

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

PRESENT: Cllr Alistair Schofield (Chair) Cllr Jacky Jones Cllr James Logan
Cllr Steve Ludbrook Cllr Stewart Clifford

IN ATTENDANCE:

Minutes taken by the Clerk
2 Members of Public and to and including 2025/07/076

2025/07/075 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Judith Evans, Cllr John Cherry, Cllr Tim Moody and Cllr Matthew Hale

2025/07/076 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Item 2025/07/081(b) was brought forward and discussed in this section.

2025/07/077 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

2025/07/078 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th June 2025 were approved and duly authorised by the Chairman.

2025/07/079 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:
 - 25/01141/FP Irongate Barn Halls Green SG4 7DR. No objections.
 - 24/02889/FP Land at Roundwood (GA1). Following the amendments to the Application notified to this Council by North Herts Council on 11th June. Council agreed the response. Cllr Schofield to send the response to NHC.
- b) NHC Decision Notices.
 - 25/00926/FP. Friends Green Farm SG4 7BU. Permission refused.
- c) GA2. No update for this Meeting.
- d) WE1. No update for this Meeting.

2025/07/080 FINANCE, GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- a) Cheque Signing. The following items were approved for payment:
 - 2026/16 - Clerk Expenses (Water bill) £1,094.51
 - 2026/17 - Clerk Salary (June 2025) - £360.00
 - 2026/17 - Clerk Expenses (Water bill 10007075701) - £10.34
 - 2026/17 - Clerk Expenses (WVH Hire Inv 984) - £12.00
 - 2026/18 - Mr Roger Seifert (Grass Cutting Inv 20) - £332.50
 - 2026/19 - Jacky Jones (Bin Bags) - £23.98
 - 2026/20 - Clerk Expenses (ICO Data Fee) - £52.00
 - 2026/21 - NHC (The Snipe Play Area) - £15.00
 - 2026/22 - Stewart Bullard & Son Limited (Rugby Pitch) - £105.46

- b) Castle Water Bill. The Parish Council are disputing the charge detailed in 2025/07/080(a).
- c) Communications and Media. Deferred to the next meeting.
- d) Community Governance Review. WPC requested that if the GA2 development takes place, the ward boundaries be moved such that the GA2 development be removed from the parish of Weston. NHC responded that this review cannot take place unless and until planning for GA2 is agreed. NHC also confirmed that the number of councillors for Weston shall remain at 9.
- e) Council Email. Changes to the Practitioners' Guide 2024 states that every authority should have an email account that belongs to the council and to which the council has access. In order to answer 'Yes' to Assertion 3 in the Annual Governance Statement, the smaller authority must have an email address that complies with this requirement. Cllr Schofield to progress.
- f) Creation of Reserve. A Reserve of £445.78 was created to hold the funds raised by the B17 Memorial. Cllr Clifford to obtain designs and quotes for a memorial.
- g) Policy Review. The following policies were reviewed:
 - WPC Risk Register
 - WPC GDPR Breach Notification
 - WPC Subject Access Request Procedure
 - WPC Freedom of Information Policy

The Clerk to update the WPC website

2025/07/081 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE

- a) Tree Inspection. The inspection is now complete. Evolution Tree Works to obtain the relevant permissions to start the work.
- b) Noise complaints re Cricketers Big Bash Weekend. This Council has received a number of complaints regarding the level of noise generated by this event and the disruption to the neighbouring properties. Councillors expressed their appreciation of the Cricketers for the good work they do within the community and agreed that Cllr Schofield should write to the owners of The Cricketers to see whether ways could be found to lessen the noise impact of events such as the Big Bash.
- c) Bus stop noticeboard repairs. Council agreed a budget of £250 to make the repairs.
- d) Reported Items.
 - Cllr Schofield reported the overflowing bins to NHC.
 - Cllr Jones reported to NHC that residents in Halls Green have not received the new bins.
 - Cllr Clifford reported that the School Lane sign is damaged

2025/07/082 RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES. None.

2025/07/083 HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING. The additional sign has now been added outside the school. Kerbing has been completed on one side of Mill Lane. Unfortunately, it was deemed not to be possible to install kerbing on the south side of the road as originally planned due to the instability of the bank and the presence of an underground pipe.

2025/07/084 MATTERS ARISING to be added to the next Agenda.

- Council wishes to congratulate the Groundswell team for a successful event and noted that the new arrangement of bringing traffic along Hatch Lane and over the fields seemed to be a big improvement over last year.

2025/07/085 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING Thursday 14th August 2025 at 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:55

Signed.....  Chairman

Date: 14th August 2025