

# WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
in the Village Hall which commenced at 8:00pm

**PRESENT:**

Chair: Councillor John Cherry  
Councillor Judith Evans  
Councillor Matt Hale  
Councillor Rob Noble

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lorraine Ellis (Clerk), County Councillor Steve Jarvis (from 8:28pm)  
and Pete Walters - Hertfordshire StagesRally

**2020/02/012** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillors Steve Ludbrook (holiday), Tim Moody (holiday), Vicky Patmore (other commitments) and Alistair Schofield (other commitments)

**2020/02/013** **TO MEET PETE WALTERS: HERTFORDSHIRE STAGE RALLY – 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020:**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Walters to the meeting.

Mr Walters thanked Council for the opportunity of meeting with them to update them on the forthcoming motor rally.

Three years ago the law changed to allow roads to be closed for motor sport events to be held. There are more road rally's than track rally's being held. The first event took place in Clacton two years ago and the local economy received a boost of £300K. With such a financial gain to the area the Government Minister for Hemel Hempstead wanted a similar event for Hertfordshire.

One hundred motor club members in Hertfordshire joined forces with Middlesex to set up the event with the required permit from Motor Sport UK. A traffic order will be in place for the racing; there will be four stages with up to 120 vehicles which will be released at half minute intervals on three occasions during the day. The intervals between the races will be longer than the actual races.

Trained Marshalls will be located at all parts where people could step into the road. Drivers taking part are required to have a national/international licence to enable them to take part in the event.

All of the residents affected will have received an information pack so that everyone knows about the event.

Mr Walters was asked if there would be any 'carbon offsetting' available. He stated that the Council just need to make a request and this would be given favourable consideration.

The Chairman thanked Mr Walters for his presentation. He left the meeting at this juncture (8:23pm).

**2020/02/014** **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None.

**2020/02/015** **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:**

None.

**2020/02/016** **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 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 Councillor Evans

**2020/02/017** **PLANNING:**

**Applications:**

None received.

**NHDC Decisions:**

**Lannock Manor, Hitchin Road, Weston** – Change of use of existing stables and barn to light industrial (B1) and storage/distribution (B8). **Conditional permission.**

**Lannock Manor, Hitchin Road, Weston** – Conversion of barn to one 4-bed dwelling including external re-cladding and alterations to windows and doors arrangement – **Conditional permission.**

**Friends Green Farm, Friends Green, Damask Green Road, Weston** – Erection of detached double garage. **Refused.**

**Darnalls Hall Farm, Green End, Weston** – Erection of storage barn. **Prior approval not required.**

**Fairclough Hall Farm, Halls Green, Weston** – Extension to agricultural storage building. **Prior approval not required.**

2020/02/018

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:**

**a.Cheque signing and accounts for February 2020** - The accounts for February for £494.37 were duly approved.

**b.Communications and Media** – Nothing to report.

**c.Correspondence** – Duly noted.

**d.Annual Parish Meeting – Environmentally improve the village and to make it greener’.** Councillors considered possible on-going sustainable projects. It was suggested that the school could be involved in growing conkers and acorns with a view to planting the resulting saplings. Another suggestion was to make the village hall carbon neutral with the possible installation of a heat source pump.

2020/02/019

**NEW HOUSING STRATEGY:**

**a.NHDC Local Plan – main modifications** – Councillor Jarvis reported that the Inspector had released the dates of the additional hearing sessions; these will be held between 16<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March. It was noted that GA1 is within the Green Belt and no developments will proceed until the Local Plan has been passed.

**b.North Central Growth & Transport Plan** – Councillors considered and agreed the draft response prepared by Councillor Moody.

2020/02/020

**VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE:**

**a.Traffic management plan update** – Councillor Hale reported that a meeting with Councillor Steve Jarvis and Gary Henning, the HCC Highways Engineer is planned for 27<sup>th</sup> February.

It was noted that there was no further update on the grant application for funding from the Police & Crime Commissioner’s Road Safety Fund.

**b.Village pond** – Council agreed that a working party would undertake the removal of the brambles and self-set ash from 10:00am on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March. The event to be advertised in Weston Parish News.

2020/02/021

**RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES:**

**a.Jackson’s Lane car park and tree works** – It was noted that the Ash saplings had been cut back. The landowner had agreed to contribute 50% towards the cost of the work undertaken.

2020/02/022

**HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING:**

**a.Update on NHDC Highways Liaison Meeting** – Deferred to the March meeting.

**b.Drain issues** – The Clerk reported that a resident had asked the Council to consider the three drain issues in Maiden Street and Mill Lane. The Clerk to log the faults on the HCC faulty reporting system.

2020/02/023

**c.Overgrown roadside hedges** – The Clerk reported that letters had been issued to local landowners regarding their overgrown hedges. It is hoped that these will be actioned prior to the bird nesting season.

It was noted that there were a number of residential properties in Damask Green Road, Friars Road and Maiden Street that have hedges needing attention. The Clerk to liaise with Councillor Moody.

**d.NHDC draft Parking Operational guideline document** – Councillors considered and **agreed** the draft response prepared by Councillor Moody.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**a.Update on the Weston Café/Book exchange** – It was noted that the Weston Café/book exchange was successfully launched by Sir Oliver Heald MP on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

Usage has been a little disappointing but it is early days and the weather has not helped.

Volunteer bakers have produced some wonderful cakes and the new coffee machine delivers excellent coffee. Huge thanks are due to Suzie Lucas for organising the new venture but more volunteers to help are urgently needed. The Council and Weston Village Hall will review the trial at the end of April.

**b.75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day celebrations – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020** - Councillors considered the suggestion of holding a street party in Maiden Street. Councillors **agreed** that this is an excellent idea but that the event should be held in Fore Street. The Council would wish to be kept informed on the plans as they progress for the event. Councillor Jarvis reported that there would not be a fee for the required road closure.

**c.Litter pick event** – Councillors thanked all those involved in the annual litter pick with special thanks to Councillor Mason for organising such a successful event. Forty bags of rubbish were collected from the verges and roadside.

**d.Vehicle damage** – It was noted that a resident had reported that their vehicle had been damaged on eight occasions whilst parked in Post Office Row. The resident will be advised to contact PCSO Chris Braybrooke. Also, there is a parking issue in Friars Road that the PCSO should be asked to investigate.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting then closed at 9:24pm with the next meeting being held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 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.....**