

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WESTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 12th October 2023
7:30pm at Weston Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Alistair Schofield (Chair) Cllr Matthew Hale Cllr Stewart Clifford
 Cllr Jacky Jones Cllr Steve Ludbrook Cllr Alison Williams
 Cllr John Cherry

IN ATTENDANCE: Minutes taken by the Clerk
County and District Councillor Steve Jarvis

2023/10/097 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Tim Moody and Cllr Judith Evans

2023/10/098 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

2023/10/099 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr John Cherry declared an interest in 2023/10/101(a) 23/02086/FP Darnalls Hall Farm.

2023/10/100 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th September 2023 were approved and duly authorised by the Chairman.

2023/10/101 PLANNING

- a) Planning Applications:
- 23/02090/FPH 68 Friars Road SG4 7BB. No objection.
 - 23/02086/FP Darnalls Hall Farm SG4 7AL. No objection.
 - 23/02282/FP Friends Green Farm SG4 7BU. No objection. It was noted that as no development is referenced in this application, a stand-alone diversion request such as this should take the form of a Public Path Order application.
- b) NHC Decision Notices:
- 23/01844/FPH Simons Close SG4 7AS PERMISSION GRANTED. WPC did not receive notification of this Application from NHC and were therefore unable to comment. Cllr Schofield has written to NHC to request an explanation and assurances that such oversights will not reoccur.

2023/10/102 FINANCE, GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- a) Cheque Signing. The following items were approved for payment:
- Clerk Salary (September 2023) - £316.26
 - Weston Village Hall (WVH496) - £12.00
 - Clerks Expenses (WVCS CVS) - £10.00
- b) Weston Guide. The Clerk has written to Weston Church PCC and offered to contribute towards the printing costs of the first batch. A quotation of £190.00 has been received. The guide is currently being updated ready for printing and distribution.
- c) Grant Application Form 2024. The Application form was reviewed and amendments agreed. The closing date for applications is Friday 3rd November. All applications will be discussed at the November meeting.
- d) Weston Village Hall Constitution. This Council currently nominate 3 trustees for the Village Hall. Cllr Schofield to meet with representatives of the Village Hall to discuss. Deferred to the next meeting.

2023/10/103 PROJECTS. Nothing to report.

2023/10/104 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE

- a) Well on the Village Green. Now the water levels have dropped, the well is to be cleaned and measurements taken. Cllrs Schofield, Moody and Cherry to progress.
- b) Defibrillator at Village Hall. This has now been installed. Cllr Schofield to produce an article for the WPN.
- c) Sewage Overflow. Cllr Jarvis reported he had spoken to Thames Valley Water who are aware of this issue. Weston is not currently a priority for remedial work to be undertaken. To be raised again in Q1 2024.
- d) Refurbishment of the Village Sign. Deferred to the next meeting.
- e) Christmas Events. Council allocated a budget of £600 to cover the following events:
 - Lighting of the Christmas tree and carols. Friday 8th December.
 - Father Christmas to tour the village / cheese and wine stations. Saturday 9th December.
 - WPC's contribution to the Church Christmas Tree Festival 8/9/10 December.
- f) Adopt a Kiosk. This initiative only applies to phone boxes currently in situ in the parish. No further action to be taken.
- g) Reported Items (ALL)
 - The broken gate at Halls Green has been repaired (Cllr Jones).
 - Broken style in Recreation Ground has been repaired (Cllr Schofield).

2023/10/105 RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES

- a) Leaking water in toilet at Recreation Ground. Action complete.

2023/10/106 HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING


- a) Hitchin Road safety concerns. The Council would like to erect signs that alert drivers that the road is used by pedestrians. This would be paid for by HCC. Cllr Jarvis indicated this might be possible in the next financial year. To be raised again in Q2 2024.
- a) Overgrown verges impacting on road safety. Cllr Jarvis and Cllr Schofield to progress.
- b) Road narrowing sign on Hatch Lane. The Clerk to check that the missing sign has been reported.
- c) 20mph speed limit. Cllr Jarvis reported that Weston does not meet the current criteria of an average travelling speed of less than 24mph. Clarity is being sought on the best solution where average travelling speeds are between 24mph and 27mph. This Council to raise a petition to be presented to the Highways and Transport Panel.

2023/10/107 MATTERS ARISING

- Council has received confirmation that there is no RAAC problem at Weston Primary school.
- Uncontested Election Fees. NHC have asked for feedback concerning a proposal to charge parishes for uncontested elections. Whilst this Council agree in principle that parish councils should contribute towards this cost, it does not believe this is the optimum way to cover or reduce the overall cost of the process. The Clerk to respond to NHC.
- First Aid Training Day. Cllr Schofield to liaise with Hearn Training and generate options for a date and venue.

2023/10/108 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING Thursday 9th November 2023

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21:24

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

Date: 9th November 2023