

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WESTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 14th March 2024
7:30pm at Weston Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr John Cherry (Chair) Cllr Jacky Jones Cllr Steve Ludbrook
Cllr Matthew Hale Cllr Stewart Clifford Cllr Tim Moody
Cllr Judith Evans

IN ATTENDANCE: Minutes taken by the Clerk

1 Members of public up to and including item 2024/03/026.

2024/03/025 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Alistair Schofield.

County and District Councillor Steve Jarvis also sent his apologies for this meeting.

2024/03/026 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of Public raised the following concerns:

- a) Pedestrian safety along Hitchin Road to the junction with the Gravely Road. Further to Minute 2023/12/130 Council to liaise with County Councillor Steve Jarvis to request pedestrian safety signs in the new financial year. Cllr Moody confirmed he had purchased high-vis jackets for residents at Lannock Manor to use when walking into the village. Cllr Cherry to arrange to speak with Lannock Manor regarding resident safety and behaviour.

2024/03/027 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Evans declared an interest in item 2024/03/029 (24/00342/FPH and 24/00482/FP)

2024/03/028 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th February 2024 were approved and duly authorised by the Chairman.

2024/03/029 PLANNING

- b) Council will discuss all planning applications relevant to the Parish. As at the date of this Meeting, the following applications were received:
 - 24/00342/FPH The Haven SG4 7AJ. No objection.
 - 24/00482/FP Munts SG4 7AG. Council noted that as no official site notice has been posted and that adjoining properties have not been contacted regarding this application, parishioners have not had an opportunity to raise any concerns. The Clerk to request an extension to after the next meeting.
 - Planning Committee Friends Green Farm- 21st March 2024. WPC resolved to request a slot to make representation. The Clerk to make this request.
- c) NHC Decision Notices. None.
- d) 23/02492/FP 292 homes at Roundwood. The Clerk reported that Cllr Schofield met with HCC and Croudace in February. A representative from Graveley Parish Council also attended both meetings, and Cllr Steve Jarvis attended the meeting with HCC.

2024/03/030 FINANCE, GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- a) Cheque Signing. The following items were approved for payment:
 - Clerk Salary (February 2023) - £316.26
 - Kelly Johnson – Expenses (North Herts CVS Inv 6214 and 6278) - £24.00
 - Kelly Johnson- Expenses (WVH Inv 618 and 632) - £20.00
 - Playdale Playgrounds LTD – Spares Delivery and Installation - £90.00
 - Weston Park Farms (Management Charge 01.01.24 – 31.12.24) - £144.00
- b) First Aid Training Day. Deferred to the next meeting.
- c) Councillor Vacancy. Deferred to the next meeting.
- d) Internal Audit year-end 31/03/24. The Clerk confirmed that a new Internal Auditor has been appointed. Council approved a budget of £150.00
- e) Purchase of Additional Table Tennis Table. WPC have had a request from the table tennis club to purchase an additional table. Council declined as a grant has already been given.

- f) Free Portrait of His Majesty The King. WPC have been offered a free A3-size portrait of the King. The Clerk to place the Order. The Village Hall Committee have approved the hanging of the portrait in the village hall.
- g) Weston Village Hall (WVH) Representative. The Village Hall Committee have notified WPC that 2 of the 3 WPC appointees are willing to stand again. WPC may therefore nominate a third appointee. Council are happy to accept the recommendation of the WVH Committee.
- h) Annual Parish Meeting: Date agreed as Monday 13th May at 1930. Cllr Jones to book the Village Hall.

2024/03/031 PROJECTS. Nothing to report.

2024/03/032 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE

- a) Well on the Village Green. Council to purchase a steel closed cover. Cllr Moody to provide dimensions to the supplier.
- b) Refurbishment of the Village Sign. Council agreed to accept the quote of £1,541 + VAT to sandblast the sign, paint it with a zinc undercoat and repaint. Council also agreed to accept the quote of £800 + VAT to sandblast, fettle and paint (with the letters in a contrasting colour) the two smaller signs. Total budget agreed £2,341 + VAT. Cllr Schofield to place the Order.
- c) Open Reach: Status Report. Cllr Jones reported that 116 addresses have been released, with a further 197 to be completed by June.
- d) Knights Templar School bus from Weston. A number of parents have complained about the unreliability of the school bus from Weston to Knights Templar. Cllr Moody has contacted Cllr Steve Jarvis who will liaise with residents directly.
- e) Overgrown hedges. There are a number of hedges in the village that require cutting back for safety. The Clerk to write to residents directly.
- f) School Lane Footpath. Cllr Evans has reported The state of the surface to Highways Rights of Way.
- g) Reported Items (ALL). None.

2024/03/033 RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES.

- a) Council agreed to accept the quotation from Playdale Playgrounds (Quote 92429) for £2,834.95 plus VAT for repairs to the play equipment at the Recreation Ground. The Clerk to place the Order.

2024/03/034 HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING

- a) Protection of fence panels to the rear of the parking spaces in Jackson's Lane. Council agreed a Budget of £250 for wood and telegraph poles to undertake this work.
- b) Fence along the pathway to the Recreation Ground. Council agreed a Budget of £100 for wood to replace the fence as it is rotting. Cllr Schofield and Cllr Moody to undertake the repair work.

2024/03/035 MATTERS ARISING.

- a) Cllr Moody Expenditure (High-Viz) - £44.00. To be placed on the next Agenda.
- b) Cllr Jones Expenditure (Litter Pick) - £8.10. To be placed on the next Agenda.
- c) The Village information booklets have been printed and delivered to Janet Gunn who is arranging distribution. The Council would like to extend their thanks to Shelagh Windsor-Richards for a fantastic job.
- d) Memorial for the American bombers who were killed during the war. To be placed on the next Agenda.

2024/03/036 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING Thursday 11th April 2024 at 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:48

Signed.....  Chairman

Date: 11th April 2024