

WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held via zoom video conferencing on
Thursday 8th April 2021 which commenced at 7:32pm

PRESENT:

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

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

2021/04/037 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor Rob Noble (other commitments).

2021/04/038 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

2021/04/039 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:

Councillor Cherry declared an interest in the planning application at Irongate Farm, Halls Green and will therefore not take part in the discussion.

2021/04/040 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th MARCH 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.

2021/04/041 PLANNING:

Applications:

Glebe Cottage, Church Lane, Weston – Erection of one and a half storey detached double garage with first floor use as an office, following demolition of existing detached double garage. **Observation.** The height of the building is difficult to accurately ascertain from the drawings and should be confirmed before planning permission is granted. The Chairman to ensure that the Church Wardens are aware of the application.

11 Hitchin Road, Weston – Erection of detached double garage following demolition of existing detached garage. **No objection.**

Irongate Farm, Halls Green, Weston – Change of use of existing agricultural barns to B8 storage. **No objection.**

NHDC Decisions:

The Vicarage, Church Lane, Weston – Erection of side extension creating garage and car port 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. **Permission granted.**

2021/04/042 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

a. Cheque signing and accounts for April 2021 - The accounts for April for £1,312.41 were duly approved.

b. Barclays Bank mandate – It was reported that one of the signatories was required to confirm to the bank that their signature had changed over time. This will be actioned as soon as possible.

c. NHDC Business Support Grant proposal – Councillor Moody presented his proposal to Council for the introduction of 12 benches, some of which could be sponsored. This proposal is to be advertised and residents invited to

undertake the sponsorship of a number of the benches and providing an indication of where the bench could be sited.

It was also agreed that a wheelchair accessible picnic bench should be purchased with a possible location site being close to the Church car park. Agreement would be required from the Church. A litter bin would also be obtained.

Council wished to take this opportunity of thanking two land owners for permitting the use of to their land for these benches.

Councillor Hale left the meeting at this juncture (8:10pm).

d. Weston Voices project – It was agreed that an update on the project was required. The Clerk to contact the project leader.

e. Annual Parish Meeting date – It was noted that zoom meetings may not be permitted after 7th May, Government is currently being lobbied by numerous County Councils and NALC. Council therefore agreed to change the date of the APM to Thursday 6th May. County Councillor Jarvis stated that the Law indicates that an APM needs to be held. The Council are therefore complying with the Law to meet their obligations. The Chairman to prepare a note for Weston Parish News to update residents on the situation. An informal APM meeting will be held later in the year when lock-down restrictions have been fully lifted.

The Annual meeting and Council meetings scheduled to take place on 13th May will be brought forward to 6th May.

f. Financial Year-end procedures 2020/21: The Clerk reported that the year-end documentation had been received from the external auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP with a deadline for completion of 2nd July 2021.

g. Communications and Media – Councillor Patmore reported she had received a number of financial documents from the Clerk for the website ensuring that the Council are compliant on what is required to be displayed. The Chairman indicated that the domain name was due to expire. It was agreed that a ten year subscription should be obtained.

It was reported that there was a good turn-out on Foodbank collection day; it was pleasing to note that Weston is a high provider of supplies and many are astonished at the generosity of residents. Councillor Moody offered to prepare a note for WPNs thanking all those involved.

h. Correspondence – Duly noted.

The Chairman reported that he was reviewing the annual insurance documentation and would provide a recommendation at the May meeting.

The Clerk's letter of resignation was acknowledged and Council were moving forward to advertise the post.

2021/04/043

NEW HOUSING STRATEGY:

County Councillor Jarvis reported that the LP Inspector had issued his report to NHDC and not indicated any specific changes to any of the main sites.

Further consultation will take place in the summer.

2021/04/044

VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE:

a. Traffic management plan update – County Councillor Jarvis reported that the results of the commissioned work were still outstanding. He will continue to pursue the matter.

b. Footpath maintenance and working parties – It was noted that some paths needed attention and stabilising. It was agreed a supply of MOT and linings would be purchased and a date for the working party will be set. All such projects should be shared with the community.

c. Dog fouling strategy – Councillor Mason outlined her proposal to combat Weston's dog fouling issue. It was agreed that stencils and spray paint should be purchased in addition to bin stickers advising that dog waste can be placed

in street litter bins. A maximum purchase of up to £100 was agreed. A general note to be produced to say ‘thank you’ for those who continue to clear up after their dog and to indicate how we are trying to tackle the problem.

It was noted that a resident had supplied dog waste bags in the village, Council have thanked the resident for her initiative and for her community spirit.

d. Street litter bins including litter in Damask Green Road: The Chairman reported that he had contacted Settle to request that the litter in the ditch along Damask Green Road be cleared.

The Clerk reported that a resident had requested the installation of a street litter bin in Halls Green. The Clerk to request that NHDC consider this request during their current review of street litter bins.

e. Verge damage: It was noted that Herts Highways’ contractors have caused damage to a number of verges in the village. HCC are aware of the situation and are pursuing their contractors for them to remedy the situation. It was further noted that Royal Mail vehicles regularly park their vehicles on the verges.

2021/04/045

RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES:

a. Play equipment proposals – The Chairman reported that in his view the play equipment in The Snipe did not need any attention. There were a number of minor issues with the equipment in the recreation ground. Councillors **agreed** that the Chairman should proceed with the repairs to the swing and seats as required.

2021/04/046

HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING:

a. Friars Road parking – It was noted that the white lining was still outstanding due to the presence of parked cars. It is possible that an attempt may be made to undertake the work in two parts thereby not requiring that the site be fully vacated.

b. Post Office Row signage and lighting – The Clerk reported that the HCC Assistant Highways Manager had advised that the necessary work was scheduled to be carried out. No date was indicated.

2021/04/047

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Vacant property (The Snipe) – It was reported that the rubbish at the rear of the property had been removed. There was however a wheelie bin that still needed to be emptied.

b. Possible Councillor vacancy: The Chairman reported that a Councillor had indicated that he could be moving out of the area in the near future.

c. Stone on Village Green: It was reported that a large stone had been placed on the village green, Councillors wished to thank Ben Wilson Mick Wall for their help.

d. New dog waste bin: Councillor Tim Moody was thanked for installing the new dog waste bin at the recreation ground.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and then closed the zoom meeting at 9:16pm with the next meeting being held on Thursday 6th May 2021 at 7:30pm via zoom video conferencing. The agendas will be displayed on the noticeboard prior to the meetings.

Signed..... Chairman

Date.....