

## WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 in the Village Hall 7.30pm

**Present** Cllr Colin Laughton (Chair)

Cllr Richard Henderson Cllr David Hill Cllr Richard Liversidge

District Cllr. Sylvia Michael

County Cllr Bruce Laughton

Clerk- Janet Birkin

4 Members of the public in attendance

**230701 To receive Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest** Cllr David Chase (Holiday)

Cllr Glyn Francis (Working)- **Apologies accepted**

**No Declarations of Interest**

**230702 Open Forum – ten minutes to receive questions and comments from members of the public**

Concern was raised again about the state of the footpaths- horses are still using them and there are very overgrown areas. The Clerk has reported this on numerous occasions receiving numbers of the complaints-it has still not been resolved. Bruce Laughton gave a contact that may be able to speed things up. Bruce was thanked for this. **Action: Clerk to ring the contact.**

Several residents have been clearing these areas and removing nettles.

**Comments regarding the planning application for building 5no houses on the land**

**adjoining Lodge Farm.** Worries from residents- Create more traffic along Main Street, It is Grade 3 Agricultural land, the access from Main Street is very narrow. It is very close to other properties.

There are also concerns over development of the site, size of the houses, and village as a whole. There are no facilities in Weston to support more building (No shops, no schools, no public house) There are also concerns over drainage. Residents were advised to write their own comments to the Newark and Sherwood Planning Application site.

**230703 Matters Arising from Minutes**

- A) Speeding Update (Clerk)** This is still a concern – the 60mph speed limit on the Great North Road. Despite several emails- still not considered a satisfactory response. **Action: Clerk to get in touch with PCSOs that are responsible for the village.**
- B) Website removal of Hugo Fox link to email to make more secure (Update Cllr C.L.)** Cllr. C.L. has done this. People can now email securely direct to the council using the designated Council email address.
- C) Clock/Church Key Update (Cllr G.F./Cllr C.L.)** This issue has been going on a long time and the Council are very concerned that the community clock is not working at all due to difficulties of arrangements to wind it. **Action: Clerk to send email to the Diocese outlining the problem and state that it needs to be resolved. (Sue Gray – Robert Jenrick may be able to help)**  
**Action: County Cllr B.L. will see if he can have a word with Church Organisation.**
- D) Risk Assessment (Update Cllr C.L.)** This is now on the website and a copy has been sent to the Clerk to file on the Council lap top.
- E) Lengthsman Vacancy update (Cllr C.L.)** Still no applicants for this vacancy. Maybe approach other Councils to see if anyone willing to apply.
- F) Clerk Vacancy/ NALC update (Cllr C.L.)** No interest at the moment but advertised with NALC. If no applicants, a locum will be put in place in October. Thank you to the Clerk for continuing until a replacement is found.
- G) Community Development Officer update (Clerk)** The Clerk is continuing to let the Community Officer ( Chris Billam) know about events in the Village and has invited him to the August 12<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning and Annual Parish Meeting.
- H) Councillor Vacancies- Cooption** Simon Meadows attended the meeting and said he would like to stand as Councillor. This was proposed by Cllr D.C. and seconded by Cllr R. H. Simon was welcomed onto the Council. **Action: Clerk to send relevant forms to Simon and Newark and Sherwood Council )**
- I) Annual Parish Meeting- August 12<sup>th</sup> at Coffee Morning (Amend date on previous minutes from 13<sup>th</sup> August)** The Annual Parish meeting will be informal and Councillors/staff will wear pink hats to identify themselves to be able to chat informally and give information. Reports from different organisations/representatives of the village should be sent to Cllr C.L. the Wednesday /Thursday before the Coffee morning on the 12<sup>th</sup> to allow time for photocopying.  
**Action: Clerk will do the Notice for this meeting and it will be put in the Unity magazine. Clerk to also contact PCSOs (Cllr. C.L.) Action: Representatives of organisations will send reports to Cllr C.L. by the 9<sup>th</sup> August.**

Minutes approved as a true record and signed by the Chair Cllr C.L.

- 230704 To note and report matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda**
- A) Councillor E-mails** The Clerk thanked the Councillors who are now using a separate email address for Council matters.
- B) Councillor submission of required documents-Notification of Interests forms (Clerk)** The Clerk has received and sent off Notification of Interest forms for Councillors. The Clerk thanked Councillors for these. Cllr G.F. has not returned his and the allowed period of 28 days has now ended..
- 230705 To consider and discuss any non-agenda items**
- A) Seat next to Little Library** This has now been installed securely by Cllr D.H and Cllr D,C. They were thanked for all their hard work in doing this.
- A thank you was also extended to Sue Hill for helping with the Little Library. Shelving will be put up in this so it can be improved. Sue Hill has offered to do this.
- 230706 To receive reports from County Council and District Council Representatives and Parish Councillors**
- No Safer Neighbourhood Meeting-** Next meeting 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023
- District Cllr S. M** Planning- The appeal against the planning refusal for the Land next to Ivydene has been dismissed.
- Newark and Sherwood has had the First Cabinet meeting since the new Council has been formed. Many new cabinets have been formed- Heritage, Culture and Arts. Health and Leisure. Climate Change. (Each position costing £8,500)
- County Cllr B.L.** County Hall is being sold 2 weeks on Thursday Feb 2025 will be in the new building. (This will save £1.8 million on heating alone)
- There is a new chief executive of Via-changes to the pot hole policy. Not 24 hours within reporting for emergency repairs, but a week to do it more thoroughly. The County council will also have their own tarmacking gang to do the work. (£3 million to pay for this and deal with pot holes)
- Sylvia and Bruce were both thanked for their input.
- 230707 To receive and consider any highways issues**
- A) Bell Lane Closure- 8.00-17.00 Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 Temporary road closure to remove vegetation round the bridge structure.** This had taken place
- B) Western Power- Main Street works** Now completed.
- 230708 To consider financial matters**
- A) Internal Audit (Clerk)** Completed and ready to put required forms on the website.
- B) AGAR submission and web site requirements met (Clerk and Cllr C.L.)** This legal requirement to submit had been met and all documents put on the website. Thank you to Cllr CL for assisting and putting these on the website and other Councillors for their support and input into this.
- C) Incomings/Outgoings/Balance (Clerk)** Only transactions since last meeting- Clerk's salary HMRC= £37.00 Training on becoming a New Councillor for 2 Councillors= £90  
Balance-£17,577.83
- D) Receipts that need agreeing to pay (Clerk)**
- E) Budget Variances (Clerk)** The Clerk had sent an email showing the budget use so far and any variances. Cllrs accepted these and were aware of slight overspend but reserves to cover these.
- 230709 To consider planning matters and receive updates on ongoing applications**
- A) 23/00770/FUL Hutchinsons Proposed change of use of agricultural land to proposed turning area, long term staff parking area and electric vehicle charging points,** No further information at this time.
- B) Ref: 23/01051/FUL Erect 5no. dwellings.**  
**Site Address: Land At Lodge Farm Great North Road Weston** Councillors discussed the application. They had made themselves familiar with the plans and looked at the site with regard to the development of houses. A vote was taken- 1 Councillor was in favour of the application. 4 Councillors were against. **Action: Cllr C.L. will compile a comment letter stating Objection to the development. Action: Clerk to send to Newark and Sherwood.**
- To discuss any issues raised by residents since last meeting**
- A) Residents email complaint about Walnut Close sign- Update (Clerk)** This has been reported and a photograph sent of the sign. Report acknowledged but no action yet.
- B) Concern about parking on the pavements. (Clerk)** This is not illegal unless it is obstructing. This has been made more difficult because of numerous work vans concerning building work on Main Street. Sometimes parking partly on the pavement eases access for other vehicles.
- Concern about fires on Lodge Farm land.** This email has come from Weston Residents-implying it is a lot of people- but it may only be 1. **Action: Cllr C.L. will reply to this.**
- Complaint about overhanging trees on Main Street** Again received from the Weston Residents email address. **Action: Cllr C.L will also reply to this as well as the Lodge Farm fires.**
- 230710 Consider correspondence circulated to Councillors since last meeting**

- A) **New Code of Practice email slides** Councillors have viewed the slides and are aware of the implications of the New Code of Practice.
- B) **New Councillor Training – 2 new Councillors attended** The course was very useful to understanding the role of Councillor.
- C) **Planning email information** This was sent to Councillors so they understand the issues of planning and changes to permitted development notifications.
- D) **NALC AGM Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 6.30 Oxtown Village Hall** A reminder that any Clerks or Councillors are welcome to attend.

**230711** **Open Forum – ten minutes to receive questions and comments from members of the public**  
The silt that has built up in the storm drains has still not been cleared despite it being reported. This causes a problem when it rains heavily. They do seem to be being done from Sutton on Trent. so maybe done shortly.

A resident asked if it was possible to arrange a litter pick on the Great North Road-particularly Bell Lane to Weston- it looks a mess. Rubbish in the hedgerow too. Some residents have been trying to tidy it up themselves. Dog poo a problem here as well..

**230712** **To consider and discuss any non-agenda items and business for the next meeting on Wednesday September 6<sup>th</sup> 2023**  
D Day 80 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 There will be a bonfire to celebrate this event at Ladywood Farm.

**Annual Parish Council Meeting Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August during Coffee Morning 10-12.30**

**Meeting closed at 8.44**

Janet Birkin Clerk

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023