

# WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
in the Village Hall Reading Room which commenced at 8:00pm

## **PRESENT:**

Chair: Councillor Tim Moody  
Councillor John Cherry  
Councillor Judith Evans  
Councillor Matt Hale  
Councillor Steve Ludbrook  
Councillor Claire Mason  
Councillor Rob Noble  
Councillor Alistair Schofield

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lorraine Ellis (Clerk), County Councillor Steve Jarvis (from 8:40pm)  
and Kevin Beard – Weston Cricket Club

**2020/03/024** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillor Vicky Patmore (other commitments)

**2020/03/025** **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

The Chairman welcomed Kevin Beard to the meeting.  
Kevin stated that as Chairman of Weston Cricket Club that he wished to thank the Council for agreeing to provide a grant to their Pavilion project which is proving to be very costly. It will enable the club to pay back the money that was loaned to the club. The money has been gratefully received. The club were also fortunate in securing a grant of £50,000 from NHDC. The project was fully budgeted but Building Control made a decision that the foundation drilling needed to go further down which added an additional cost of £20,000 to the final sum.  
The project is due to be finished by the end of April in time for the cricket season.

There will be a formal opening day and invitations will be sent to the Council and it is hoped that Councillors will attend.

Kevin left the meeting at this juncture (8:08pm)

**2020/03/026** **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:**

None.

**2020/03/027** **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 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 Vice Chairman.

**2020/03/028** **PLANNING:**

**Applications:**

None received.

**NHDC Decisions:**

**Fairclough Hall Farm, Halls Green, Weston** – Increase in size of building to allow internal adjustment (non-material amendment of planning permission 18/02397/FP granted 18.10.18). **Agreed.**

**Es Cana, 10 Munts Meadow, Weston** – Single storey side extension and replace existing UPVC cladding with composite cladding – **Conditional permission.**

**2020/03/029** **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:**

**a.Cheque signing and accounts for March 2020** - The accounts for March for £3,196.37 were duly approved.

**b.Quarterly review of the accounts Oct-Dec 2019** – Councillor Ludbrook reported that the accounts were in order.

**c.Communications and Media** – The Chairman reported that Councillor Patmore had requested that Susie Lucas be added as admin to the Weston Village news Facebook page. Councillors **agreed**.

**d.Correspondence** – Duly noted. The Clerk reported that a resident had replied to the Council's letter on hedge cutting. The resident wished to complain about the condition of the roads in Weston. The letter to be given to County Councillor Jarvis to deal with. The Clerk to write to the resident thanking him for his comments.

**e.Annual Parish Meeting – Environmentally improve the village and to make it greener'**. Councillors **agreed** to postpone the APM until the current coronavirus situation has been resolved. The Clerk to notify NHDC of this decision.

**2020/03/030** **NEW HOUSING STRATEGY:**

**a.NHDC Local Plan – main modifications** – The Chairman reported that a schedule of all the hearing sessions was now available. GA2 (Matter 25) is scheduled to be discussed on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March which he proposes to attend. (Advice was received from the LP Inspector on 13<sup>th</sup> March advising that the examination hearings have been indefinitely postponed).

**2020/03/031** **VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE:**

**a.Traffic management plan update** – Councillor Hale reported that the Police & Crime Commissioner had advised that Weston's bid will not be progressed. The bid had merit but the DriveSafe data does not provide sufficient evidence that speeding is an issue in the Parish. A meeting with County Councillor Steve Jarvis and Gary Henning, the HCC Highways Engineer has taken place. Costings are awaited on walkways for Damask Green Road and Hitchin Road. Much is dependent on how much the schemes will cost, it is unlikely that both areas will be possible. To assist him maps and plans have been provided.

**b.Village pond** – Councillors Evans and Moody reported that there had been a disappointing turnout for the pond tidy-up event. Thanks are to go to Tom & Debbie Mason for their help and for the use of their excellent brush wood cutter. Thanks are also to go to John Cherry for removing the rubbish. All agreed that the pond looks better although some brambles still remain. The Hertfordshire Natural History Society complimented the Council on the pond.

**c.Village Gates** – Councillor Evans reported that the Hatch Lane village gates have fallen down. The Clerk to report the fault on the HCC website.

**2020/03/032** **RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES:**

**a.Dog bins** – It was **agreed** that a new red dog bin should be purchased to replace the current bin in the recreation ground, it will be installed in a more accessible place.

**2020/03/033** **HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING:**

**a.Update on NHDC Highways Liaison Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> January** The Chairman reported that he had attended the meeting and that part of the discussion related to parking in town centres. The Council have already completed the consultation exercise.

Any major highways works that were being planned are in abeyance until the NHDC Local Plan has been agreed. Plans will then be firmed up.

There is no news at present on the widening of the A1M to a smart motorway.

**b.Drain issues** – It was noted that several drains had been reported on the HCC website The Chairman and the Clerk reported that Highways had

checked two drains, one has been resolved but water is not going down the other drain. One drain in Hitchin Road had been blocked for 12 months but the adjacent drain had been dug up that hadn't been an issue. It is likely to be the pipe between the two drains which is blocked with tree roots.

**c.Hedges** – It was noted that a number of farmers and residents had received letters from the Council regarding their overgrown roadside hedges. The Chairman reported that he had made personal visits to three residents and these residents have already cut back their hedges. Two more residents are to receive a letter about their hedges.

2020/03/034

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**a.Update on the Weston Café/Book exchange** – It was noted that the Café is covering its costs and residents are enjoying it so financially it is in good order. The Council currently underwrite the cost for two sessions per week and will continue to retain overall ownership of the Café. The Reading Room is booked on our behalf. Council **agreed** to underwrite the rental for 6 weeks if visitor numbers drop. A further discussion on the situation will take place at the end of April.

**b.Open Village** - The Chairman reported that the Council had been advised that residents were being asked if they might open their gardens for an Open Village event in the summer. A BBQ on the Green may also be organised for the same day.

**c.Coronavirus** – Councillors considered how the Council could support the more elderly residents in the village during this difficult time. It was **agreed** that Councillors would help with essential shopping requirements. The Chairman **agreed** to liaise with the organisers of the taxi service and Councillor Schofield **agreed** to print leaflets.

**d.County Councillor Jarvis** - HCC have announced that applications for road closures for VE Day celebration events will need to be completed by the end of March. No fee will be applied.

HCC Highways will be undertaking pot hole patching where red lines have been drawn around them.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting then closed at 9:00pm with the next meeting being held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 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.....**