

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WESTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023**  
**7:30pm at Weston Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Alistair Schofield (Chair) Cllr Tim Moody Cllr Stewart Clifford  
Cllr John Cherry Cllr Alison Williams Cllr Matthew Hale  
Cllr Steve Ludbrook Cllr Judith Evans

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

**2023/02/013 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Jacky Jones

**2023/02/014 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**2023/02/015 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**2023/02/016 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were approved and duly authorised by the Chairman.

**2023/02/017 PLANNING**

- a) As at the date of this meeting the following applications have been received:
- PL/0310/22 (CM0989). Welfare Building at Weston Sewage Works SG4 7DP. No objection.
- b) NHC Decision Notices:
- 22/03150/FPH 68 Friars Road SG4 7BB. Permission Granted

**2023/02/018 FINANCE, GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

- a) Cheque Signing. The following items were approved for payment:
- Clerk Salary (January 2023) - £297.00
  - Weston Village Hall (Hall Hire 12<sup>th</sup> January) - £12.00
  - North Herts Council. Emptying of Dog Bins 1.4.22-31.3.23 - £564.10. Payment by DD.
  - Alistair Schofield. Expenses – £633.75
  - North Herts Council. Fence for Well - £167.48. Payment by DD.
- b) Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Council Meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting must take place between the 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> June. Cllr Schofield to check the availability of the Village Hall, and to request suggestions for the meeting in the WPN and via FB.
- The Annual Council Meeting (in an election year) must take place on the day when the councillors take office, or within 14 days thereafter. Councillors take office in an election 4 days after the date of the election. Common practice not to count Sundays or bank holidays. This will take place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May.
- c) First Aid Training 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Council approved the donation to Project H of £100. The Clerk to confirm the date / time and the venue.

**2023/02/019 PROJECTS**

- a) HRH King Charles III Coronation. The Coronation is Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Additional activities announced by The Royal Family are "The Big Lunch" (Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May) and "The Big Help Out" (Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May). Cllr Williams to progress ideas and the schedule.

**2023/02/020 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE:**

- a) Internet connection in Halls Green. Deferred to the next meeting.
- b) WPC-owned tree inspection. Cllr Schofield and Cllr Moody have produced an audit of all the WPC-owned trees. The majority of the trees (including the larger trees) were last reviewed in 2020 and therefore no inspection required at present. Cllr Schofield to update the asset register.
- c) Well on the Village Green. This Council to conduct a survey to ascertain (for example) depth, width and measurement of water depth / water quality. The well will then be covered temporarily with a concrete slab. Cllr Hale to obtain a quote for a concrete manhole cover.
- d) Trees at Forge End. The Clerk to obtain a quote from Evolution Tree Works for work to be carried out in the winter months.
- e) Weston Church Clock. The church clock strike mechanism is not working. The Church have requested that this Council make a financial contribution towards its repair. Cllr Schofield to liaise with the Church to understand what the commitment may be and circulate to Council.
- f) Defibrillator. A resident has contacted this Council. After 20yrs as a voluntary Community First Responder with the East of England Ambulance Service, the resident has retired. A defibrillator was purchased via funds raised by the resident, and the resident has kindly arranged for the unit to be given back to the village. Council identified the Village Hall as a possible location for the defibrillator. Cllr Moody to liaise with the Village Hall Committee.
- g) Village Noticeboards. The three noticeboards in the village and the noticeboard in Halls Green are the property of the Parish Council. The boards are for advertising village-based events / activities only. Cllr Schofield to put an article on the WPN clarifying this.
- h) Gritting. Concerns were raised about the lack of gritting on Hatch Lane. Cllr Steve Jarvis explained the minimum gritting requirement is one route to each village, bus routes and a route to each school. Cllr Schofield to write to Hertfordshire County Council to raise this issue.
- i) Annual Litter Pick. Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Cllr Schofield to advertise on FB and noticeboards.
- j) Reported Items. None.

**2023/02/021 RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES:**

- a) Bin Emptying. Job specification provided.
- b) Topping Margins in the Meadow. The Council formally thanked Cllr Cherry for undertaking this task.

**2023/02/022 HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING:**

- a) The Council formally thanked Cllr Moody for replacing the sign at Fore Street.

**2023/02/023 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21:06

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

**Date: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023**