

Weston Under Wetherley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm,
27th September 2018, St Michael's Church

Present:

Councillor Jeff Arnold (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Nick Harrington

Councillor John Hammon
Councillor Jenny Arnold (part – Finance)

In Attendance:

Jane Chatterton Clerk & RFO

Public: 0

40. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pam Redford, Wallace Redford and WDC Councillor Trevor Wright.

41. Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Harrington declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 10, Grant Application.

42. Public participation

There were no members of the public present.

43. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th July 2018 were considered.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes from the meeting held on 18th July 2018 be approved and were signed by the Chairman.

44. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not listed on the agenda.

45. Councillor reports and items for future Agenda

The Chairman read out reports received from County Councillor, Councillor Wallace Redford and District Councillor, Councillor Pam Redford.

It was reported that WCC had now decided that although the verges were unregistered land, the owner of the land adjacent to the verge was the defacto owner of the sub-soil to the middle of the road. The next step was to arrange a meeting with Simon Morton, who it is understood, is the owner of the land from Weston to the Woodyard. If he agreed to support the parish council bid, then the parish council may be one step nearer to being able to complete the first stage.

Councillor Pam Redford was still trying to get an answer from WDC about the lack of cutting on some of the verges. The Conservation group would now only be working on the bank next to the churchyard.

It was reported that Councillor Pam Redford would be taking up a new appointment; representing WDC as the Parish and Town Council Champion, this roll would be to help Parish and Town Councils with any problems, grants etc.

46. Correspondence

46.1 Loss of Liver & Pancreas Surgery at University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire

Notification had been received that the liver and pancreas service including major surgery at University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire (UHCW) was being threatened with closure by commissioners based in Birmingham, unless it submitted itself to a takeover by University Hospital Birmingham (UHB) with plans to downgrade its specialism and utilise it as a subsidiary, UHB would relocate all complex treatments and operations to Birmingham.

It is understood that all centres treating major liver and pancreas conditions were expected to fulfil certain national guidelines including an overall catchment population of circa 2 million.

RESOLVED THAT the Clerk write to the CEO of University Hospital showing their support in saving the service and question the reason for the decision.

46.2 Warwick Rural East Community Forum

It was noted that the Warwick Rural East Community Forum would be held on 10th October 2018 at Baginton Village Hall. Prior to the forum the online vote would go live. Any issues or concerns for the area could be raised.

RESOLVED THAT the information be noted.

46.3 WALC Community Grant Fund

Notification had been received from WALC in relation to the Community Grant Fund. The Fund was open to bids from WALC members.

RESOLVED THAT the information be noted.

46.4 HS2 - Notice of Condition of Highways Survey

Notification had been received from HS2 with dates when they would be carrying out Highway condition surveys on selected roads in Warwickshire. The surveys would assess the condition of the roads and measure traffic volumes for proposed HS2 construction vehicle routes.

The surveys would take place from early October to the end of November 2018. Traffic count equipment would be installed and operated from 1st October to 28th October 2018.

RESOLVED THAT the HS2 update be noted.

46.5 HS2 Information Meetings

The Clerk updated that problems had occurred with the meeting which had been set up by HS2. It was re-iterated the Parish Council did not make the arrangements for the meetings but only circulated the dates and times provided to them.

Concern had been raised via email and on social media by villagers who had wanted to attend a meeting on 20th September, however when they arrived at the advertised time, HS2 were not present. It had been confirmed that HS2 had however, attended earlier that day.

The later time had been requested by the Parish Council to enable villagers who worked the opportunity to attend.

Following the mix up the Clerk had contacted HS2 and the following response had been received:

"I am sorry that this mix-up has occurred and will investigate why times were not updated correctly.

We had booked the venue for a later time at the previous drop-in but on arrival we found we were double booked with a regular yoga class and we referred back to the original timings. This somehow must not have changed on all of the advertised areas and I apologise for that.

We are currently looking at our arrangements for next year and hope to rectify the evening sessions availability either in the village or nearby and will be able to give a longer programme of dates and times soon."

46.5 Unauthorised Encampments

An email had been circulated to all Parish Councils by WALC in relation to unauthorised encampments. A link had been provided for anyone wishing to take part in the petition to the Government. The link could be found at:

www.petition.parliament.uk/petitions/220663

47. Finance

47.1 payments for approval: -

Payments (Current Account)				
Date	Reference	Payee	Details	Value
27.09.18	BACS	J Chatterton	Clerk's Salary August 2018	
27.09.18	BACS	HMRC	August's Tax Payment for Clerk	£89.60
27.09.18	BACS	J Chatterton	Office allowance & expenses August	£10.00
27.09.18	BACS	J Chatterton	Clerk's Salary Sept 2018	
27.09.18	BACS	HMRC	Sept's Tax Payment for Clerk	£
27.09.18	BACS	J Chatterton	Office allowance & expenses Sept	£10.00
27.09.18	BACS	St Michael's Church	Meeting venue July (PAID)	£20.00
27.09.18	BACS	J Chatterton	Reimbursement Ink & Paper	£67.17

RESOLVED THAT the above payments be approved.

48. Application - Grants & Donations Fund

An application had been received to the Grants and Donations fund. The Village Hall Committee were requesting funds for help towards the cost of two items.

The first to purchase a replacement battery for the defibrillator which was situated at the Village Hall and a donation towards the purchase of a Christmas tree to be sited outside the Village Hall.

It was agreed to approve the donation of £200.

RESOLVED THAT that the application be approved.

49. Donation towards Churchyard Mowing

A request had been received from St Michael's Church for a donation towards the mowing cost of the churchyard.

RESOLVED THAT a donation of £500 be made to St Michael's Church towards the mowing costs.

50. Grit Bin (Junction of Sabin Drive and Alderman Way)

A request had been received for the Parish Council to fund the purchase of a new grit bin to be situated on the junction of Sabin Drive and Alderman Way. It was noted that the current grit bin had been damaged for some time and now required replacement.

ACTION: Request be made to WCC.

51. Planning

Nothing to note.

52. Clerk & RFO Position

The Clerk updated that she had now completed the Certification in Local Council Administration and was now a qualified Clerk.

RESOLVED THAT the update be noted.

53. General Power of Competence

It was noted that the General Power of Competence (GPC) was intended to give local authorities (including parish councils) wider powers to deliver more for their communities. The GPC would allow a council to do anything that individuals generally may do, except where other aspects of law may forbid them from doing. It was intended to relieve parish councils of the need to find specific statutory powers to authorise their activities.

It was reported that the Parish Council could confirm that it was eligible to exercise the GPC as at least two thirds of the total number of councillors had been elected (at ordinary or by election), not co-opted and the Clerk now held the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA).

RESOLVED THAT now the Parish Council meet the above conditions, it is confirmed by resolution that it now has the General Power of Competence.

54. Interpretation Board - wildflower bank

Carry over to October's meeting.

55. Weston under Wetherley Reformatory

Further discussion at October's meeting.

56. Neighbourhood Plan

A questionnaire had been hand delivered to villagers asking their views on whether they would like the Parish Council to commence the process for a Neighbourhood Plan.

The closing date for replies had been the 25th September.

It was noted that the replies received from villagers was an overwhelming no to wanting a neighbourhood plan and only one villager had volunteered to be part of the team if it had gone ahead. After discussion it was decided to refer the matter and revisit after May 2019.

RESOLVED THAT for the time being the Neighbourhood Plan would be placed on hold.

57. Grass Cutting

The request for WDC to provide the grass cutting schedule was still outstanding.

ACTION: Contact the Finance Team and request the costings for grass cutting for Weston.

58. Fence around playing field

Councillor Harrington updated that had had been progressing the work to the fence around the playing field. Unfortunately the officer who had been dealing with the work, Jonathan Huxley had moved departments. Councillor Harrington had emailed Dave Anderson, he would also liaise with new officer and organise an on-site meeting to discuss the required work.

St. Michael's Close garages

Councillor Harrington had requested the area of the garages in St Michael's Close be weeded. This had been completed on 11th August 2018 with a good job done.

Top of Sabin Drive

Councillor Harrington had made a further to request to Contract Services for the trees to be pruned that were obscuring the road sign.

Stopcocks

Councillor Harrington updated that on 24th September 2018 he had reported 4 x stopcocks that needed asphalt patching:

Issues could be reported on:

<https://warwickshire.fixmystreet.com/report/1421181>

ACTION: Agenda item for October's meeting to discuss Morgan's Field collapsing into Rugby Road.

59. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 24th October 2018.

Meeting closed at 8:40pm