

Minutes of the Meeting of Weston Turville Parish Council held on 16th November 2023 at Weston Turville Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Parish Cllrs: M Baylis, R Blackmore, G Fincham (Chair), C Terry and M Watson

Clerk: Sarah Copley

Two members of public

OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS		
A resident raised concerns about the importance of replacing the piano in the hall.		
23.167	APOLOGIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	
Apologies were received from Cllrs Collins, Cook, Dawkins and Jarvis		
23.168	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
a) There were no declarations of interest. b) There were no dispensation requests.		
23.169	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	
It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 19 th October 2023 as a true record and the minutes were duly signed by the Chair.		
23.170	PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY	
The Clerk reported that no election had been requested and that the vacancy could now be filled by co-option. Notices had been put up on noticeboards and the website inviting applications.		
23.171	FINANCE, GOVERNANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE	Clerk
a) The minutes of the meeting held on 7 th November were noted. It was agreed that the Clerk investigate other options for the Council's bank account for consideration at the January meeting. b) The draft budget for 2024-25 was considered. It was noted that some costs were still awaited and that the budget and precept would be finalised and agreed at the January meeting. c) The risk assessment as recommended by the Committee was agreed.		
23.172	PROJECTS	Clerk
a) Outdoor Gym – the tender documentation and timescales for the outdoor gym equipment was AGREED, the Clerk would upload to the contract finder website. b) EV Chargers – The update from Buckinghamshire Council was noted. It was agreed to work with the other parishes with regard to the lease and to accept the recommendation that Weller Hedley provide legal services on behalf of all the parish councils. Cllr Blackmore reported that Wendover were running a pilot scheme for EV chargers on the street for houses without driveways.		
23.173	D DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY	ALL
a) Event – it was agreed that the anniversary should be commemorated in some way. Councillors were asked to send suggestions to the Chairman who would collate them for consideration at the January meeting.		

<p>b) Commemorative Bench – Cllr Watson provided examples of war memorial commemorative benches and proposed that the Council purchase one to be installed on the green opposite the war memorial for people to sit in quiet contemplation. It was agreed by a majority vote to purchase a bench subject to permission from Highways to install on the verge. Councillors would also speak to the local residents in the area before it was installed.</p>	Clerk
<p>23.174 ROAD SAFETY</p> <p>a) Aston Reach – a number of residents had approached the Council with concerns about speeding vehicles in the Aston Reach development. Some were willing to take part in speedwatch exercises and the Clerk would contact Thames Valley Police to arrange training. A call for volunteers had also been placed in the winter edition of the Weston Turville Times.</p> <p>b) MVAS Ground Sockets – the quote to install three ground sockets was AGREED, it was further noted that s171 licence would be required for each site at an additional cost of £180 per site. When this is applied for, Bucks Council may also request traffic management and there would be additional costs for that, to be confirmed.</p> <p>c) Other options to tackle speeding were discussed, in order to support any need for traffic calming, evidence of the extent of the issue would be required. It was agreed to continue to promote the community speedwatch scheme to increase the number of volunteers and therefore the amount of data collected.</p>	Clerk Clerk Clerk
<p>23.175 VILLAGE HALL AND CAR PARK</p> <p>a) It was noted that there had been a leak in the roof of the roof above the office toilet resulting in the room being flooded. A roofer had been called out urgently to look at the problem and had repaired the leak at a cost of £895.</p> <p>b) The quote of £120 from All Tops Roofing to clear out the gutters around the hall was accepted and it was AGREED to schedule this in annually.</p> <p>c) Car park – the quotes to fill the large potholes by the field barrier were considered and it was agreed to accept the quote of £775 from SLN. The companies that had quoted had all commented on the lack of drainage which had caused this problem, particularly for that side of the car park. It was agreed to obtain quotes to install improved drainage.</p>	Clerk
<p>23.176 LITTER AND FLY TIPPING</p> <p>a) Fly tipping at the reservoir layby – the Clerk had made enquiries and reported that Bucks Council would not authorise the installation of CCTV in this location, they would install new signage seeking to deter flytipping. Further it had been confirmed that a licence is required to review CCTV footage of public areas.</p> <p>b) Worlds End Lane – a resident had written to the Council regarding litter in Worlds End Lane that he regularly picked up. He suggested that the Council install signage asking people to respect Weston Turville not litter. It was agreed that signage was not appropriate but to ask the lengthsman to litter pick fortnightly up to the reservoir layby.</p> <p>c) Litter and dog bins, Aston Reach – A number of complaints had received from residents of Aston Reach regarding the lack of litter and dog waste bins in the development. The Clerk had contacted Taylor Wimpey and the management company requesting an update on if or when bins would be installed. If none were planned then it would be referred back to the next Council meeting.</p>	Clerk Clerk
<p>23.177 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</p> <p>a) Working group – it was AGREED to advertise for members of the community to join a working group to review the neighbourhood plan.</p>	Clerk

<p>b) Quotation for consultancy services – the first quote for consultancy services had been received. The advice from BALC that localities had capped consultancy costs paid from grant funds and that parishes could not top up from their own funds was noted.</p>	
<p>23.178 FINANCES</p> <p>a) The list of payments totalling £8,832,74 was approved. b) The finance report to end of October and bank reconciliation were noted. c) It was agreed to fund a training event for all councillors to be run by BALC.</p>	
<p>23.179 STAFFING MATTERS</p> <p>a) The Clerk reported that the assistant clerk had successfully completed their probation period. It was agreed that she would now be enrolled into the Council's pension scheme. b) It was noted that the 2023-24 pay settlement had been agreed which was backdated to 1st April, this had been included in the November payroll.</p>	
<p>23.180 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>a) The Clerk's report was noted and is attached to these minutes as appendix B. b) Correspondence received was noted.</p>	
<p>23.181 MEETING DATES FOR 2024</p> <p>The meeting schedule for 2024 was AGREED.</p>	
<p>23.182 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION</p> <p>Cllr Watson reported that the bin at the Worlds End Lane / Wendover Road bus stop still had not been replaced.</p> <p>Cllr Fincham thanked everyone involved with organising the remembrance service which had been very well attended and received.</p> <p>Cllr Fincham had attended the local Chair/Vice Chair forum which was now taking place bi-monthly.</p> <p>Cllr Fincham reported that she had been approached by a local resident regarding support for ex-servicemen and requested that this went on the January agenda.</p>	
<p>23.183 DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Thursday 18th January 2024.</p>	

Signed: _____ Date: 18th January 2024

Actions List

Ref	Action	Who	Update / Complete
22.45	Registration of village hall and playing field	Clerk	With Land Registry
23.5	Investigate options for village map board	Clerk	
23.6	Request third phase electric to be made live	Clerk	Awaiting response from Scottish Power
23.131	Quotes for bat and bird survey	Clerk	
23.158	Submit planning application for café at the hall	Clerk	With architect
23.171	Investigate options for new bank account	Clerk	
23.172	Upload outdoor gym tender	Clerk	✓
23.173a	D Day 80 event ideas	ALL	
23.173b	Submit request for highways permission for bench location	Clerk	✓
23.174a	Arrange speedwatch training	Clerk	✓
23.174b	Order 3 MVAS groundscrews	Clerk	
23.174c	Promote community speedwatch	Clerk	✓
23.175c	Place order for pothole repair	Clerk	✓
23.175c	Quotes for improved car park drainage	Clerk	✓
23.176b	Worlds End Lane litterpicks	Clerk	✓
23.176c	Clarify position re litter/dog bins for Aston Reach	Clerk	✓
23.177a	Call for volunteers for Neighbourhood Plan working group	Clerk	✓
23.178c	Arrange full council training with BALC	Clerk/GF	

APPENDIX 1 – PAYMENTS LIST

Date	Paid to	Details	Reference	Net	VAT	Total
02/11/2023	Cloudy Group	IT Licences and support	DD	£73.00	£14.60	£87.60
16/11/2023	Pyrotec Services Ltd	Fire alarm maintenance and testing	electronic	£194.00	£38.80	£232.80
16/11/2023	Spectrum Signwriting Ltd	Update honours board	electronic	£190.00	£38.00	£228.00
16/11/2023	Glasdon Ltd	replacement slats for picnic bench	electronic	£187.64	£37.52	£225.16
16/11/2023	All Topps Roofing	Repairs to roof office roof	electronic	£895.00		£895.00
16/11/2023	Lock and Key Centre	additional keys cut	electronic	£39.90	£7.98	£47.88
16/11/2023	Lengthsman	Village tidying October	electronic	£362.00		£362.00
16/11/2023	J W Mowing Services	Fit bench slats and erect Christmas tree	electronic	£595.00		£595.00
16/11/2023	SLCC	Clerk membership 2024	electronic	£229.00		£229.00
16/11/2023	HMRC	PAYE & NI November	electronic	£880.22		£880.22
16/11/2023	Payroll	November Payroll	electronic	£3,124.16		£3,124.16
16/11/2023	Clerk	Cost claim - stationery, poppy wreath	electronic	£204.18	£16.00	£220.18
16/11/2023	Bucks Council	Pension	electronic	£1,146.51		£1,146.51
16/11/2023	Lindengate	Bird boxes	electronic	£74.00	£14.80	£88.80
20/11/2023	DRAX	streetlight electricity	DD	£396.79	£73.64	£470.43
TOTAL				£8,591.40	£241.34	£8,832.74

APPENDIX 2 – CLERK’S REPORT

Below are updates on issues that are ongoing where no decision or minimal expenditure is required. The purpose of this document is to keep councillors and the public up to date on various matters.

- **Orchard to rear of 23a Main Street** – The Parish Council has been contacted by several local residents concerned about the loss of the orchard due to the landowner cutting all the trees down last week. We have been in contact with Bucks Council but unfortunately as the land is privately owned, there were no tree preservation orders in place and it is not within the conservation area, there is no action Bucks Council can take. The reply from the Tree Officer is as follows:

We understand that the actions taken by the landowner have both removed a Traditional Orchard and caused concern and upset to yourselves.

Unfortunately, traditional orchards, although deemed to be a ‘priority habitat’ are not afforded any statutory protection within current legislation or associated planning system, even though the National Planning Policy Framework states these should only be removed in ‘exceptional circumstances’. Additionally, there was no compelling evidence put before us during the initial application process to confirm whether any trees within the orchard were, in planning terms, veteran trees. There are a number of criteria that must be met under the National Planning Policy Framework to confirm this designation and, even if the presence of veteran trees had been confirmed, these are also not afforded any statutory protection. The status of the site (i.e. whether there was a live application or not) would have no material impact on this.

Whilst our own Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan policies, specifically NE1 and NE8, aim to protect and enhance such features, this does not stop owners from undertaking works to damage or destroy them. This forms part of a much wider issue which must come from higher government and national policy makers, and we are working harder to support both in strengthening protection for such features.

There is currently no suitable mechanism which Buckinghamshire Council may exercise to protect the stumps or the wood/logs arising from the removal of the trees (including a Tree Preservation Order).

- **Hampden Fields** – the Chairman and Clerk met with the Hampden Fields Project Manager earlier this week. He confirmed that further planning applications had been submitted and were expected to be validated soon. He understood concerns were being raised regarding the current application for a temporary junction off Marroway and confirmed this was a temporary road to serve the first tranche of housing being built to the west of the site. It would eventually be replaced with the agreed route from Marroway to the south east link road to the east of the site. He further confirmed that it would not be used for construction traffic which would use the haul road off Wendover Road.
- **Paths around the playing field** – quotes have been requested for a structural engineer to come and inspect the path and advise on the options to improve it. These would be put to the January meeting for consideration.