

Weston Under Wetherley Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.30pm,
26th September 2016, at St Michael's Church

Present:

Councillor Jeff Arnold	Councillor Pam Redford (Vice Chairman) (part)
Councillor Nick Harrington (Chairman)	Councillor Wallace Redford

In Attendance:

Jane Chatterton Clerk & RFO

Villagers: 3

14. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jenny Arnold and John Hammon.

15. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

16. Minutes of previous meetings:

Minutes of the meeting held on 30th August 2016

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 30th August 2016 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

17. Public Participation

The Chairman suspended the standing orders.

Mr Richards had previously emailed the Clerk and asked for consideration to be given to three issues that had been raised by the Parish Plan and the Annual Village Meeting. These were:

1. The reinstatement of the footpath from the "new development" to Hunningham
2. The provision of a footpath/cycleway between Weston and Cubbington as part of the HS2 compensation for communities
3. The provision of an all-weather sports area for young people

Mr Richards was asked to obtain estimated costs for the above for further consideration.

Trees

It was reported that trees had been damaged by a strimmer. The Wildlife Group had now carried out work around the trees to create a grass free area in order to protect the trees around their base.

The Chairman suggested that the Wildlife Group could raise a complaint with WDC about the damage caused by the grass cutting. Photographic evidence would also be helpful.

Licence to Cultivate

Progress was sought on this issue.

Councillor Mr Redford read out a detailed audit trail of emails which clarified the position. WDC had confirmed that the only planting licence that was entered into with the Parish Council was for around the layby opposite St Michael's Church but this work did not go ahead. No other licence had been entered into. WDC would look at any proposals the Parish Council might have dependent upon the location and extent of the planting.

It was also confirmed that an email dated 19th April 2016 from the former Clerk had been sent requesting that WDC take back the responsibility for mowing of the layby in front of St Michael's Church. This followed a request from the people who used the layby as an overflow car park for the church.

To be discussed further as an agenda item prior to the cutting season begins.

The Chairman reinstated the Standing Orders.

Councillor Pam Redford joined the meeting.

18. Warwick District Proposed cuts to Concurrent Services and Council Tax Reduction Grant

It was reported that Warwick District Council were proposing to cut the concurrent services and Council Tax reduction grant. The proposal was to cut this in half next year and then be removed completely the year after. Warwick District Council had pointed out that they were the only District/Borough in Warwickshire that had retained the concurrent service support for Parishes.

If this grant was reduced this would have an impact on the Parish Council's budget, resulting in the need to consider increasing the precept.

It was noted that other Parishes affected were proposing to request that an extended tail off period be granted for up to 4 years.

It was proposed that Councillor Harrington contact WDC requesting a 3 year tail off period.

Proposed: Councillor W Redford Seconded: Councillor Harrington

Resolved: That Councillor Harrington would request a longer period of tail off of 3 years.

19. Policies and Procedures

19.1 Standing Orders

The Clerk had reviewed and updated the Parish Council Standing Orders to take into account any changes in legislation. Any major changes were highlighted in yellow.

Resolved:

- (i) That Councillors consider the Standing Orders and feedback any amendments to the Clerk.
- (ii) The Parish Council Standing Orders be approved and adopted at the next meeting.

19.2 Financial Regulations

The Clerk had reviewed and updated the Parish Council Financial Regulations to ensure that correct processes were followed.

- (i) That Councillors consider the Financial Regulations and feedback any amendments to the Clerk.
- (ii) The Parish Financial Regulations be approved and adopted at the next meeting.

20. Councillor's reports and items for future Agenda

To receive reports from County Councillors, Cllr. Wallace Redford and District Councillors Cllr. Nick Harrington and Cllr. Mrs Pam Redford.

Councillor Harrington

Quad Biking

Councillor Harrington reported that he had emailed Ed King in relation to the issue with quad biking. The advice was that any further incidents should be reported on 101. This was deemed as anti-social behaviour and the police would follow up any further incidents.

Local Plan

It was noted that the public consultation of the local plan started on 27th September and would run until 18th December, this didn't affect Weston Under Wetherley directly as there were no major housing plans but this did affect other wards in the surrounding areas.

Councillor Mrs Redford

West Midlands Combined Authority

Councillor Mrs Redford reported that The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) was a collaboration between local councils. Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton and they had an agreement in principle that they wanted to form a combined authority. Combined authorities were legal bodies and were a new way for local authorities to work together on key strategic functions that cross geographic council boundaries.

It was noted that Warwick District Council were against joining the WMCA.

Councillor Mr Redford

Councillor Redford stated the Country Council's position on the WMCA, no political party had the overall majority in the Council. The Conservatives had the largest group but do not have the majority. The decision was taken at a previous County Council Meeting to become an associate member only, not taken the decision yet to join as a full member at a cost of £500k per year.

They were in the process of dealing with next year's budget. It was reported that funding cuts needed to be found from next year's budget. £60m of cuts on top of the £100m needed to be identified. Each group were discussing where to find the savings. It was noted that it was a very difficult decision to make.

Free Electric Blanket Testing

Warwickshire Trading Standards service were providing free electric blanket testing for over 50s in Warwickshire at the following venues:

Monday 3rd October 2016 – Rugby Library

Tuesday 4th October 2016 – Nuneaton Asda Community Room

Wednesday 5th October 2016 – Leamington Spa Library

Thursday 6th October 2016 – Kenilworth Library

Friday 7th October 2016 – Stratford Briar Croft Residential Home

Community Forum Committee

Councillor Mr Redford who is the Chairman of the Community Forum Committee highlighted that financial support was available for local groups. It was noted that there was still money available for grant applications. The sum available was £5,600 to be allocated at the last meeting of the financial year in February. Any clubs were encouraged to apply.

Warwickshire Association of Local Youth Clubs also had grant money available of up to £10k they would also provide help with completing the application form.

Item to be included in the November Newsletter highlighting the available grants.

Future Agenda Items

- (i) Parish Plan – identify if there is an active Parish Plan
- (ii) Website – decide if the Parish Council has its own website and the running of the website

21. Planning:

An appeal had been made to the Secretary of State against the decision of Warwick District Council to refuse planning permission (Ref. W/16/0280)

Weston House, Rugby Road, Weston Under Wetherley, Leamington Spa, CV33 9BW. Erection of 3no. two storey detached dwellings following demolition of existing public house. Appeal reference: APP/T3725/W/16/3154102 Appeal start date: 13/09/2016

Councillor Harrington confirmed that he would insert into the next Village Newsletter a request for opinion from Weston villagers about the development of former Bull Inn Public House. The owner/developer was appealing the WDC planning decision to refuse redevelopment citing the NPPF and limiting the development in green-belt to 30% of the existing premises. Comments to be made to the Parish Clerk.

Representations about the appeal must be received by the 18th October 2016; it was hopeful that responses were received before the deadline.

It was noted that the former Parish Council supported the proposed development of three dwellings and demolition of the public house.

22. AOB

Councillor Harrington informed the Council that there had been incidents of break-ins to vehicles in Baginton and Bubbenhall, on the afternoon of Saturday 24th September 2016 stealing valuables including SATNAVs.

23. Confidential Session

Members of the public left the meeting to enable the Parish Council to go into Confidential Session.

Signed *SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN*
Chairman

Date 31st October 2016