

## WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held via zoom video conferencing on  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 which commenced at 7:30pm

### PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Lorraine Ellis (Clerk), County Councillor Steve Jarvis and two residents

2020/12/091 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

None.

2020/12/092 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Two residents attended the meeting to listen to the Council's debate on the London Luton Airport air traffic route changes, they had looked on-line to see how the proposed changes would affect Weston and were concerned that the flight path changes might bring aircraft closer to Weston. Councillor Noble stated that the LLA video was helpful as it showed the routes.

2020/12/093 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:**

None.

2020/12/094 **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020:**

To take the minutes of the meetings as read and approve them as a true and accurate record. The minutes were then duly authorised by the Chairman.

2020/12/095 **PLANNING:**

**London Luton Airport – air traffic route changes** - The Chairman highlighted on the screen the maps indicating the flightpaths. Two options are proposed for aircraft approaching the airport from the east. Either way it should not have any impact on Weston as the final approach route is not changing.

Councillors' favoured option 2 as it appeared to keep aircraft further from the village and it was **agreed** that a response should be submitted to that effect. However this would be dependent on a conversation that Councillor Hale will have with a local pilot. The Chairman will draft a response to the consultation.

Councillor Evans questioned the outcome of a previous consultation on aircraft take-offs. Councillor Moody reported that there were no proposals to change the alignment of the runway in these plans.

The two residents left the meeting at this juncture (7:55pm)

**Applications:**

**The Thatched Cottage, Warrens Green Lane, Weston** – Retention of increased height of chimney stack from 1200mm to 1800mm to enable house insurance to be obtained due to thatched roof and fitted log burner. **No objection.**

**Land adjacent to driveway to Amberley and Everglades, Maiden Street, Weston (Section 78 Appeal)** – Erection of one 2-bed bungalow including parking, landscaping and amenity. **No additional comments submitted.**

**NHDC Decisions:**

**Friends Green Farm, Friends Green, Damask Green Road, Weston** – Creation of vehicular access – **Permission granted with numerous conditions attached.**

**Old Farm, Fore Street, Weston** – Temporary siting of mobile home in farm yard for farm worker for 12 month. Permission granted

2020/12/096

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:**

**a.Cheque signing and accounts for December 2020** - The accounts for December for £5,943.89 were duly approved.

**b.Draft budget 2021/22 including grant application** - Councillors considered the spreadsheet produced by the Chairman and **agreed** to keep the budget and precept unchanged at £21,000.

The playground safety reviews were being considered by the Councillors. Councillor Noble **agreed** to check the equipment and submit a proposal on work that should be considered in the short to medium term. The Council discussed these proposals at the February meeting.

**c.NHDC Business Support Grants** – It was noted that a resident had written to the Council regarding the condition of the village entry gates. Councillor Hale suggested that the village entry gates could be repaired or replaced on a rolling basis. This suggestion was accepted.

Councillors further considered tree planting and involving the community on what the money could be spent on to make the village look lovely again. Further discussions to take place in due course.

**d.Communications and Media** – Councillor Patmore reported that the donations received for the foodbank were overwhelming and wished to thank everyone for their generosity. Numerous trips were made to the foodbank to deliver these goods. It was suggested that coats for the homeless would be a good thing to donate however there are no ‘drop-off points’ in our area. The only Charity who might be able to assist would be the Salvation Army. Councillor Patmore **agreed** to liaise with them.

**e.Correspondence** – Duly noted. The Clerk reported that a request had been made for a contribution towards replacing a gate at the Church. Councillors **agreed** a 50% contribution towards the work.

2020/12/097

**NEW HOUSING STRATEGY:**

County Councillor Jarvis reported that the Inspector had held the hearing sessions and he had allowed the presenters to have their say. He has asked NHDC Officers to further look at a number of areas in the Local Plan and to look at a reduction in housing numbers and the building of carbon zero houses.

2020/12/098

**VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE:**

**a.Traffic management plan update** – Councillor Hale and County Councillor Jarvis reported that Herts Highways had commissioned a report to consider footways in Damask Green Road and Hitchin Road, this work would be funded from the Highways Locality Budget. Further funding may be possible from future developments emanating from the NHDC Local Plan.

**b.20s Plenty nationwide scheme** – Councillor Moody reported that he had forwarded the Hertfordshire-wide 20s Plenty campaign group’s email to the Weston Speed Watch team. It was noted that they had a number of suggestions to put forward. 20mph in the middle of the village and wherever its 30 it should be 20.

Deleted:

County Councillor Jarvis reported that at this time Hertfordshire are taking a different point of view to Bedfordshire. It may be possible however to change the limit in a number of roads in Weston for example Damask Green Road and Hitchin Road. It was noted that the Police have the same view as HCC. Councillors speculated that the police objection is that a lower limit may increase the enforcement expectations of the public.

It was **agreed** that the Chairman would write to the campaign group stating that Weston PC are supportive of their objectives.

**c. Village tidy-up** – It was **agreed** that a village tidy up would be deferred to the Spring. Councillor Moody reported that he had received a quotation to remove a tree and shrubbery in Damask Close. Council **agreed** the expenditure of £650 for the clearance work.

**c. Maiden Street/Forge End green** – Councillor Moody recommended to Council that a flowering cherry tree be planted, this type of tree had been suggested by residents. Council **agreed** that the work should proceed.

**2020/12/099** **RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES:**

**a. Recreation ground damage** – It was noted that another post was down, it was therefore **agreed** to take no action in replacing the posts .

**b. Jacksons Lane parking** – Councillors considered a variety of different options for protecting the fencing along the rear of the parking spaces from damage from vehicles using the parking space, but concluded that none were either physically practical or financially justifiable.

**2020/12/100** **HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING:**

**Friars Road/The Snipe parking** – County Councillor Jarvis reported that a further two spaces to the original six will be installed by the end of March. He has also approached SETTLE who would not pay towards parking on the grassed area in Friars Road but they would not object to this work being undertaken on their land.

**2020/12/101** **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**a. Vacant property (The Snipe)** – County Councillor Jarvis stated that he would provide an update on the vacant property in The Snipe at the January meeting.

**b. Walking in a Weston wonderland event** – Councillors considered the event being held in the village on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December from 5:30pm – 7:00pm.

It was noted that Father Christmas would be making an appearance and the choir will sing in groups of 6 around the village. A children’s quiz would form part of the event.

Councillors **agreed** to underwrite costs of the event up to £500 which would be a ‘take-away’ service of fruit squash, mulled wine and mince pies. Sweets would be provided for the children.

It was also reported that the Police have been made aware of the event.

Councillors thanked Claire Mason and Debbie Schofield for organising the event.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the zoom meeting and wished everyone a Happy Christmas. The meeting then closed at 9:22pm with the next meeting being held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. The agenda will be displayed on the noticeboard three days prior to the meetings.

**Signed..... Chairman**

**Date.....**