

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WESTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 8th August 2024
7:30pm at Weston Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Alistair Schofield (Chair) Cllr Matthew Hale Cllr Tim Moody

IN ATTENDANCE: Minutes taken by the Clerk

County and District Councillor Steve Jones

2024/08/088 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies received and approved from Cllr Judith Evans, Cllr John Cherry, Cllr Stewart Clifford, Cllr Steve Ludbrook and Cllr Jacky Jones.

2024/08/089 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. None

2024/08/090 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS. None

2024/08/091 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th July 2024 were approved and duly authorised by the Chairman.

2024/08/092 PLANNING

- a) Council will discuss all planning applications relevant to the Parish. As at the date of this Agenda, the following applications have been received:
 - 24/01476/FP Friends Green Farm SG4 7BU. No objection.
 - 24/01326/FPH Wixden Fore Street SG4 7AS. No objection.
- b) NHC Decision Notices:
 - 24/00601/LBC Rowan Butt Cottage. Listed building consent granted.
 - 24/00600/FPH Rowan Butt Cottage. Permission granted.
- c) GA1 Roundwood. No updates for this meeting.

2024/08/093 FINANCE, GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- a) Cheque Signing. The following items were approved for payment:
 - Clerk Salary (July 2024) - £316.26
 - Weston Village Hall (Inv 700) - £18.00
 - Weston Village Hall (Inv 730) - £12.00
 - Mr Roger Seifert Grass Cutting (Inv 15) - £318.50
 - PKF Littlejohn LLP AGAR Year-End 31.03.24 - £252.00
- b) First Aid Training Day. Confirmed as Saturday 14th September 1100-1230 in Weston Village Hall.
- c) Assets of Community Value. The listing Authority's decision is that the statutory tests have been met in respect of The Red Lion. The decision acts as Notice under S91 of the Act of Inclusion on the Assets of Community Value List. It will remain on the List for 5 years.
- d) "Have your say on our Parish arrangements" NHC Survey. WPC to request that the new GA2 development (as per the current boundary as per the Local Plan 2011-2031) fall within the Parish of Great Ashby and not within the Parish of Weston. WPC to also write formally to Cllr Steve Jarvis to this effect.

2024/08/094 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE

- a) Well on the Village Green. WPC accepted a quote of £1,456 (plus VAT) to supply, deliver and fit a steel cover. WPC have kindly been donated a pump by Steve Moreland which the Council will refurb and install over the well, along with a storyboard. There is a budgeted reserve of £3,000 for this Project.
- b) Memorial for American Bombers. Update by Cllr Clifford deferred to the next meeting.
- c) Horse trough and pump. Deferred to the next meeting.
- d) WPC Noticeboard. The PCC have notified WPC that they do not need the noticeboard. WPC to remove and dispose.
- e) Ultra-fast broadband status. The project is nearing conclusion with just a few areas awaiting connection. It is anticipated that all remaining areas will be connected within the next few weeks. The vast majority of residents within the parish are now able to order full fibre broadband.
- f) Village Green Trees. The hawthorn close to No1 Maiden Street is in a poor state. Cllr Moody to prepare a proposal for the next meeting.
- g) Reported Items:
 - Blocked drains in Mill Lane
 - The hidden "road narrowing" sign on Hatch Lane

2024/08/095 RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES

- a) Recreation Building Maintenance. WPC agreed a total budget of £450 to repair the roof and install heavy duty felt.

2024/08/096 HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING.

- a) Overgrown verges and hedges. Cllr Schofield met with the newly appointed Assistant Highways Manager from Herts County Council to discuss the various issues relating to the roads and pavements around the parish. The conversation included the maintenance of verges, drainage and the clearance of gullies, highway obstructions and the likely impact of planned housing developments. At the request of Highways, WPC agreed to contact local property owners where vegetation, hedges or trees were encroaching the highways/pavements to request that they be cut back.

2024/08/097 MATTERS ARISING to be added to the next Agenda:

- a) Annual Playground inspections. NHC is arranging for the inspection of playgrounds in Autumn 2024. The fee for each playground will be £50 as per previous years. WPC to notify NHC before 20th September.
- b) Section 3 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) year ended 31st March 2024. On the basis of the review in the opinion of the External Auditor the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit along with certified Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the AGAR to be published on the WPC website by 30th September 2024.

2024/08/098 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING Thursday 12th September 2024 at 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:46

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

Date: 12th September 2024