

WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held via zoom video conferencing on
Thursday 11th February 2021 which commenced at 7:30pm

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Alistair Schofield
Councillor John Cherry
Councillor Matt Hale
Councillor Steve Ludbrook
Councillor Claire Mason
Councillor Tim Moody

IN ATTENDANCE: Lorraine Ellis (Clerk) and one resident

2021/02/016 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillors Judith Evans (illness), Rob Noble (training), Vicky Patmore (other commitments) and County Councillor Steve Jarvis.

2021/02/017 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

A resident joined the meeting to report the issue of water running down Mill Lane into Maiden Street which then turns into ice making the pavement dangerous. Water is coming up through the pavement and repairs have been attempted on four occasions by Herts Highways but the problem continues. Councillor Moody offered to undertake some channel work to help to improve the situation.

The resident left the meeting at this juncture (7:46pm)

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman wished to thank Councillor Moody for the work he had undertaken regarding the drains in Weston and reporting any issues found on the Herts Highways fault reporting system – well done.

2021/02/018 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:**

None.

2021/02/019 **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 14th & 28th JANUARY 2021:**

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

2021/02/020 **PLANNING:**

Applications:

Friends Green Farm, Friends Green, Damask Green Road, Weston – Proposed demolition of rear and side extension to barn and erection of replacement rear extension together with internal and external alterations to facilitate change of use of the barn to a 2-bedroom dwelling house. **No objection.**

Friends Green Farm, Friends Green, Damask Green Road, Weston – Erection of detached double garage following demolition of existing stable building as revision of previously approved planning permission 20/00576/FP granted 27.7.20. **No objection.**

The Vicarage, Church Lane, Weston – Erection of side extension creating garage and car ports at ground floor and home office at first floor. Single storey rear extension and existing bricked up window opening on front elevation to be reinstated. **No objection.**

NHDC Decisions:

Elm Paddock, ForeStreet, Weston – T1, T2 Poplar – crown reduced by up to 7m back to growth point. **No objection.**

2021/02/021

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

a.Cheque signing and accounts for February 2021 - The accounts for February for £1,135.26 were duly approved.

b.To review banking arrangements – The Clerk reported on the process in use for internet banking at Codicote PC. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should initially request a change to the Council’s bank mandate to enable the Chairman to become a signatory on the current account. Once this has been arranged the Clerk will apply for internet banking.

c.NHDC business support grant – Councillors further considered possible options such as MVAS traffic equipment and play/exercise equipment. Councillor Patmore had kindly provided some information on play equipment, it was therefore decided to defer any further discussion until she was able to attend a meeting.

d.Reserve’s Policy and Asset Register:

a.The Chairman reported that he had been reviewing the Policies and Standing Orders used by other Parish Councils. Councillors considered the documentation provided by the Chairman in relation to introducing a Reserve’s Policy. It was **agreed** that it would be sensible to divide the reserves into two categories:- General Reserves and Specific Earmarked Reserves. It was noted that the PC holds ring fenced reserves for local groups. A decision will be taken at the March meeting on how to take this forward.

b.Councillors reviewed the asset register and decided to remove the two benches located at the tennis courts, these would become the responsibility of the Tennis Club. A number of other obsolete items were removed. Consideration was given to the original cost, age and lifespan of assets.The Chairman to continue to review the register for further consideration at the March meeting.

e.To review Council meeting dates - It was **agreed** that the meeting date (second Thursday of each month) would remain unchanged for the foreseeable future.

f.Annual Parish Meeting and Unsung Heroes Award – The Clerk to request an update from HAPTC on whether or not APMs will be permitted to take place during April and May or if these dates can be changed.

g.Communications and Media – Nothing to report at this time.

h.Correspondence – Duly noted.

2021/02/022

NEW HOUSING STRATEGY:

Nothing to report at this time.

2021/02/023

VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE:

a.Traffic management plan update – No update available.

b.Maiden Street/Forge End green – Councillor Moody reported that the outstanding work would be completed when the weather improves.

c.Weston Village tidy-up – Councillor Mason **agreed** to liaise with NHDC on the current rules regarding the type of litter picked they would remove and the location as previously they would not remove any rubbish stored in gardens and driveways. The Clerk to provide additional pickers in addition to those held by Councillor Patmore. It was also suggested that there could be a general garden tidy up.

Councillors **agreed** that the Great British Spring Clean litter picking event would be held in Weston during **1st – 7th March**. Councillor Mason to produce a poster advertising the event.

d.Damage to Village Green - Councillors are fully aware that this area is common land however it needs protection from vehicular damage. It was **agreed** that up to £200 should be made available to Councillor Moody to enable him to supply and install a large boulder on the green.

2021/02/024 RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES:

A.Playground safety reports - Deferred to March meeting.

2021/02/025 HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING:

a.Friars Road parking – It was report that the work had been completed apart from the white lining which may be an issue due to the presence of parked cars.

b.Post Office Row signage and lighting – The Clerk reported that only one of the lighting issues had been resolved. Councillor Moody **agreed** to check the lighting and report his findings to the Clerk.

c.Green End street lights – It was noted that the street lighting was being upgraded to LED with the difficult ones being left until last, these should be dealt with in due course.

2021/02/026 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

a.Friars Road verge damage – It was noted that a quotation was outstanding from County Councillor Jarvis for costs to install grasscrete, post and rails at the entrance to Friars Road. It is unlikely that funding would be available until HCCs financial year 2021/22.

b.Vacant property (The Snipe) – Nothing to report at this time.

c.20s Plenty nationwide scheme – Councillor Hale reported that he would be standing down from the 20s Plenty group. The Chairman to draft a note to the group advising them of this while emphasising that WPC remains supportive of their broad objectives.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and then closed the zoom meeting at 9:04pm with the next meeting being held on Thursday 11th March 2021 at 7:30pm via zoom video conferencing. The agenda will be displayed on the noticeboard three days prior to the meetings.

Signed..... Chairman

Date.....