

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WESTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 14th August 2025
7:35pm at Weston Village Hall

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Minutes taken by Cllr Schofield
Cllr Steve Jarvis and 1 Member of the Public

2025/08/086 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Clifford

2025/08/087 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

2025/08/088 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

2025/08/089 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th July 2025 were approved and duly authorised by the Chairman.

2025/08/090 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:
 - 25/01738/FP Friends Green Farm SG4 7BU – **OBJECTION** on the basis that conditions attached to the temporary change of use permission have not yet been met.
 - 25/01936/LBC & 25/01935/FP Irongate Barn, Halls Green SG4 7DR – **Deferred to September meeting**
- b) NHC Decision Notices - None
- c) Roundwood GA1. Cllr Moody attended the Planning Committee meeting in June on behalf of the Parish. He was allotted 3 minutes to present his case that (a) WPC should be consulted on the construction plan, (b) That the emergency access route between Back Lane and the extended Haybluff Drive must never be opened for general use, and (c) That measures to mitigate the impact of increased traffic should be done at the start of the development. The Planning Committee agreed with the emergency access point but were unmoved by the other points. Planning permission was approved.
- d) GA2 – Nothing to report
- e) WE1 – Nothing to report

2025/08/091 FINANCE, GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- a) Cheque Signing. The following items were approved for payment:
 - 2026/23 - Clerk Expenses (Water bill) - £10.47
 - 2026/23 - Clerk Salary (July 025) - £360.00
 - 2026/23 - Clerk Expenses (Weston Village Hall 1005) - £12.00
 - 2026/24 – 1st Surface (Deposit Invoice) - £4,800.00
- b) Castle Water bill. Castle Water has responded to a Freedom of Information request by supplying the Clerk with all correspondence between Castle Water and WPC since April 2024. Chairman to respond requesting a refund of excess charges.
- c) Communications and Media. Cllr Schofield understands that the work being undertaken by the Village Hall Committee will not have implications for the Parish Council website.

- d) Council Email. Councils are being encouraged to set up dedicated email addresses for the council and individual councillors. WPC already has this for the Clerk, but since there is very little email traffic beyond that, it was felt that dedicated email addresses for individual councillors would be unnecessary. It was agreed that in the event of council-related emails being sent for any reason by a Councillor, that the Clerk should be copied in so that a record is kept.
- e) Weston Village Hall Hire Rates. Council noted that from 1st September 2025, the hire rate for the reading room will be £10 per hour.

2025/08/092 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT including FOOTPATHS and MAINTENANCE

- a) Tree Inspection. The commissioned tree surgery has received permission from NHC and the work was completed on 14/8/25. Council wished to express their thanks to Evolution Trees.
- b) Footpath Clearing Working Party. It was decided to organise working parties in late October and November to tackle this and other clearance projects in the village.
- c) Red Lion. Deferred to the next Meeting.
- d) Red Path. Cllr Moody to speak to the owners about the work necessary to clear the areas that are encroaching on the path.
- e) Overhanging Trees (Munts Meadow). Council have contacted the owner of the trees, who will in turn contact the affected residents.
- f) Reported Items.
 - Council expressed their thanks to David Bains for cleaning and restoring the bench outside of Marlborough Close.
 - Council expressed their thanks to Cllr Jacky Jones for the work she has put in to chasing the council regarding the non-delivery of the new blue-lidded bins to many residents in Halls Green and Weston. Despite this and offers to help North Herts Council to get it sorted, there are still residents who are yet to receive their new bins.
 - Council noted that the 'Give Way' signage on the exit from Post Office Row has been repainted. This was reported by the Council several months ago when the response was that the work was not necessary.
- g) Bus stop noticeboard repairs. The Council would like to extend their thanks to Julian Brett for kindly undertaking the repairs to the notice board that were discussed during the July meeting (2025/07/081c).

2025/08/093 RECREATION GROUNDS and SPORTS FACILITIES.
Nothing to report

2025/08/094 HIGHWAYS and LIGHTING.
Nothing to report

2025/08/095 MATTERS ARISING to be added to the next Agenda.

2025/08/096 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING Thursday 11th September 2025 at 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:57

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

Date: 9th October 2025