

WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held via zoom video conferencing on
Thursday 11th March 2021 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 (from 7:48pm)
Councillor Rob Noble
Councillor Vicky Patmore

IN ATTENDANCE: Lorraine Ellis (Clerk)

2021/03/026 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

County Councillor Steve Jarvis.

2021/03/027 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

2021/03/028 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:

Councillors Cherry and Hale declared an interest in the planning application at Tilekiln Farm Lodge and would take no part in the discussion.

2021/03/029 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th FEBRUARY

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.

2021/03/030 PLANNING:

Applications:

Tilekiln Farm Lodge, Weston Road, Weston – Retention of stable building and use of land as equestrian use. **No objection.**

NHDC Decisions:

Land adjacent to driveway to Amberley & Everglades, Maiden Street, Weston – Erection of one 2-bed bungalow including parking, landscaping and amenity space. **Planning Inspectorate overturned NHDC's objection and granted permission.**

Fairclough Hall Farm, Halls Green, Weston – Erection of agricultural storage barn adjoining existing agricultural building. **Prior approval not required.**

Far End, Maiden Street, Weston – Low level balanced flue to be added to gable end servicing a new boiler in kitchen. **Permission granted.**

11 Halls Green, Weston – Two storey side extension and insertion of roof light to existing rear elevation roof slope. **Conditional permission.**

2021/03/031 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

a.Cheque signing and accounts for March 2021 - The accounts for March for £868.76 were duly approved.

b.Barclays Bank mandate – The Clerk reported that the bank's documentation had been signed to enable the Chairman to become a signatory on the Council's bank accounts. Once this has been agreed by the Bank the Clerk will apply for internet banking.

c.Reserve's Policy & Asset register – Councillor Noble reported that he had reviewed the play equipment in both play areas and had graded them into four

areas. There were a total of 18 items that should be dealt with, however no estimated costs were available at present. It was **agreed** that Councillors Noble and Schofield would identify what parts needed replacing and provide a proposal on costs at the April meeting.

It was noted that mole hills and overhanging trees which are an issue. Councillors considered the draft Reserves Policy produced by the Chairman and the funding currently held in earmarked reserves for SNAP, Youth Club and the Weston Passion Play. The Chairman committed to include details of the restrictions to the Restricted Reserve items.

Councillors debated the document and **agreed** the Policy.

d.Financial Risk Assessments – Council considered the risk assessments presented by the Clerk. Council **RESOLVED** that the Financial Risk assessment and the Internal Audit Risk assessment be accepted. The documents were duly signed by the Clerk.

e.NHDC business support grant – Councillors **agreed** that the grant be retained in reserves until such time as suitable projects are identified.

f.Communications and Media – Councillor Patmore reported she was updating the website and had been reviewing the content and when documents could be archived. Councillors and the Clerk to review the website with a view to making decisions on these points at the April meeting. Councillor Patmore and the Clerk to ensure that a central protected document of Council access information is provided.

h.Correspondence – Duly noted.

Councillor Mason noted that a resident had indicated an issue with dog fouling; she was also concerned that there appeared to be an increase in the amount not being removed. She offered to produce a strategy document for the April meeting on how to deal with dog fouling.

Councillor Patmore reported that she had received a flyer regarding future road closures in Maiden Street and Halls Green. It is understood that access will be available similar to the recent road works undertaken in Fore Street.

2021/03/032

NEW HOUSING STRATEGY:

Nothing to report at this time.

2021/03/033

VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE:

a.Traffic management plan update – It was noted that County Councillor Jarvis was in discussion with Hertfordshire Highways. Councillor Hale stated that the 2021/22 Police & Crime Commissioner's road safety fund was open for another year. He **agreed** to resubmit the previous bid with a number of amendments.

b.Footpath maintenance and working parties – Councillor Evans stated that some paths needed attention. Also the ground at the kissing gateways was muddy and needed building up with stone chippings. She **agreed** to put forward a proposal as to a suitable date to undertake the work.

Councillor Moody **agreed** to provide cost estimates for the required materials.

The Clerk to ascertain whether the Parish Path Partnership (P3) grants system was still operational.

c.Weston Village tidy-up – It was reported that a large number of residents had been involved and they were aware of the availability of the litter grabbers with some purchasing their own for future use. The Council would like to record its thanks to everyone who helped.

Councillor Mason reported the presence of a large amount of rubbish in the ditch and hedgerow along Damask Green Road between Woodlands Meade and Marlborough Close. The Chairman to contact Settle to request that it be cleared.

- 2021/03/034** **RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES:**
a. Annual sports club rent reviews – Councillors considered the current rental charges applied to the football, rugby and tennis clubs. Agreement was reached to increase the rental to £500 pa for football, £375 for rugby and £430 for tennis. However, in light of the lack of use during 2020 due to Covid-19 the following charges will be levied for the next 12 month period: football £300, rugby zero and tennis £420
b. Recreation Ground electricity charges – It was reported that electricity charges are usually shared between the various clubs using the pavilion and changing rooms. The standing charge represents a significant proportion of the annual costs, the allocation of charges is difficult for 2020 given that the various club’s uses of the facilities varied enormously. Councillors therefore **agreed** that the PC would pay the charge for that period of approximately £200.
Councillors discussed whether the PC should permanently administer the allocation of electricity charges rather than the tennis club as at present. As the tennis club is currently in a beneficial fixed-rate contract it was **decided** to review the situation again at the end of the current contract.
- 2021/03/035** **HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING:**
a. Friars Road parking – It was noted that the white lining was still outstanding due to the presence of parked cars.
b. Post Office Row signage and lighting – It was reported that although a new post had been installed the light had not been fitted. The Clerk to liaise with HCC to ensure that the work is completed.
- 2021/03/036** **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**
a. Vacant property (The Snipe) – Nothing to report at this time.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and then closed the zoom meeting at 9:16pm with the next meeting being held on Thursday 8th April 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.....