

# WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 which commenced at 8:10pm

**PRESENT:**

Chair: Councillor Tim Moody  
Councillor John Cherry (from 8:15pm)  
Councillor Judith Evans  
Councillor Steve Ludbrook  
Councillor Rob Noble

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lorraine Ellis (Clerk) and County Councillor Steve Jarvis

**2020/08/045** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillors Matt Hale (other commitments), Claire Mason (holiday), Vicky Patmore (other commitments) and Alistair Schofield (holiday)

**2020/08/046** **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None.

**2020/08/047** **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:**

None.

**2020/08/048** **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020:**

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.

**2020/08/049** **PLANNING:**

**Applications:**

**Simons Close, Fore Street, Weston** – Erection of detached single garage/storage/workshop/home office building following demolition of existing garage and outbuildings. **No objection.**

**NHDC Decisions:**

**Manor Cottage, Maiden Street, Weston** – Retention of conversion of single storey attached former stable block into storeroom to house a wood chip hopper unit and boiler. **Refused.**

**Friends Green Farm, Friends Green, Damask Green Road, Weston** – Erection of detached double garage following demolition of existing stable building. **Granted.**

**Fairclough Hall Farm, Halls Green, Weston** – Change of use of existing business meeting room, work stations, toilets and a café to offices (B1) for a temporary period of three years. **Granted.**

**Karibu, Damask Green Road, Weston** – Extension and conversion of existing garage to form annex. **Granted.**

The Chairman reported that the Government had issued three consultation documents relating to changes to the current planning system.

County Councillor Jarvis reported that NHDC are unclear as to how it will work but it should provide greater protection to the green belt. It is understood that as the NHDC Local Plan is in progress it will be allowed to continue with a three year timescale for completion. NHDC can ask the Inspector to agree changes to the housing numbers as Planning Officers believe that the total could be reduced by 2,500 – 3,000. Discussions will be held with the Inspector prior to the virtual hearing sessions which are due to commence in September.

2020/08/050

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:**

**a. Cheque signing and accounts for August 2020** - The accounts for August for £404.02 were duly approved.

**b. NHDC Business Support Grants** – The Clerk reported that NHDC had indicated that the Council may be eligible for a Business Support Grant. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should complete the on-line application form.

**c. Communications and Media** – The Chairman reported that a foodbank event in the Jacksons Lane car park had been very successful. The supplies were taken to the Letchworth foodbank for distribution. Councillors **agreed** that in conjunction with the PCC that they would continue collecting supplies on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in each month until March 2021.

Thanks are to go to the residents and organisers for their donations and efforts.

**d. Correspondence** – Duly noted.

**e. To agree a date for the Annual Meeting** – Council **agreed** that the Annual Meeting would be held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

2020/08/051

**VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE:**

**a. Traffic management plan update** – It was reported that no progress has been made on the traffic management plan due to Covid-19.

**b. Hatch Lane village gates update** – The Hatch Lane gates have still not been repaired by Highways, the Chairman to provide pictures of the site to the Clerk.

**c. Litter issues** – It was reported that the litter found in the woods had been cleared away by a resident.

2020/08/052

**RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES:**

**a. Recreation ground damage** – It was noted that further damage had been caused to the posts in the recreation ground. Councillors Hale and Moody to replace a number of the posts.

**b.** The Chairman reported that a football team will use the pitch on Saturdays during next season. They are a team of older players from the local area. Most live in Great Ashby and some have existing connections with the village. One team member is a local tennis coach, a member of Weston Tennis Club and whose children go to Weston School.

The team will pay the same amount annually as the Rugby Club for use of the facilities and will liaise with the Rugby Club to avoid fixture clashes.

We have additionally allowed a local veterans team to use the pitch on four occasions during August.

**c.** Councillor Cherry was asked to undertake the cutting and baling of the wild flower area when the weather is suitable. Councillor Evans reported that following the erroneous cutting of the area in April most flowers had appeared, but a week or two later than in the adjoining meadow. However, the orchids didn't flower.

2020/08/053

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**a. Update on the Weston Café/Book exchange** – The Chairman reported that although the café hadn't reopened the book exchange has been open on Wednesday and Saturday. Due to low usage the opening hours are currently under review. Any changes will be posted on village noticeboards.

**b. Footpath in Friars Road/The Snipe** – It was noted that although the Chairman had contacted SETTLE nothing has been done to resolve the overgrown hedges and vegetation on the footpath behind Friars Road and The Snipe. County Councillor Jarvis indicated that he could ensure that the grass was cut as SETTLE has a contract for NHDC to undertake this work.

It was also noted that the owner of the empty house in The Snipe had been traced; they were not currently living locally. Abandoned houses are an issue

but it is hoped that NHDC Environmental Health will pursue the matter of the rubbish left in a rear garden with the owner.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting then closed at 9:10pm with the next meeting being held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 8:00pm in the Village Hall. The agenda will be displayed on the noticeboard three days prior to the meetings.

**Signed..... Chairman**

**Date.....**