

WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Weston Parish Council held in Weston Village Hall
THURSDAY 14th April 2022 at 7:30pm

DRAFT

PRESENT: Cllr Alistair Schofield (Chairman) Cllr Judith Evans
Cllr John Cherry Cllr Stewart Clifford
Cllr Tim Moody Cllr Alison Williams
Cllr Matthew Hale

IN ATTENDANCE: Kelly Johnson (Clerk)
County and District Councillor Steve Jarvis
4 Members of the public

2022/04/037 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**
Apologies were sent by Cllr Jacky Jones and Cllr Steve Ludbrook

2022/04/038 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**
Item 9(d): Maintenance of the Village Pond. Two members of the public (Chris Sharp and Holly Robinson) kindly offered to form a working group to generate proposals for the appearance and maintenance of the pond. The working group to be promoted via Facebook and to submit proposals to the Parish Council for consideration. Residents wishing to get involved should contact Chris and Holly by email at hollyrobinson@rocketmail.com.

Item 5(a): Planning Application 22/00673/FPH. Wixden, Fore Street, Weston, SG4 7AS. The applicant informed the council that they were intending to amend the plans with a half hip end to the roof at both ends of the property.

Item 9(a): Footpath Maintenance. Cllr Evans reported that Rights of Way (HCC) confirmed that footpaths are not the remit of the Parish Council, and issues should be reported directly to HCC. Cllr Evans to produce a brief article for WPN and Facebook page to inform people how issues can be reported.

2022/04/039 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**
Cllr M Hale declared an Interest in item 5(a) 22/00594/FP. Unit 1 Ash Tree Barn, Fairclough Hall Farm, SG7 7DP and item 5(a) 22/00597/FP. Forest Barn, Fairclough, Hall Farm, Halls Green, SG4 7DP.

2022/04/040 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**
The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th March 2022 were approved and duly authorised by the Chairman. The draft minutes as published in the WPN incorrectly stated that a grant of £100 had been given to WVCS. The correct value of the grant of £250 is now recorded in the Minutes.

2022/04/041 **PLANNING:**
(a) Planning Applications:

- 22/00673/FPH. Wixden, Fore Street. No objections subject to the introduction of the half hip amendment to the plans referred to by the applicant.
- 22/00688/FPH. Reservoir Cottage, Hatch Lane. No objections.
- 22/00594/FP. Unit 1 Ash Tree Barn, Fairclough Hall Farm. No objections.
- 22/00597/FP. Forest Barn, Fairclough, Hall Farm. No objections.

(b) NHC Decisions Notices:

- 21/03326/FP. Old Farm, Fore Street, Weston SG4 7AS. Permission granted.
- 21/03352/FP. Friends Green Farm, Weston SG4 7BU. Permission granted.

Council noted that a new vehicular access point has been created at Friends Green Farm for which there has been no planning application. Council to write to both North Herts Planning and also to Oliver Heald MP to request his support in affording Councils greater powers to enforce planning regulations.

2022/04/042 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:/

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

• Clerk Salary (March 2021)	£259.56
• The Fun Firm (Jubilee Project)	£500.00
• Project H (First Aid Awareness 29.03.22)	£100.00
• HAPTC (Annual Subscription 01.04.22 – 31.03.23)	£522.22
• HAPTC (Introduction to Local Councils Training)	£42.00
• Grant (2021/11/137f). Weston Music Society	£600.00
• Grant (2021/11/137f). Weston Saturday Book Exchange.	£750.00
• Aspire Electrical. (Minute 2022/03/034)	£313.20
• David Ginn. Emptying of bins at recreation ground.	£250.00
• Castle Water. Water charge Q1 and Q2 2022	£52.43

b) **Grant (2021/11/137f).** The transfer of £250.00 to a specific reserve for the Weston Voluntary Car Service was confirmed. WVCS have separately transferred £33.76 to the WPC account. The total reserve at the date of this meeting is £283.76

c) **To Agree the Reserves at 31.03.22.** This Council agreed the Reserves at 31.03.2022 as per the document “Weston Parish Council Reserve Allocation March 2022”.

d) **Annual Parish Meeting.** Provisionally to be held on Tuesday 14th June. Themes to include the remit of the Parish Council and Community involvement.

e) **VAT Claim 01.04.21 – 31.03.22.** The Clerk confirmed that the VAT claim for the period is £3,109.76.

f) **2021/22 Annual General Accounting Return (AGAR).** The Clerk / RFO confirmed that the Internal Audit process had begun. The Clerk / RFO to prepare Section 1 and Section 2 of the AGAR for consideration and approval at the next meeting.

g) **Review Insurance Policy and Cover.** To add the wildflower board at the recreation ground to the insurance schedule. The revised cost of the premium to be considered at the next meeting.

h) **Bench Sponsorship.** A resident has expressed a desire to sponsor a bench and a number of options have been offered. A decision is awaited.

2022/04/043 **PROJECTS:**

- (a) **Community Wood Proposal.** No updates.
- (b) **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee 2022.** The working party continue to meet.
- (c) **The Snipe Play Area.** The grant application for £10,000 to the London Luton Airport Community Trust Fund was submitted in January. The application is scheduled to be reviewed in April.

2022/04/044 **NHC LOCAL PLAN:** Nothing to report.

2022/04/045 **VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE:**

- (a) **Footpath Maintenance.** Please refer to the public participation session.
- (b) **Gully Inspections.** Cllr Schofield presented the Minutes of a meeting between Ringway and Weston PC, also attended by Cllr Steve Jarvis. Investigative work to commence in Mill Lane and Hitchin Road in June.
- (c) **Reported items:**
 - Pavement damage at The Snipe - AF398512618. Cllr Steve Jarvis to progress.
 - Dog waste bin Halls Green. Defer to the next meeting.
- (d) **Maintenance of the Village Pond.** Please refer to public participation session.
- (e) **Ukraine Refugees.** Defer to the next meeting.

2022/04/046 **RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES:**

- (a) **Youth Club Storage Facilities.** This Council agreed to release the restrictive reserve of £1,478.00 currently held for “youth development purposes within the village”. The funds are to be used for additional storage to support the youth club.
- (b) **Electrical Safety Test.** A domestic electrical installation condition report has been prepared for the Weston Village football/tennis changing cabins/units. The next inspection will be required in March 2027.
- (c) **Damage to Pavilion Veranda.** Quotation received from DL Property Service of £1,760. This Council waived the Financial Regulation to obtain 3 quotations in order to progress this repair quickly to mitigate the risk of escalating timber prices.

2022/04/047 **HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING:**

- (a) **Traffic Calming and Section 106 Monies.** Cllr Schofield to draft a report to planning.
- (b) **Village Gates.** This Council agreed to fund a seventh gate at a cost of £1,200. The total cost for the project is £21,200 with WPC paying £6,200 and the balance coming from funds controlled by Cllr. Steve Jarvis.

2022/04/048 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday 12th May 2022 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 21:19

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

Date 12th May 2022