

WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held via zoom video conferencing on
Thursday 12th November 2020 which commenced at 7:35pm

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)

2020/11/081 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

None.

2020/11/082 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None.

2020/11/083 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:**

None.

2020/11/084 **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 8th OCTOBER 2020:**

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

2020/11/085 **PLANNING:**

Applications:

Friends Green Farm, Friends Green, Damask Green Road, Weston – Creation of vehicular access. **No objection, subject to the footpath being relocated with sufficient width provided for simultaneous use by vehicles and pedestrians with proper footpath signage amended accordingly.**

NHDC Decisions:

Weston Water Tower, Mill Lane, Weston – Upgrade existing telecommunications equipment. Installation of 1 no.600mm dish antenna and development ancillary thereto. **No objection.**

Lannock Manor Farm, Hitchin Road, Weston – Change of use of existing barn to meat packaging unit with associated parking. **Permission granted.**

Friends Green Farm, Friends Green, Damask Green Road, Weston – Change of building usage from livery yard to car showroom and single storey 3 bed dwelling - **Refused.**

Response to the Government's Planning consultation documents:

Councillor Ludbrook reported that the Council's response had been submitted by the due deadline supporting NALC's comments. A copy of NALC's comments will be available for a limited time at:-

<http://www.mailall.co.uk/downloads/NALC.pdf>

Update on Swayne's Cottage – Concern has been raised that a number of historic items from the site may be lost following the sale of the property. Councillor Moody agreed to write to the previous owners requesting their return.

2020/11/086 **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:**

a.Cheque signing and accounts for November 2020 - The accounts for November for £1,800.70 were duly approved.

b. Weston Passion Play Committee funds – Councillor Evans reported that the bank were closing their account. Council **agreed** to hold the funds in their earmarked reserves until they were required by the Committee.

c. Draft budget 2021/22 including grant application - Councillors considered the spreadsheet produced by the Chairman and **agreed** to finalise the budget and grants at the December meeting.

d. NHDC Business Support Grants – Councillors considered the possibility of a community orchard but unfortunately it hasn't been possible to locate a suitable parcel of land. Further consideration will be given to other possible projects at the December meeting.

e. Communications and Media – It was reported that the Church had posted a QR code on social media to enable residents to donate funds to the Church.

f. Correspondence – Duly noted. The Clerk to forward to Councillors the correspondence relating to the Hertfordshire '20s Plenty' campaign group.

2020/11/087

NEW HOUSING STRATEGY:

It was noted that Councillors were disappointed that NHDC had voted recently not to reduce the numbers in the Local Plan.

2020/11/088

VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE:

a. Traffic management plan update – Nothing to report at this time.

b. Xmas tree arrangements – Councillor Mason recommended that an xmas tree be sourced and erected. It was **agreed** that Sunday 6th December was an ideal date for the lights to be switched on. Councillor Mason to produce an article for Weston Parish news (WPNs). It was suggested that residents may wish to erect xmas trees in their front gardens to brighten up the village.

c. Village tidy-up including equipment purchase– It was noted that a number of areas in the village were looking unkempt, it was therefore suggested that a working party tidy some of the hedges. Damask Close residents have made some improvements by removing vegetation and brambles. Some tree work is required with a view to planting a sapling. Council **agreed** the expenditure of £800 for the clearance work.

Councillor Moody to liaise with the contractor to undertake the work.

The Chairman reported that some verge damage had occurred which will need attention.

Councillor Patmore recommended the purchase of litter pickers which could be loaned to residents. The purchase of litter picking equipment was **agreed**. Councillor Patmore to produce an article for WPNs to advertise their availability.

d. Maiden Street/Forge End green – Councillor Moody reported that the clearance work had been completed. A proposal will be put forward at the December meeting recommending the planting of a tree near the PC's noticeboard.

2020/11/089

RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES:

a. Recreation ground damage – Deferred to the December meeting.

b. Jacksons Lane parking – Deferred to December meeting.

c. Future of the dugout – It was noted that the dugout was not being used by the sports teams and it was in a state of disrepair, therefore Councillors **agreed** that it should be removed.

2020/11/090

HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING:

Friars Road/The Snipe parking – Councillor Hale reported that County Councillor Jarvis has committed spending to install 6 parking bays in Friars Road. It is likely that this work will be undertaken in the next financial year.

2020/11/091 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

a.Vacant property (The Snipe) – An update is still outstanding from County Councillor Jarvis on the vacant property in The Snipe.

b.London Luton airport – air traffic route changes – Councillors considered the notification received from LLA and **agreed** that a further discussion should be held at the December meeting. The Chairman **agreed** to provide Councillors with the link to the consultation.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the zoom meeting. The meeting then closed at 9:37pm with the next meeting being held on Thursday 9th December 2020 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. The agenda will be displayed on the noticeboard three days prior to the meetings.

Signed..... Chairman

Date.....