

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WESTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 10th November 2022
7:30pm at Weston Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Alistair Schofield (Chair) Cllr Tim Moody Cllr Stewart Clifford
Cllr Judith Evans Cllr Alison Williams Cllr Jacky Jones

IN ATTENDANCE: Kelly Buckle (Clerk)
County and District Cllr Steve Jarvis

2022/11/115 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Steve Ludbrook, Cllr John Cherry and Cllr Matthew Hale

2022/11/116 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

2022/11/117 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

2022/11/118 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th October were approved and duly authorised by the Chairman.

2022/11/119 PLANNING

- a) As at the date of this meeting the following applications have been received:
- 22/02742/LBC at Glebe Cottage Church Lane SG4 7DJ. No objection. Clerk to respond
 - 22/02741/FPH at Glebe Cottage Church Lane SG4 7DJ. No objection. Clerk to respond
 - 22/01661/FP Land adjacent to Pencroft, Maiden Street SG4 7BG. Objection. Clerk to respond citing the reason being the same as for the previous application.
 - 22/02883/FP Friends Green Farm, Friends Green SG4 7BU. The Clerk to request an extension until after the December meeting.
- b) NHC Decision Notices. None.

2022/11/120 FINANCE, GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- a) Cheque Signing. The following items were approved for payment:
- Clerk Salary (October 2022) - £259.56
 - Blue Badge (WVCS Reserve) - £10.00
 - Stewart Bullard & Son Limited (Grass Cutting) - £3,729.62
- b) The following Grant Applications for 2023/24 were discussed:
- Weston Voluntary Car Services- Grant of £250 approved.
 - Cherry Tots. Cllr Schofield to request further information from the applicant. Deferred to the December agenda.
 - Weston Village Hall. The Village Hall Committee wish to provide small grants to people and organisations arranging events to celebrate the centenary of the Village Hall. Council agreed to provide match funding up to a limit of £1,000 with all costs split 50/50 between the Village Hall and WPC.
 - Weston Table Tennis Club. Council agreed to provide 50% of the grant straight away. A Payment of £640.00 approved to be processed by the Clerk. WPC to review membership levels at the start of the 2023/24 financial year.
 - Luncheon Club. Deferred to the December agenda.
- c) The Q2 Finance Report was circulated. The bank balances at 30.10.22 were £2,735.74 (community account) and £25,048.72 (business account). The Clerk to transfer £5,000 from the business account to the community account.
- d) WPC Reserves Policy 30.10.22. The policy was reviewed and agreed.
- e) WPC Reserves Allocation Policy 30.10.22. The policy was updated with the addition of the Diamond Club reserve monies and associated wording. The total target reserves were agreed.
- f) Budget Setting Financial Year 2023/2024. The draft budget for 2023/2024 and the Clerk's salary were reviewed. The budget will be finalised at the December meeting.

- g) Christmas Tree Lights / Celebrations. It was suggested that the lighting of the Christmas Tree with carol singing could take place on Friday 9th December, with Father Christmas touring the village on the evening of Saturday 10th. Cllr Schofield to liaise with the various parties to arrange with advertising to follow once confirmed.

2022/11/121 PROJECTS

- a) Snipe Play Area. The grass seeding and laying of extra topsoil has been completed.

2022/11/122 NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE COUNCIL (NHC) LOCAL PLAN 2011-2031.

- a) The Local Plan for North Herts was approved for adoption by NHC Councillors at an Extraordinary Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th November 2022.

2022/11/123 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE:

- a) Village pond. A working party to lay grass seed on 19th November. Council will proceed to obtain planning permission to reduce the willow tree.
- b) Village Sign. Deferred to the December meeting.
- c) HRH King Charles III Coronation. A committee is being formed to discuss how to mark this event. If you would like to help or be involved, please contact Cllr Jones via email: Jacky.jones19@yahoo.com.
- d) Internet connection in Halls Green. The carry-on scheme is currently suspended. Cllr Jones to carry out a survey of Halls Green and Warrens Green residents to establish connectivity levels.
- e) Weston Warm Space. Council discussed the possibility of creating a "warm space" in the village. Any residents who are aware of a demand for this type of support are encouraged to get in touch with Cllr Jones at Jacky.jones19@yahoo.com.
- f) Drain Hicks Grove Hill. The Clerk to write to the landowner requesting the hedges between Howells Farm and Walkern be cut back. This will help with maintaining the drain at the bottom of Hicks Grove Hill.
- g) Reported Items:
- This Council thanked Cllr Moody for removing two blockages created by trees on the pathway between the recreation ground and the church.
 - The Tommy Silhouette has been placed on the Village Green for Remembrance Sunday.

2022/11/124 RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES:

- a) Topping Margins in Recreation Ground. Deferred to the December meeting.
- b) Benches. This Council thanks Cllr Moody for fixing the benches to the ground in the play areas.
- c) Bin Emptying. This Council expressed their deep thanks to David Ginn for his work emptying WPC owned bins for a number of years. A payment of £250.00 was approved to be processed by the Clerk. Anyone who may like to take over this job is encouraged to write to the Clerk westonclerk@yahoo.co.uk.

2022/11/125 HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING:

- a) Road safety in Jacksons Lane. As part of a safety inspection at the Village Hall it was recommended that hatched yellow lines be painted on Jackson's Lane outside the fire exits. Council felt this would also help alert drivers to the potential of people stepping out of the building into the road. Council agreed to give the VHC permission to go ahead with the work if they decide to proceed.
- b) Gully and drain work. Following the inspection work carried out earlier in the year in Hitchin Road and Maiden Street and the associated road closures, a variety of problems have been found. This have been added to HCC's Drainage Register and it is hoped that funding for the repairs will be scheduled for the 2023/4 financial year.

2022/11/126 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING Thursday 8th December 2022

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21:48

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

Date **8th December 2022**