

# WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**PRESENT:**

Chair: Councillor Tim Moody  
Councillor John Cherry  
Councillor Judith Evans  
Councillor Rob Noble  
Councillor Vicky Patmore  
Councillor Alistair Schofield

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lorraine Ellis (Clerk), County Councillor Steve Jarvis (from 8:40pm)  
and 4 residents

**2019/10/111 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillors Matt Hale (other commitments), Steve Ludbrook (other commitments) and Claire Mason (other commitments)

**2019/10/112 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

A resident stated that her family had lived in the village for 18 months and that their home had fundamental problems which would be resolved with the current planning application submitted to NHDC. The front of the property will look the same. There will be a window overlooking a nearby property but it will be non-opening with obscured glass. The resident hoped that the Parish Council would be able to support the application.

A resident wished to raise her concerns at the increased traffic along Damask Green Road and Hitchin Road especially due to the lack of footpaths. She was worried for the safety of dog walkers and others who need to walk along these roads. The installation of chicanes and speed limits need to be installed. She asked Council if it would be possible to close the back road to/from Stevenage.

The Chairman reported that every household would have received a leaflet from the Parish Council advising them of the formation of a group to discuss a traffic management plan. Meetings have been held and a draft report has been prepared. The goal is to enhance public safety. It was noted that County Councillor Steve Jarvis is very supportive of what we are doing in Weston.

A resident reported that he was a member of Councillor Hale's Traffic Management group and has been attending meetings. He stated that if anyone wanted to join the group to help they should provide their details to the Clerk in order for them to be included on the mailing list.

Three residents left the meeting at this juncture (8:18pm)

**2019/10/113 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:**

None.

**2019/10/114 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 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 Vice Chairman.

- 2019/10/115** **TO FILL ONE CASUAL COUNCILLOR VACANCY BY CO-OPTION:**  
The declaration of acceptance of office was duly signed by Councillor Rob Noble. The Chairman welcomed Rob to the meeting as a Councillor.
- 2019/10/116** **PLANNING:**  
**Applications:**  
**Forge House, Maiden Street, Weston** – Two storey and part first floor rear extension, insertion of roof lights to existing rear/side roof slope and insertion of first floor window to existing side elevation. **No objection.**  
**NHDC Decisions:**  
**Bunbury Cottage, Fore Street, Weston** – Two storey side extension. Two and single storey rear extensions. Single storey side extension. Extension to detached garage to provide car port and store. **Conditional permission.**  
**Whealers Plat, Fore Street, Weston** – T5 Willow – re-pollard to previous points. **No objection.**  
**The Cricketers, Damask Green Road, Weston** – T1 Pussy Willow – crown lift by 3.5m. T2 Horse Chestnut - fell. **No objection.**  
**Far End, Maiden Street, Weston** – Trees (Conservation Area): Leyland Cypress – fell. **No objection.**
- 2019/10/117** **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:**  
**a.Cheque signing and accounts for October 2019** - The accounts for October for £1,138.50 were duly approved.  
**b.Review of accounts June-Sept 2019** – The Clerk reported that Councillor Ludbrook had reviewed the accounts and that they were in order.  
**c.Draft budget 2020/21 including rent reviews (WTC & WRC)** – Council agreed to increase rents by 5%. The Clerk to implement the increases for next year.  
The budget will be further considered at the November meeting.  
County Councillor Jarvis joined the meeting at this juncture (8:40pm).  
**d.Update on the Weston Voices project** – The Chairman reported the progress of this project hasn't gone as quickly as had been planned. Much of the delay has been due to changes in personnel and interviewers. Unfortunately no interviews have yet taken place. Clarity is required on how the project will be relayed to the village. It was **agreed** that the Council would offer to help to move it along by providing names of residents who could be interviewed.  
**e.Communications and Media** – Councillor Patmore reported that the calendar on the website was now working. Village event dates can be included; also cinema event dates.  
It was noted that the PCSO has been approached requesting some crime safety information which will be loaded on the website.  
**f.Correspondence** – Duly noted. Consideration was given to obtaining a supply of free gritting salt from HCC for use on the highway.
- 2019/10/118** **NEW HOUSING STRATEGY:**  
It was noted that the Local Plan Inspector was still deliberating on the NHDC plan. The examination is being re-opened due to several matters that he wants to consider further. County Councillor Jarvis reported that NHDC have received all of the questions raised by the Inspector which will be answered by the end of November. It is therefore unlikely that the Local Plan will be adopted until Summer/Autumn 2020. NHDC cannot modify the plan but they could start again, this option is not favoured.
- 2019/10/119** **VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE:**  
**a.S106 community projects** - The Chairman reported that he had recently attended a meeting with nearby Parish Councils to discuss the possibility of

# WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
in the Village Hall Reading Room which commenced at 8:00pm

**PRESENT:**

Councillor John Cherry  
Councillor Judith Evans  
Councillor Steve Ludbrook  
Councillor Claire Mason  
Councillor Vicky Patmore  
Councillor Alistair Schofield

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

**2019/05/047** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillors Matthew Hale and Tim Moody.

**2019/05/048** **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & DECLARATION OF THE CHAIRMAN'S ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:**

Councillor Moody, having expressed an interest in continuing in the role of Chairman, Councillor Moody was proposed by Councillor Cherry and this was seconded by Councillor Evans, the Council **unanimously agreed** to Councillor Moody continuing as Chairman.

**2019/05/049** **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:**

Councillor Cherry was proposed as Vice-Chairman by Councillor Evans and this was seconded by Councillor Mason. The Council **unanimously agreed** to Councillor Cherry continuing as Vice Chairman.

**2019/05/050** **TO AGREE COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- **Village Hall Representatives** – Council agreed that Ali Cormack should continue to be their representative. Suzie Lucas will replace Joanna Cherry and Mick Wall will replace Pom Coulson.
- **School Governor** – Councillor Moody
- **Planning** – Councillor Ludbrook with Councillor Hale as reserve
- **Finance** – Councillor Ludbrook
- **Village Environment including Footpaths and Maintenance** – Councillors Evans and Cherry
- **Recreation Grounds & Sports facilities** – Councillors Schofield and Mason
- **Highways & Lighting** – Councillor Hale with Councillor Patmore as reserve
- **Communications and Media** – Councillor Patmore

**2019/05/051** **TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION OF THE PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY:**

Council **agreed** that the vacancy should be advertised. The Clerk to place an advert in the noticeboard. Applications received will be considered at the June meeting.

**2019/05/052** **TO AGREE DATES AND START TIMES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:**

Dates of meetings confirmed as 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Start time of 8:00pm with the proviso that meetings should finish by 10:00pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting then closed at 8:14pm. The next Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 8:00pm in the Village Hall Reading Room.

**Signed..... Chairman**

**Date.....**

having a Neighbourhood Plan. The production of one could take up to two years to complete and Weston could not justify the cost. It was noted that if development proceeds in Stevenage there will be additional traffic and we need to create a list of projects when Councillor Hale's report is received. Safety is a burning issue. County Councillor Jarvis stated that there would be funding for sustainable transport in Weston.

**b.Traffic management plan update** – The Chairman reported that this had been discussed earlier however he wished to reconfirm that Councillor Hale's report was currently in draft and would be available shortly.

**c.Forge End border** – It was **agreed** that a working party would be formed to clear the border. The Chairman to circulate possible dates for the work to be undertaken. Councillor Cherry **agreed** to remove the resulting debris.

**d.Xmas tree arrangements** – It was noted that the tree lighting event will take place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Councillor Cherry **agreed** to obtain a suitable tree and organise the electricity supply which would be on a timer.

2019/10/120

**RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES:**

**a.Condition of Jackson's Lane car park including tree growth** – It was noted that NHDC permission would be required to undertake the tree works. In the meantime the Chairman will obtain a quotation from a local contractor. The annual tidy-up of the car park will be undertaken later in the year.

**b.Update on recreation ground storage** – Councillor Schofield reported that there had been an issue with the delivery of the storage container and had been taken back as the delivery driver was not prepared to drive his vehicle over the grass. Unfortunately delivery and return costs have been incurred. Council considered an option to swap the current container for a 'flat-pack'; this is being researched.

2019/10/121

**HIGHWAYS & LIGHTING:**

It was noted that the broken drain in Munts Meadow had still not been repaired. County Councillor Jarvis **agreed** to continue to pursue the matter with HCC Highways. He stated that he had emailed the Chairman regarding the possibility of installing eight extra parking spaces in Friars Road. White lining of existing parking spaces could also be undertaken The Council fully support this proposal.

2019/10/122

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Future of the Village Library** – Councillor Cherry reported that the village library may need to be relocated; a new location is currently being sought. All agreed that the library was a valuable asset; it has lots of members and it needs to be kept open.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting then closed at 9:53pm with the next meeting being held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 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.....