

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WESTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 11th September 2025
7:30pm at Weston Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr John Cherry (Chair) Cllr James Logan
Cllr Steve Ludbrook Cllr Judith Evans
Cllr Stewart Clifford

IN ATTENDANCE:

Minutes taken by the Clerk
X Member of the Public
Tracy Westgate (Community Partnership Officer)

2025/09/097 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Alistair Schofield, Cllr Jacky Jones, Cllr Matthew Hale and Cllr Tim Moody

2025/09/098 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tracy Westgate raised the following points:

- Confirmation that all Weston and Halls Green residents have received their blue bin.
- There is a meeting on Monday 15th September at Baldock Community Centre regarding the re-organisation of local government.

2025/09/099 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Cherry declared an interest in items 25/01935/FP and 25/01936/LBC (Minute 2025/09/101).
Cllr Cherry left the room whilst these applications were discussed.

2025/09/100 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th August 2025 were approved and duly authorised by the Chairman.

2025/09/101 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:
- 25/01935/FP Irongate Barn Halls Green Weston SG4 7DR. No comment.
 - 25/01936/LBC Irongate Barn Halls Green Weston SG4 7DR. No comment.
 - 25/02096/FP Friends Green Farm Friends Green SG4 7BU. No comment.
 - 25/02097/LBC Friends Green Farm Friends Green SG4 7BU. No comment.
 - Planning Appeal Notification 25/00926/FP Friends Green Farm Friends Green SG4 7BU. WPC objected to the original request and have no further comment to make.
- b) NHC Decision Notices. Duly noted.
- c) Roundwood GA1 – Nothing to report.
- d) GA2 – Nothing to report.
- e) WE1 – Nothing to report.

2025/09/102 FINANCE, GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- a) Cheque Signing. The following items were approved for payment:
- Clerk Salary (August 2025) - £360.00
 - Clerk Expenses (WVH Invoice 1025) - £12.00
 - Mr Roger Seifert (Grass Cutting Invoice 21) - £285.00
 - Evolution Tree Works (Invoice 4041) - £1,068.00
 - Alistair Schofield (Materials for bus shelter noticeboard repairs) - £81.39
 - PKF Littlejohn LLP (2024/25 External Audit) - £252.00

- b) Castle Water Bill. Council had received a bill from Castle Water that included penalty charges and debt collection agency fees due to non-payment of bills. Council objected on the basis that since opting for electronic billing it had not received any bills. The objection was upheld, and the Council is expecting a refund for the penalty charges and agency fees.
- c) 2024/25 AGAR Section 3 External Auditor Report. On the basis of the review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, the external auditor has concluded that 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 has been displayed on the WPC website.

2025/09/103 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE

- a) Red Lion. Deferred to the next Meeting.
- b) Reported Items:
 - WPC expressed their thanks to Daran Edwards for making safe the broken piece of metal pipe that was sticking out of the ground near the bus shelter.

2025/09/104 RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES

- a) Annual Playground Inspection. NHC is arranging for the annual inspection of playgrounds in the Autumn of 2025. The fees for 2025 will be £50.00 per site. Council agreed to request an inspection for The Recreation Ground and The Snipe play areas. The Clerk to contact NHC.

2025/09/105 HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING

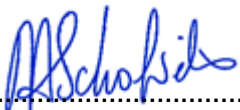
Nothing to report

2025/09/106 MATTERS ARISING

- a) Cllr Schofield met with a representative from Settle to discuss the trees growing along Damask Green Road outside Marlborough Close. Settle agreed that the trees on the Marlborough Close side of the ditch belong to them and will consider what action they should take to prevent root damage to the adjacent properties.
- b) Hertfordshire County Council Winter Social Celebration event grant application 2025. To be completed by the 25th September.

2025/09/107 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING Thursday 9th October 2025 at 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:02

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

Date: 3rd October 2025