

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WESTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 10th April 2025
7:30pm at Weston Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Alistair Schofield (Chair) Cllr John Cherry Cllr Tim Moody
Cllr Matthew Hale Cllr Jacky Jones Cllr James Logan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Minutes taken by the Clerk
County and District Councillor Steve Jarvis
North Herts Council Community Partnership Tracy Westgate
1 Member of Public

2025/04/034 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Judith Evans, Cllr Stewart Clifford and Cllr Steve Ludbrook

2025/04/035 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Agenda item 6J (Discussion on English Devolution) was brought forward to this section. Cllr Steve Jarvis gave a short presentation on the current position and thinking behind the English Devolution White Paper. WPC to respond to the Community Governance Review by the 9th May.

2025/04/036 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

2025/04/037 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th March 2025 were approved and duly authorised by the Chairman.

2025/04/038 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:
 - 25/00822/FPH 25 Hitchin Road SG4 7AY. **OBJECT** on the basis that insufficient information has been provided.
 - 25/00842/LBC Pencroft SG4 7BG. No objection.
- b) NHC Decision Notices. None.
- c) GA1 "Roundwood". No update for this meeting.
- d) GA2. No update for this meeting.
- e) Westfield Energy Conservation Park. Cllr Hale attended the Lightrock presentation about the proposed Westfield Solar Farm. Cllr Schofield responded to the Westfield Energy Conservation Park Survey on behalf of WPC.

2025/04/039 FINANCE, GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- a) Cheque Signing. The following items were approved for payment:
 - Clerk Salary (March 2025) - £360.00.
 - Weston Village Hall (Invoice 916) - £12.00
 - J A Schofield (Expenses) - £150.28
 - Weston Parish News (Publication of Minutes 6th April 2025 – 5th April 2026) - £600.00
- b) To Note Payments made since last Meeting:
 - Tim Moody. Well Expenses - £43.11
 - S. Moreland. Well Brickwork - £764.00
 - Distribution of Diamond Club Reserve (£1,379.16):

- c) Annual Parish Meeting. Wednesday 7th May at 19:30.
- d) WPC Finance Reports (previously circulated). The Q2 and Q3 Finance Reports were signed by Cllr Hale.
- e) WPC Financial Regulations (previously circulated). Updated in accordance with The Procurement Act 2023 and The Procurement Regulations 2024. Model Financial Regulations 5.4, 5.7 and 5.11 updated. The Clerk to update the WPC website.
- f) VAT Return 01.04.24 – 31.03.25 (previously circulated). The VAT return for this period for £2,272.75 has been submitted.
- g) 2024/25 Annual General Accounting Return. The Internal Auditor for financial year ended 31.03.2025 has been appointed.
- h) Councillor Responsibilities – School Governor. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Moody would continue in this role. Council formally thanked Cllr Moody for his dedication and work in continuing to support the school.
- i) Community Grant Scheme. Cllr Jones to apply for funds for a potential Project in the last quarter of 2025.
- j) Discussion on English Devolution. Discussed under Minute 2025/04/035

2025/04/040 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE

- a) Tree Inspection March 2025. To be undertaken by Evolution Tree Works.
- b) Hedging plants for Damask Close. Cllr Moody to progress.
- c) Installation of steps on footpath from Church towards Halls Green. Cllr Moody to progress.
- d) Trees to the front of Marlborough Close. Cllr Schofield to write to Settle to clarify what trees are their responsibility, and which trees are the responsibility of this Council. A working party to be established to remove some of the trees later in the year. To be placed on the October agenda.
- e) Footpath from the school to the church. A working party to be established to clear this footpath later in the year. To be placed on the August agenda.
- f) Reported Items:
 - Lights outage at The Snipe. Reported to Highways.
 - Water continuing to come up onto the road near the Primary school despite the ongoing dry weather. Cllr Schofield to progress.

2025/04/041 RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES.

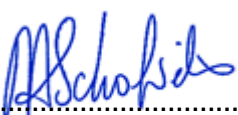
- a) Vandalism. There has been a spate of vandalism at both the Recreation Ground and The Snipe play area. Council would like to formally thank Jamie Meissner for his help in making repairs to the pavilion.

2025/04/042 HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING. None.

2025/04/043 MATTERS ARISING to be added to the next Agenda:

2025/04/044 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING Thursday 8th May 2025 at 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21:12

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

Date: 8th May 2025