

WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 12th December 2019
in Weston School which commenced at 8:00pm

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Tim Moody
Councillor John Cherry
Councillor Matt Hale (from 8:20pm)
Councillor Claire Mason
Councillor Rob Noble
Councillor Alistair Schofield

IN ATTENDANCE: Lorraine Ellis (Clerk)

2019/12/132 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors Judith Evans (other commitments), Steve Ludbrook (other commitments) and Vicky Patmore (other commitments).

2019/12/133 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

2019/12/134 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:

Councillor Cherry declared an interest in two planning applications (Lannock Manor and Warrens Green Farm).

2019/12/135 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th NOVEMBER 2019:

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.

2019/12/136 PLANNING:

Applications:

Lannock Manor, Hitchin Road, Weston – Change of use of existing stables and barn to light industrial (B1) and storage/distribution (B8). **Observation:** Planning application item 18 – it appears that the floor space is being doubled. Access to/from the site needs clarification to ensure its suitability.

Friends Green Farm, Friends Green, Damask Green Road, Weston – Erection of detached double garage. **No objection.**

Warrens Green Farm, Warrens Green Lane, Weston – Retrospective consent to demolish collapsed barn. **No objection.**

NHDC Decisions:

Darnalls Hall Farm, Green End, Weston – Erection of storage barn. **Withdrawn.**

2019/12/137 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

a. Cheque signing and accounts for December 2019 - The accounts for December for £1,584.57 were duly approved.

b. Draft budget and grant applications for 2020/21 – Council reviewed the grant awards and draft budget, it was **agreed** that the precept would be increased by £1,000 to £21,000. The Clerk to notify NHDC accordingly.

c. Communications and Media – The Chairman reported that the website will include an update and pictures of the recent event to introduce the new shop keepers to the village and the setting up of the Weston café/book exchange.

d. Correspondence – Duly noted.

2019/12/138 NEW HOUSING STRATEGY:

The Chairman reported that the NHDC Local Plan Inspector has now advised that following the responses to his letters by NHDC he will study them and will be fixing the dates for the additional hearing sessions. The Inspector is

intending to publish his Matters, Issues and Questions in late January. The documents submitted by NHDC can be accessed via:-

<https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-plan/local-plan-examination/examination-documents>

2019/12/139

VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE:

a. Traffic management plan update – Councillor Hale reported that the groups’ application for funding from the Police & Crime Commissioner’s Road Safety Fund had passed the initial sifting phase of assessment and will now be further scrutinised. Council agreed that this was good news. It was also **agreed** that Gary Henning, HCC Highways Engineer should be invited to visit Weston to look at what would be achievable from the draft proposals. Councillors **agreed** that expenditure incurred in the production of drawings, plans and land searches should be refunded to the group.

b. Forge End border update – Nothing to report at this time.

c. Village pond – It was noted that a resident had written to the Council regarding the condition of the village pond. It was agreed that this should be deferred to the January meeting as it is likely that a professional opinion may need to be sought on what can be done to improve its condition.

d. Xmas tree lighting – The Chairman reported that the Xmas tree lighting event was well attended and a big success. He wished to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved and especially Councillor Claire Mason.

Councillor Mason **agreed** to write a few words for the parish magazine.

2019/12/140

RECREATION GROUNDS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

a. Condition of village hall car park including tree growth – It was noted that the car park had been cleaned, painting of the marker bricks will be undertaken in due course. Councillors **agreed** that an application to NHDC should be made for permission to remove the tree as it is a danger to users of the car park and their vehicles; this would increase the parking area. Two replacement trees will be planted at a site to be agreed.

It was also **agreed** that consideration should be given on how to environmentally improve the village and to make it greener – community involvement would be needed. This matter will be debated further at the beginning of 2020.

b. Update on recreation ground storage – Councillor Schofield reported that the storage container had finally been installed. Councillors thanked him for all of his efforts in achieving this outcome.

2019/12/141

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Village Store – change of owners – The Chairman reported that the event to say farewell to Bea and Sonney and to meet the new shop keepers had been very well attended.

b. Weston Café/Book exchange (village library) – Councillors **agreed** in principle for the Chairman to spend up to £200 to purchase a coffee making machine, profits from the sale of coffee will be used to cover village hall room rental. It was noted that the current library shelving can be used at the new location.

The Chairman wished Councillors a very happy Christmas and thanked them for their work and support throughout 2019. The meeting then closed at 9:00pm with the next meeting being held on Thursday 9th January 2020 at 8:00pm in the Village Hall Reading Room. The agenda will be displayed on the noticeboard three days prior to the meetings.

Signed..... **Chairman**

Date.....