

WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Weston Parish Council held in Weston Village Hall
THURSDAY 9th December 2021 at 7:30pm

DRAFT

PRESENT: Cllr Alistair Schofield (Chairman) Cllr Judith Evans
Cllr John Cherry Cllr Matthew Hale
Cllr Tim Moody Cllr Steve Ludbrook

IN ATTENDANCE: Kelly Johnson (Clerk).
County and District Councillor Steve Jarvis.
4 members of the public attended the meeting (1 for item 2021/12/150 only)
Jacky Jones and Stewart Clifford joined the Meeting as Councillors from
item **2021/12/146**

2021/12/144 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

None

2021/12/145 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Cllr Moody requested an item on the January 2022 agenda to discuss the future of the Weston Luncheon Club on behalf of a Member of the Public.

2021/12/146 **CO-OPTION TO WESTON PARISH COUNCIL:**

(a) Casual Vacancies. The Council unanimously agreed to co-opt Jacky Jones into the casual vacancy declared on the 17th September 2021 at this meeting. The Council unanimously agreed to co-opt Stewart Clifford into the casual vacancy declared on the 11th October 2021 at this meeting. The Council unanimously agreed to co-opt Alison Williams into the casual vacancy declared on the 24th November 2021 on the 15th December 2021, subject to no election being called between the date of this meeting and the 14th December 2021.

(b) Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Clerk witnessed the signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office by Cllr Jacky Jones and Cllr Stewart Clifford. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office to be signed by Alison Williams and witnessed by the Clerk after the 15th December subject to no election being called between the date of this meeting and the 14th December 2021.

All Councillors were reminded that it is their responsibility to notify the NHDC Monitoring Officer of their interests and keep the Register up to date within 28 days of election or appointment or of any changes.

2021/12/147 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None

2021/12/148 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th November 2021 were approved and duly authorised by the Chairman.

2021/12/149 **ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

(a) 2021/11/137(b). Budget Setting 2022/23. The Clerk to action all points raised and present an updated version for consideration by Council at the December meeting. See Minute 2021/12/151(c).

(b) 2021/11/137(e). First Aid Training. A date of the 22nd March 2022 has been proposed for the next training session. Cllr Jones requested an Agenda item for January 2022 regarding a defibrillator in Halls Green. Cllr Jones to produce a proposal for this Meeting. Cllr Jarvis confirmed that £500 is available to the Parish Council towards the cost of a defibrillator from HCC.

(c) 2021/11/137(f). Grant Applications. The Clerk to write to all applicants to inform them of the Council's decision. Action complete.

(d) 2021/11/137(g). Private Access to Council Land. The Council reviewed the letter drafted by Cllr Schofield to send to residents who have created access points from their properties onto Council land. The purpose of the letter is to prevent a right of access/right of way becoming established in common law. The letter was approved and will be sent to the relevant property owners.

(e) 2021/11/137(k). Remote Meetings Survey (HATPC). The Clerk to submit the Survey by 12th November. Action complete.

(f) 2021/11/138(c). The Snipe Play Area. Cllr Schofield to produce a proposal for public consultation, and to enquire about the availability of funding from the Luton Airport Community and Section 106 monies held by NHDC. See Minute 2021/12/152(c).

(g) 2021/11/140(e) Village Gates. Cllr Schofield to write to HCC Highways to discuss options for repairing / replacing the village gates. See Minute 2021/12/154(e).

(h) 2021/11/142(a). Traffic Calming and Section 106 Monies. Following discussion of the subject during the Parish Meeting, Cllr Schofield to finalise the report ready for circulation / consultation with the village. See Minute 2021/12/156(a).

(i) 2021/11/142(c). Dog Waste Bin in Halls Green. The Clerk to request a litter bin from HCC Highways. See Minute 2021/12/154(c).

2021/12/150 **PLANNING:**

NHDC Decisions:

(a) 21/02609/LBC. 1 The Green, Maiden Street, Weston, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 7HD. Listed Building Consent granted.

Applications:

(a) 21/03201/FP. Full Planning Permission: Single storey detached double garage following demolition of existing detached double garage Glebe Cottage, Church Lane, Weston, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7DJ. No objection.

(b) 21/03124/LBC. Listed Building Consent: First floor rear extension and external alterations including replacement windows and doors. Repairs and internal alterations. Woodvine Cottage, Damask Green Road, Weston, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7DE. No objection.

(c) 21/03123/FPH. Full Permission Householder: First floor rear extension and external alterations including replacement windows and doors. Woodvine Cottage, Damask Green Road, Weston, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7DE. No objection.

(d) 21/02816/LBC. Listed Building Consent: Two replacement doors on the front elevation. Woodvine Cottage, Damask Green Road, Weston, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7D. No objection.

(e) Correspondence. Letter from WPC to Mr S Ellis (NHDC Planning) 19.11.21. This Council has expressed confusion as to why recent WPC planning decisions appear to have been at odds with NHDC. WPC received a response on the 23.11.21. This Council remains unhappy with the explanation and has requested that Cllr Schofield respond reiterating our position.

2021/12/151 **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:/**

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

- Kelly Johnson. Clerk Salary (November) - £259.56
- Bullards (Grass Cutting) - £4,272.08
- Weston PCC (Churchyard Maintenance) - £800.00. Minute 2020/11/086(c) and 2020/12/096(b) refers.
- David Baines (Christmas Electricity) - £60.00
- NHDC (Playground Inspections) - £120.00
- Glasdon (Salt Bin Woodlands Mead) - £196.67
- Tim Moody (Christmas Electricity and MOT) - £44.59
- Alistair Schofield (Christmas Event) - £47.56

(b) Membership of The Countryside Charity CPRE. The Council agreed to become members of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England at an annual cost of £60.00. **The Clerk to set up the subscription.**

(c) Budget Setting Financial Year 2022/23. The Council agreed the Budget and the 2022/23 Precept Demand of £21,000. The Council noted that the Precept has therefore remained constant at this level for the third consecutive year. The Council agreed to transfer £8,346 to specific reserves, with the precise allocation to be determined at the financial year end. **The Clerk to apply for the Precept and to publish the 2022/23 Budget on the WPC Website.**

(d) Communications and Media. Nothing to report.

(e) Unknown Tommy Silhouette. The Council agreed to the purchase of an Unknown Tommy Silhouette to be placed on the village green in November each year. The Council agreed to make this purchase in September 2022.

2021/12/152 **PROJECTS:**

(a) Community Wood Proposal. Defer to January 2022.

(b) Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022. A kick-off meeting was held this week.

(c) The Snipe Play Area. The proposal has been circulated to the Community, with residents requested to submit feedback. The Council agreed to progress the proposal. The cost of the proposed equipment and work is £11-12,000. Cllr Schofield confirmed he has applied for a grant from the Luton Airport Community funds.

2021/12/153 **NHDC LOCAL PLAN:** Nothing to report.

VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE:**(a) Footpath Maintenance:**

- Grassy Bottom. Cllr Moody, Cllr Cherry, and Cllr Evans confirmed they have renovated the steps at this location and improved the footpath above the steps. This Council would like to extend their thanks to Mick Wall for his time and help with this task.
- Cllr Moody reported he has spread hardcore in the muddy areas around the two pedestrian gateways on the path from Park Drive to the recreation ground.

(b) Gully Inspections. All Councillors to complete their gully inspection by the January meeting.**(c) Reported items:**

- Dog waste bin at The Recreation Ground. The Clerk confirmed that Tom Ayres (NHDC) had liaised with the contractor directly to get this bin emptied.
- Litter bin on Maiden Street. The Clerk reported that Tom Ayres (NHDC) had referred this to Jeanette Lowden (NHDC). A contract officer has inspected the area and liaised with the street cleaning contractor and has determined all bins are in working order. **Cllr Moody to check the bin.**
- Dog waste bin in Halls Green. The Clerk reported that Tom Ayres (NHDC) had referred this to Jeanette Lowden (NHDC). Jeanette Lowden has requested that this council advise of any littering issues or locations of where is a suitable place for a bin to be placed. NHDC will then monitor the area and ascertain the level of littering issues and if a litter bin is required. **Cllr Schofield to respond.**

(d) Overgrown Verges and Hedges. Nothing to report.

(e) Village Gates. Letter from WPC to Mr A Boucher (HCC) 19.11.21. This Council initiated a conversation on what can jointly be done do to find a solution. This Council considers the gates to be beyond repair and an embarrassment to the village. A response was provided by Gary Henning (HCC). County Councillor Steve Jarvis has indicated that he is willing to earmark some capital budget from his 2022/23 HLB for this project. Gary Henning to provide Cllr Jarvis with the cost of each pair of Gateways (6 pairs in total), including the removal and disposal of existing and provision and installation of new by the HCC Term Contractor, Ringway Infrastructure Services. HCC to confirm in early in 2022 if there is sufficient capital budget to replace any, some, or all of the Gateways.

RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES:**(a) NHDC Playground Reports.**

- Annual Inspection of The Snipe Play Area by NHDC. Three moderate risks were identified in relation to the Activity Trail, which will be remedied by the proposal for new equipment. All other items are deemed low risk or very low risk.
- Annual Inspection of The Recreation Ground (Jacksons Lane) by NHDC. Two moderate risks were identified in relation to the basket swing. All other items are deemed low risk or very low risk. NHDC recommends a further inspection of the Activity Trail. **Cllr Moody to inspect the equipment.**

2021/12/156 HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING:

(a) Traffic Calming and Section 106 Monies. **Cllr Schofield to finalise the report.** A draft to be sent to Cllr Jarvis prior to circulation / consultation with the village.

(b) Salt Bin at Woodlands Mead. The bin has been installed and filled with salt provided by HCC. This Council would like to extend its thanks to Cllr Cherry for providing storage for the surplus bags of salt.

2021/12/157 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 13th January 2022 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Agendas will be displayed on the Parish Noticeboard 6 clear days prior to meetings.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21:15

Signed..... Chairman

Date.....