

Weston Under Wetherley Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7:30pm,
13th September 2017, St Michael's Church

Present:

Councillor Jeff Arnold (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Jenny Arnold
Councillor Nick Harrington

Councillor Pam Redford (Chairman)
Councillor Wallace Redford

In Attendance:

Jane Chatterton Clerk & RFO

Villagers: 0

30. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

31. Councillor Appointment

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Nick Harrington to the meeting and he completed his Acceptance of Office and DPI forms.

32. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

33. Public participation

There were no members of the public present.

34. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th July 2017 were approved and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

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35. Councillor's reports and items for future Agenda

Reports received from County Councillor Cllr. Wallace Redford and District Councillor Cllr. Mrs Pam Redford.

Councillor W Redford

It was reported that Councillor W Redford had received a letter of complaint in his capacity of both Parish Councillor and County Councillor for the Ward.

The letter stated the opinion that Weston Under Wetherley had some of the most awful pavements around and some villagers felt that they "let the village down". Hunningham, Princethorpe and Cubbington had all had new pavements over the past few years and was requested that Weston join them.

The letter asked that the pavements were repaired in areas of the village where they were bad, in particular, from the church down to the old pub.

Councillor Redford confirmed that he had replied to the email and had also spoken to the surveyor who had agreed to carry out a survey. Feedback to October's meeting with the outcome would be provided.

ACTION: Councillor W Redford to provide an update at October's meeting.

It was also noted that there was a problem with slippage from the fields which caused the pavements to narrow in places, causing a hazard for pedestrians including dog walkers. Resolving the issue was not the responsibility of Highways but lay with the landowners.

ACTION – Agenda item for future meeting.

Speed and Speed Limits

Councillor W Redford reported that concerns were raised at all ward parish council meetings in relation to speeding and requests to reduce speed limits.

WCC had a policy on their website for reference. Villagers with a concern about speeding or wishing to request localised enforcement should, in the first instance, approach the Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams in attendance at their local Community Forum. Meetings were held regularly and dates could be found by visiting

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/communityforums

Broadband

Councillor Wallace Redford circulated information from CSW Broadband with their September update. It was noted that CSW Broadband rollout was progressing well and many more communities now had access to superfast fibre network. Over the next few weeks they expected to be in a position to announce the outcome of the procurement for Contract 3, which was looking extremely positive.

ACTION: Clerk to register parish council email address to receive updates.

WDC Planning Forum

Councillor Pam Redford updated that she would be attending the Planning Forum taking place on Thursday 14th September. The meeting would consider the potential sites identified for traveller sites and included:

- Land abutting the Fosse Way at its junction with the B425
- Land at Tachbrook Hill Farm
- Land off Birmingham Road, Budbrooke
- Brookside Willows, Banbury Road
- Land at Budbrooke Lodge, Racecourse and Hampton Road
- Land at Park Farm/Spinney Farm

ACTION: Further update once outcome known.

Dementia Friendly District

Councillors Pam and Wallace Redford had attended an event run by WCC – “Become a Dementia Friend”. Details were available on the following link.

<https://dementia.warwickshire.gov.uk/dementia-friends-challenge-for-warwickshire/>

Warwickshire County Council and partners were encouraging Warwickshire residents and workers in Warwickshire to become a Dementia Friend during World Alzheimer’s Month (held in September annually).

In Warwickshire, according to latest estimates, there were 7,500 people living with dementia and this was likely to rise to over 11,000 people in the next ten years. The fact was that most of us would be affected in some way by dementia during our lifetimes.

As part of Warwickshire’s Living Well with Dementia Strategy, the Council and partners had set the ambitious target of encouraging 30,000 people to become Dementia Friends.

Thanks to the huge support of people living across Warwickshire they were almost half way to their ambitious target, but still needed 15,500 more people to pledge their support to people with dementia.

ACTION: Councillors and Clerk to log on and complete the course and Become a Dementia Friend. All villagers were encouraged to join in too. Details could be found the parish council website.

36. Correspondence

36.1 Dog Mess

A villager had raised the issue of dog mess on the playing field.

ACTION: Councillor P Redford would request a visit from the dog warden.

36.2 Collapsing playing field fence

Chris Garden (WDC, Site Delivery Officer) had contacted Dave Anderson (Green Space Improvements) asking that the fence be replaced urgently. The base boards were rotted coming away from the fence leaving nails exposed. He had suggested a knee-high replacement which may reduce other issues.

ACTION: Councillor Harrington to progress.

36.3 Save the Queen's Head group

The Queen's Head pub in Cubbington was being sold by New River Retail to a property developer. The group were asking local Parish Councils for their support to help prevent the loss of another public house near to Weston Under Wetherley.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council give their support to the Queen’s Head remaining as a public house.

36.4 Keep our Green Belt Green

Information had been circulated that the group “Keep our Green Belt Green” were applying for a Judicial Review to stop the adoption of the local plans (CCC and WDC) on the basis of the inflated student population not remaining in the City/County.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

36.5 Invitation Warwick District Council

An invitation had been received from Councillor Alan Boad, Chair of the Council to a Supper for Chairmen and Clerks (or deputies) on Friday 17th November.

RESOLVED that Councillors Pam and Wallace Redford and Councillors Jeff and Jenny Arnold would be attending.

37. Finance

37.1 The following payments were approved: -

Payments (Current Account)				
Date	Reference	Payee	Details	Value
31.07.17	BACS	D Moorcroft	Restoration of Assets	£937.00
30.08.17	BACS	J Chatterton	Clerk's Salary August 2017	
30.08.17	BACS	HMRC	August's Tax Payment for Clerk	£117.60
30.08.17	BACS	J Chatterton	Office allowance & expenses August	£10.00
13.09.17	BACS	St Michael's Church	Room Charge July Meeting	£20.00
30.09.17	BACS	J Chatterton	Clerk's Salary September 2017	
30.09.17	BACS	HMRC	September's Tax Payment for Clerk	£89.60
30.09.17	BACS	J Chatterton	Office allowance & expenses September	£10.00
30.09.17	BACS	Wildlife Conservation Group	Grant Application for Wildflower seeds	£150.00

37.2 Transparency Fund

It was reported that the monies had been received from the Transparency Fund.

RESOLVED that the funds be received.

Under the Transparency Code, all meeting papers should also be uploaded to the Parish Council website. This process was time consuming but nonetheless a requirement.

RESOLVED that approval was given for the Clerk to claim (when required) up to an additional 3 hours overtime per month to ensure the parish council were fully compliant.

37.3 Conclusion of Audit

It was reported that the Annual Return for 2016/17 had been received from Grant Thornton. The Audit process for 2016/17 was now complete.

RESOLVED that the notice of conclusion of the Audit be received.

38. Planning

Planning application was discussed for:

Application Reference: W/17/1264

Notification had been received from WDC that the change of use from public house to single residential property. (Resubmission with amended plans) at Weston House, Rugby Road, Weston under Wetherley, Leamington Spa, CV33 9BW had been *GRANTED*

It was agreed that credit was given to Gary Fisher.

39. Hardstanding

Installation of hardstanding under and in front of the bench by Village Hall was discussed.

RESOLVED that Clerk to ask Dave Moorcroft to provide a quotation.

Bench on Sabin Drive

It was reported that the bench on Sabin Drive, opposite the yellow grit bin was in need of repair. The bench was originally placed there in memory of a villager.

RESOLVED that Councillor Harrington would make enquiries to find any living relatives prior to the Parish Council investigating any repair works.

40. Wildflower Planting

The plan and planting list was submitted in July. Tom Mannion had confirmed that WCC had no objection to the planting of wild flowers in accordance with the location on the map submitted which was opposite St Michaels Close and between the bus shelter and BT pole on the Rugby Road for approx 80 metres.

The only condition would be that the planted area would be maintained by the Parish Council and the flowers should not cause any obstruction either physical or visual to the general public.

41. Statement from the Weston Under Wetherley Wildlife Conservation Group – 28th August

A statement had been received from the Wildlife Conservation Group:

“At a recent meeting of the Weston Wildlife Conservation Group, we reviewed progress on our becoming acting participants in the Princethorpe Woodlands Living Landscape Project.

We were mindful of the statement made by the PC at the Annual Parish Meeting:
Statement Concerning Wildlife Conservation Group by Weston Under Wetherley Parish Council:

“The April 2017 village Newsletter contained a report from the Wildlife Conservation Group (p7) claiming that the Parish Council had given its support to the Princethorpe Woodlands Living Landscape Project.

Notification was made that was not the position of the Weston Under Wetherley Parish Council”

The Group recognised that the Parish Council’s position would therefore make it unlikely that we would get support from the Wildlife Trust for the creation of a sustainable wildlife corridor through the village.

Although there is support from more than half of the villagers for the project, the Group has been disappointed by the lack of practical help given. The enthusiasm of our members has been curtailed and we have concluded that we should scale back our efforts and concentrate on the areas where we have already had some success – St Michael's churchyard, and on the bank to its West. We noted though, that even in this last area our efforts have been undermined by the intervention of the County Forestry Team and the Highways department.

We will review the position in a year's time to see whether continuing our efforts is viable."

RESOLVED that the Clerk reply to the group thanking them for their correspondence, that the parish council were sorry to hear that the Wildlife Group was unable to continue and that the Parish Council remained supportive of the Wildlife Group.

42. Trees

The Chairman updated that confirmation had been received that the contractors would replace the 3 trees which were damaged from strimming. When a volunteer(s) had been found to carry out daily and weekly watering to the new saplings, the replacement of the fruit trees damaged by WDC contractors, would be organised.

Another requirement would be to have guards installed to prevent future damage.

RESOLVED

- (i) that local villagers be asked for their support for watering.
- (ii) Dave Moorcroft be asked to provide a quotation to install tree guards.

43. Planters

Discussion of the care and maintenance of the planters at either end of the village took place. It was agreed to advertise for someone to take on this role for a small retainer.

ACTION: Councillor Harrington to progress.

44. HS2 Community Benefit Fund

The Chairman updated on findings for the cost of providing a footway from Weston to Cubbington this request had originated in the Village Plan. It was agreed that further information was required and expert advice from a surveyor to be obtained.

ACTION: Councillors Harrington and Redford to contact surveyors.

45. Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Thursday 26th October 2017** at 7:30pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm