

# WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Weston Parish Council held in the Marquee, The Rising Sun, Halls Green on THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7:30pm

**PRESENT:** Alistair Schofield (Chairman) John Cherry (Vice-Chairman) Judith Evans  
Steve Ludbrook Claire Mason Tim Moody  
Rob Noble Vicky Patmore

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Kelly Johnson (Clerk). No members of the public attended the meeting

2021/07/082 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr. Hale (Other commitments)

2021/07/083 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

2021/07/084 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr. Cherry declared an interest in the planning application Ref: 21/01615/FP.

2021/07/085 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** Minutes of the meeting held on 20/6/21 were approved and duly authorised by the Chairman.

2021/07/086 **PLANNING**

- **Application: Change of use of existing barn to Ice Cream production and storage.** Lannock Manor Farm, Hitchin Road, SG4 7EE (Ref: 21/01615/FP). **No objection.**
- **Application: Erection of detached shed following demolition of three existing detached sheds.** The Long Cottage, Green End, SG4 7AL (Ref: 21/01772/FPH). **No objection.**
- **Application: Raise roof ridge height of existing detached garage to form a two storey building with storeroom over garage and erection of external staircase.** Reservoir Cottage, Hatch Lane, SG4 7EB (Ref: 21/01883/FPH). **No objection.**
- **Application: Erection of a one and a half storey detached double garage following demolition of existing detached single storey double garage (as a resubmission of planning permission 21/01026/FPH refused on 25.05.2021).** Glebe Cottage, Church Lane, SG4 7DJ (Ref: 21/01931/FPH). **Members unanimously agreed to write in support of the application due the possibility the development creates for installing lighting and CCTV cameras overlooking the church car park with a consequential reduction in antisocial activities.**

**NHDC Decisions:**

- **Friends Green Farm, Damask Green Road, Weston (20/02590/LBC).** Replace 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 two-bedroom dwelling house. **Refused**

2021/07/087 **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

a. Cheque signing. The following items were approved for payment:

Playdale	Replacement cradle seats	£465.24
Information Commissioner	Data Protection fee	£40.00
Letchworth Foodbank	Forwarded grant	£100.00
Martin Sheds	Picnic benches	£300.00

- b. Clerical Services to the Council. Cllr Schofield confirmed that a voicemail service had been purchased for the council at a cost of £5 per month and a Quickbooks pilot was being undertaken by the Clerk for 4 months at a cost of £2 per month. Cllr Schofield recommended and members agreed that the council should purchase an up-to-date edition of the book that sets out the law governing all councils known as Arnold Baker on Local Council Administration at a cost of £150. Clerk to organise.
- c. Foodbank grant. Cllr Moody confirmed that a cheque for £100 has been passed to the Letchworth foodbank Ref: 2021/05/065(j)
- d. Communications and Media. Nothing to report.
- e. Parish Meeting Part II. Members agreed to organise the meeting for later in the year. Cllr Schofield to suggest dates late Sep/Oct.
- f. First Aid Training. Cllr Mason reported that she had been in contact with Hearn Training and is awaiting a proposal from them.
- g. Village Hall Representative. Members unanimously supported the nomination of Mrs Gillian Perkins.
- h. Correspondence:
  - Councillors have been contacted by a number of residents expressing concerns regarding flagrant breaches of planning regulations at Friends Green. The Council has written to Mr I Fullstone, Service Director – Regulatory, NHDC and received assurances that enforcement notices are being prepared.
  - Letter sent to Mr M Kemp, HCC Director of Environment and Infrastructure, regarding flooding in Damask Green Road
  - Email sent to Mr T Ayres of NHDC requesting that dog bin emptying contractor does not drive onto recreation ground. Reply confirming that they will be advised accordingly.
  - Complaint regarding excess grit and dust on the new road surface adjacent to the Red Lion on Damask Green Road. Email sent to highways requesting it be cleared on 23/6/21 and chased again on 6/7/21.
  - Notification of the completion of the consultation process regarding the London Luton Airport arrival routes airspace change. The final designs are being submitted to the CCA for approval and can be viewed on the CAA’s portal: <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?pID=51>

**2021/07/088**

**PROJECTS**

- a. Weston Walkabout project. Cllr Moody reported that the benches are scheduled for delivery later in July and that he has a number of volunteers ready to install them.
- b. Celebration of Normality. Cllrs Mason and Patmore confirmed that good progress is being made in organising the event.
- c. Community Wood Proposal. Nothing to report.
- d. Queen’s Platinum Jubilee 2022. National; celebration scheduled for extended weekend 2-5 June ’22. Cllrs Mason and Patmore agreed to begin planning once Celebration of Normality completed. Cllr Schofield to investigate road closure requirements.
- e. Weston Voices. Cllr Schofield is continuing to chase the organisers of this project for an update.

**2021/07/090**

**NHDC LOCAL PLAN:** Nothing to report.

**2021/07/091**

**VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE**

- a. Footpath Maintenance. Cllr Evans reported that she had done some cutting back of vegetation along to path from School Lane and path from church to the Rec. More extensive clearance work will take place later in the year once the bird nesting season is over.
- b. Damask Green Road flooding. It was noted that during the heavy rains on 18<sup>th</sup> June one house flooded and another came within millimetres of being flooded. Cllr Schofield wrote to Mr M Kemp, Director of Environment and Infrastructure, HCC on 21<sup>st</sup> June to escalate the issue as it was entirely caused by blocked road drains.

HCC are investigating the matter and have committed to report back by the 13<sup>th</sup> July.

- c. Reported items:
- Overflowing bin reported in Friars Road.
  - Overgrown footpath at back of Friars Rd/The Snipe: Following various emails from residents and the PC and a meeting between a Settle Directors and the PC 22/6/21, the path has now been cleared and we are assured that it has been added to NHDC's regular maintenance schedule.
  - Fallen 'Unsuitable for HGVs' sign (Ref: 401002023369) chased. Response: 'Under review'.
  - Members of the public notified the PC that a number of footpaths were becoming overgrown with nettles. Response: The reported areas have been strimmed/cut.
  - Following previous reports of verge damage, Cllr Moody commented that Highways appear to have done an excellent job of repairing the verge on the entrance to Damask Close.
  - Several residents have commented on the overgrown road verges around the village. The policy of HCC is to leave verges to grow as a haven for wildlife, to allow wild flowers to grow and only cut areas late in the season or where required for road safety. The recent warm and damp weather has caused a growth spurt resulting in some areas requiring a cut being somewhat overgrown. These areas have been reported to Cllr Jarvis.
  - Cllr Moody noted that the bin in Jackson's Lane had fallen over. Members approved expenditure of £300 + fitting costs for a replacement. Cllr Moody to organise.

**2021/07/092      RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES**

- a. Play equipment proposals (2021/03/031c). Cllr. Schofield reported that replacement cradle seats had been delivered and fitted.
- b. Equipment Repairs Rec and Snipe: It was noted that other repairs were needed at the Snipe and Rec play areas. Cllr Schofield had obtained cost estimates for the Snipe play area and identified a potential source of grant funding. Members agreed that the next step was to consult with potential users in The Snipe, Friars Road and Hitchin Road.
- c. Picnic bench request. Members thanked Cllr. Moody for installing the new picnic tables in the play area at the Rec.

**2021/07/93      HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING**

- a. Traffic management plan update (2019/04/043). Consultation document has been posted online and referred to in the parish magazine. It was agreed we should send at least one more reminder on Facebook before the end of July deadline.
- b. Village Gateways and traffic calming. Nothing to report

At the end of the meeting Members wished to acknowledge the generosity of Natalie and Nigel of The Rising Sun for kindly providing a venue for the meeting.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8:57pm with the next meeting being held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. Agendas will be displayed on the Parish Noticeboard 3 clear days prior to meetings.

Signed.......... **Chairman**

**Date 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021**