

# WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Weston Parish Council held in Weston Village Hall THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7:30pm

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Schofield (Chairman) Cllr. Cherry Cllr. Evans

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

**2021/10/121 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr. Patmore, Cllr Moody, Cllr Ludbrook, Cllr Hale and Cllr Noble.

Cllr Hale joined the Meeting at item 2021/10/126f.

**2021/10/122 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None

**2021/10/123 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Cllr Cherry declared in interest in Item 2021/10/125(a).

**2021/10/124 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were approved and duly authorised by the Chairman

**2021/10/125 PLANNING:**

(a) Planning Consultation 21/02693/FPH at Warrens Green Farm Warrens Green Lane Weston Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7ED. Two storey side / rear elevation extension and insertion of ground and first floor windows to existing side elevation. WPC were not quorate for this item due to the Declaration of Interest expressed in Item 2021/10/123. **NO RESPONSE GIVEN.**

**NHDC Decisions:**

(a) 21/01938/LBC Dovecote Barn. LISTED BUILDING CONSENT GRANTED

(b) 21/02362/FPH The Vicarage. PERMISSION GRANTED

(c) 21/02395/LDCLB Brooches Barn. CERTIFIED LAWFUL

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:**

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

- Kelly Johnson. Clerk Salary (September) - £259.56
- Alistair Schofield (Installation of goal 2021/09/115c) - £41.24
- Castle Water 01.07.21 – 31.12.21 - £50.99
- Tim Moody. Steel Pegs (WW2020) - £18.72
- 31.08.21 WPC Finance Report Q2. Report Noted.

**(b) Clerical Services to the Council.** Sections 1-3 of the AGAR have been displayed on the WPC Website.

**(c) Communications and Media.** Digital archive of “Village Affairs”. Action: WPC to establish whether the digitised record is a complete archive of the published magazines.

**(d) Parish Meeting Part II.** The Parish Meeting Part II is due to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. The recipient/recipients of the “Unsung Hero” award that will be presented at this Meeting was unanimously agreed by Council.

**(e) First Aid Training.** 20<sup>th</sup> October at 1915 in the Village Hall. The Clerk reported that a number of bookings had already been received.

**(f) Freedom of Information Request 13.09.21.** It was noted that WPC had received the following request: *“Would you please ensure that any communication between any members of The Parish Council and any other party involved with the proposed development of WE1 (be that NHDC, NHH/Settle and potential developers) is sent to me under The Freedom of Information Act”*. Action: The Clerk to provide a response as per ICO guidelines by 12.10.21. If any other members of the Parish would like a copy of the information provided, please email your request to the Clerk.

**(g) Grant Application. Weston Voluntary Car Services.** Deferred to the November Meeting.

**(h) Private Access to Council Land.** Council noted the NALC Legal Update (August 2021) regarding private access to local council recreation grounds/open space by neighbouring properties. Council noted the requirement to ensure that a right of way, and therefore a legal interest in land, is not created. Action: Cllr Schofield to draft a letter to be sent to the properties affected.

**(i) Council Vacancy.** The resignation of Cllr Mason and Cllr Noble was noted. NHDC have been informed, and a Notice of Vacancy of Office has been prepared / displayed for each vacancy. Action: Cllr Schofield to place an advert in the Parish Magazine.

**(j) Christmas Tree and Celebrations.** Council extended its thanks to Alex Cherry for the kind donation of a Christmas Tree.

**(k) Consultation on how District Councillors should be Elected.** NHDC are changing the way in which District Councillors are elected and are currently undertaking a public consultation on which of two alternative approaches people would prefer. In summary, the choice for Weston is between being represented by 3 councillors with a much broader remit than at present, or stick with something similar to the current situation where we elect one councillor every four years to be our sole representative. The majority view was to support the latter option.. Action: Cllr Schofield to formally respond on behalf of WPC to this effect. Individual responses to this consultation were also encouraged. Details can be found via the NHDC website or email for Clerk for a link. The closing date for the consultation is the 8<sup>th</sup> November

**2021/10/127**    **PROJECTS:**

- (a) **Community Wood Proposal.** Nothing to report.
- (b) **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee 2022.** To be progressed at the Parish Meeting.
- (c) **The Snipe Play Area.** Action: Cllr Schofield to write to NHDC Greenspace Manager outlining the proposals for the play area.

**2021/10/128**    **NHDC LOCAL PLAN:** Nothing to report.

**2021/10/129**    **VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE:**

- (a) **Footpath Maintenance.** Deferred to the November Meeting.
- (b) **Damask Green Road flooding.** Cllr. Schofield has produced a map of all gullies in the village. Individual Councillors to ascertain if gullies are blocked and require reporting to HCC.
- (c) **Reported items:**
  - AF362617169 – Fly Tipping near Green End Cottage.
  - 401002229580 - Junction of Post Office Row and Damask Green Road erosion of “No Entry” markings.
  - Cllr Evans reported the overflowing bins at Munts Meadow, and discussions with Cllr Jarvis. Bin emptying is affected by lack of fuel and driver shortages at present.
- (d) **Overgrown Verges and Hedges.** Ben Wilson has offered a service to residents to assist with the cutting back of private hedges bordering the roads.

**2021/10/130**    **RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES:**

- (a) **Cutting and bailing of wildflower Area.** Council thanked Cllr Cherry for his work in cutting and bailing the wildflower area.
- (b) **Annual Inspection and Risk Assessment of Play Areas.** The Clerk has confirmed with NHDC that both play areas within Weston are to be included within the Annual Inspection and Risk Assessment of Play Areas.

**2021/10/131**    **HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING:**

- (a) **Traffic Calming and Section 106 Monies.** Action: Cllr Schofield to produce a presentation for the Parish Meeting.
- (b) **Winter Salt. No salt required.** Action: The Clerk to contact HCC to ensure the salt bin at Friends Green is on the list to be filled.
- (c) **HCC Speed Management Strategy.** No further action to be taken.

**2021/10/132**    **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.  
Agendas will be displayed on the Parish Noticeboard 3 clear days prior to meetings

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21.08

Signed.......... Chairman

Date 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021