Following the presentation from Alison Walker Council considered the grant application for Weston Voices and **agreed** that £360 should be awarded to the project as soon as their bank account is operational.

**d. Correspondence** – Duly noted. Councillors considered the request from the Salvation Army to site a recycling clothing bank on Council land. It was noted that the Council has no available land to site a recycling bank. The Clerk to advise the Salvation Army accordingly.

Councillor Patmore left the meeting at this juncture (9:05pm)

**e.To agree agenda and date for the Annual Parish Meeting-** Council agreed that the date for the APM should be Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April if the hall was available. Topics would be considered at the February meeting.

2019/01/008

**NEW HOUSING STRATEGY:**

**NHDC Local Plan Public Examination:** It was noted that comments would only be considered by the Inspector on the main modifications and nothing would be accepted on the Local Plan.

**Parish Council response to main modifications:** The Council considered the draft consultation response prepared by Councillors Ludbrook and Moody.

The Council noted with regret that the examination did not support the Parish Council view that WE1 should be restricted to 25 homes; the Local Plan confirms the proposal for 40 homes. The Council also noted that the consultation is restricted to the Main Modifications only and that the only Main Modifications for WE1 refers to strengthening the western boundary hedge, this was endorsed by the Council.

The Council agreed to the responses for GA1 and GA2 but with the addition of a paragraph objecting to:-

The proposal to specifically locate the primary and secondary Schools on the northern extremity of the GA2 site as this will almost certainly lead to an access to GA2 from the Weston Road.

A copy of the response from the Council is appended to these minutes and will be published on the Weston website.

It was agreed by the Council that as a matter of urgency the implications for Weston residents of the development of these three sites should be identified and plans prepared to mitigate the negative and embrace the positive effects for Weston Parish residents.

All agreed that it would be prudent to set up a working party to look at possible S106 projects and to have our ideas ready.

2019/01/009

**VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE:**

Nothing to report at this time.

2019/01/010

**RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES:**

**Recreation Ground/Wildflower Meadow:** Councillor Schofield reported that at present he had had no luck in obtaining any information from the Charity Commission on whether there would be any benefits/penalties by removing its charitable status

2019/01/011

**HIGHWAYS & LIGHTING**

**a.Village entry gates:** The Clerk reported that the damaged entrance gates in Maiden Street had been reported on the HCC website however the website now states that the case reference number is not valid. The Chairman will discuss the matter with the Herts Highways Officer when they next meet.

2019/01/012

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**a.To discuss the traffic issues in Friars Road/The Snipe:** Councillor Evans reported that she had been contacted by a member of the Weston Speed Watch team who had provided her with some data on a recent session near Oakleys Farm:-

From 8am-9am (changing direction part way through):

2 vehicles travelling at 46 mph

1 vehicle travelling at 43 mph

A number travelling at 39 mph

In all a total of 9 vehicles were recorded as speeding in excess of 30 mph.

County Councillor Jarvis reported that he will be reviewing the results of the recent speed monitoring in Weston, in broad terms if the results show less

than 30mph this doesn't meet the criteria for a 'smiley face' sign. He also stated that he will have a session with Councillor Moody and a member of the Speed Watch team.

**b.Broadband issues:** Councillor Schofield suggested that a mapping exercise should be undertaken to indicate what broadband speeds are actually being obtained and who/where residents and businesses encounter drop-outs.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting then closed at 9:50pm with the next meeting being held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 8:00pm in the Village Hall Reading Room. The agenda will be displayed on the noticeboard three days prior to the meeting.

**Signed..... Chairman**

**Date.....**