

WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held via zoom video conferencing on
Thursday 14th January 2021 which commenced at 7:37pm

PRESENT:

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

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

- 2021/01/001** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**
Councillors Claire Mason (illness) and Vicky Patmore (other commitments).
- 2021/01/002** **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**
None.
- 2021/01/003** **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:**
None.
- 2021/01/004** **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 10th DECEMBER 2020:**
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.
- 2021/01/005** **PLANNING:**
Applications:
11 Halls Green, Weston – Two storey side extension and insertion of roof light to existing rear elevation roof slope. **No objection.**
Highgate, Mill Lane, Weston – Two storey front and part two storey and part first floor rear extensions to create two storey dwelling, following demolition of existing front conservatory. **Deferred to next meeting.**
NHDC Decisions:
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 – **Listed Building consent granted.**
- 2021/01/006** **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:**
a. Cheque signing and accounts for January 2021 - The accounts for January for £682.90 were duly approved.
b. Review of accounts Jul – Dec 2020 – Councillor Ludbrook reported that the accounts were in order.
c. To ratify the Clerk's annual pay review – The Council **agreed** to ratify their decision to increase the Clerk's pay from January 2021.
d. NHDC Business Support Grants – Councillors considered numerous suggestions. It was **agreed** that the Chairman would prepare a proposal with costings for consideration at the February meeting:-
 - Adult exercise equipment
 - Environmental improvements including tree planting
 - MVAS equipment
 - Grant awards**e. Communications and Media** – The Chairman reported that Councillor Patmore had investigated the possibility of including coats for homeless people along with the monthly food collection, but discovered it was

impractical for a variety of reasons. It is recommended that residents wishing to make clothing donations deposit them in the Salvation Army collection bin in the Tesco car park in Baldock.

f. Correspondence – Duly noted.

Councillor Hale reported that he attended, via zoom, the NHDC Transport Forum meeting which covered subjects such as bus routes and local travel plans. It was **agreed** that Councillor Hale would forward a link to the Royston & District Community Transport group to Jane Walton (Weston Car Scheme Group).

Councillor Moody reported that he had requested a copy of the draft Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan consultation document, he indicated that he had not yet finished reading the document. Copies are to be sent by the Clerk to Councillors Hale and Schofield.

g. NHDC's Model Code of Conduct – Councillors's **agreed** to accept NHDC's recommendations on the Model Code of Conduct.

2021/01/007

NEW HOUSING STRATEGY:

County Councillor Jarvis reported that the Inspector would be holding two further hearings in February but nothing was applicable to Weston. It was noted that the NHDC LP may be adopted in the Autumn.

2021/01/008

VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE:

a. Traffic management plan update – County Councillor Jarvis reported that Herts Highways were working on the proposals for footways in Damask Green Road and Hitchin Road, these proposals are expected to be completed by the end of March.

b. Maiden Street/Forge End green – Councillor Moody reported that he had planted two trees and would complete the work on surrounds for them when the ground was sufficiently dry.

c. Footpath from the Red Lion to the rugby field – It had been reported that the footpath was muddy however if any surfacing was put on top it would only seep into the soil, chippings could be applied. Councillor Evans stated that the footpath from the Church to the recreation ground needed attention. It was **agreed** that footpath maintenance would be considered at the March meeting.

d. Weston Village tidy-up – Councillors noted that it would be difficult to organise a formal litter pick event due to Covid however if anyone wished to litter pick Councillor Patmore has a supply of sacks and litter pickers. Councillor Moody would be happy to remove the collected waste from the roadside. The Chairman offered to liaise with Councillor Patmore on publicising this.

The Chairman stated that the vast majority of drains in Weston are blocked. County Councillor Jarvis stated that he had asked HHs to look again at the drains in Damask Green Road due to flooding. Councillors wished to take this opportunity to thank Hilary Bailey for undertaking ditch clearance. Excellent piece of work on her part.

2021/01/009

HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING:

a. Friars Road parking – County Councillor Jarvis confirmed that the work had started but was progressing slowly. The white lining may be an issue with parked cars being in the way, it is hoped that residents will move them as required.

b. Post Office Row signage and lighting – It was reported that a vehicle travelling quickly entered Post Office Row from the wrong direction brushing against a resident crossing the road. It is understood that the driver did not see the No Entry signs as there is an issue with the signage lighting. The lighting issues have been reported to Herts Highways.

2021/01/010 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

a.Friars Road verge damage – A resident has contacted the Council regarding the verge damage at the entrance to Friars Road. They have requested that rails be installed, similar to those on the opposite side of the road. County Councilor Jarvis **agreed** to investigate the cost for rails to ascertain whether it may be feasible to do. The Council asked him to include the rails in a future HCC work plan.

b.Vacant property (The Snipe) – County Councillor Jarvis stated that he had contacted Environmental Health (EH) who are investigating the matter however at present their time is limited due to undertaking work with a higher priority. They are aware that abandoned houses are an issue and he will continue to liaise with the EH. He further reported that there is nothing that can be done from a planning point of view.

c.20s Plenty nationwide scheme – The Chairman reported that as agreed at the December meeting he had written to the group. A response has been received regarding a working group they have. Councillor Hale offered to join the group.

d.Security in car park – Councillor Moody stated he had contacted the Police regarding complaints received from residents of anti- social behaviour in Weston car parks. The Police have placed signs in one car park stating that the area is being watched.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and then closed the zoom meeting at 9:14pm with the next meeting being held on Thursday 28th January 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.....