

WEOBLEY PARISH COUNCIL

WEOBLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Weobley Parish Meeting held at Hopelands Village Hall, Weobley, HR4 8SN on Tuesday 1st June 2021 commencing at 7:00pm.

In the chair: Lorraine Anderson

Present: 9 members of the electorate and the Clerk to the Council.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cllr Anderson welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting

2. APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th April 2019 were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The following matters were raised:

- The Post Office closed altogether in July 2020. A weekly, mobile van is the current replacement. Concerns over the queues were raised, and the idea of requesting additional visits was proposed.
- There is no longer a cash machine in the village, but cash back is available from various shops within the village. Cllr Breen had previously requested information on the cost involved in installing one.

5. PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr Anderson, Chair to the Council, presented the following report:

- Thanks were extended to Councillors for all their hard work and support over the last two years;
- Cllrs A Apps and C Mills had been co-opted on to the Council to fill the vacancies left by the resignation of Vicky Mackie and disqualification of Martin West;
- Paul Russell, the former Clerk, had left in January, after extending his notice period until the Council appointed a new clerk. Romily Giddens took up the post in February;
- Mike Ware had resigned his position last month after 35 years of service as a Councillor, with 13 of those as Chairman. He will be continuing in his position as the Parish's footpath officer. The Council were very grateful for all his work over the years and planned to thank him for this at a later date, once COVID restrictions had eased;
- There have been no particularly contentious planning applications in the last year or so, and no further activity following the outline approval for fifty houses on land at the rear of Pepper Plock

Ley. The village's Neighbourhood Plan (NDP) was formally adopted in October 2019, and is now regularly referenced when planning applications are considered;

- At the present time, the Council are taking part in a pilot project to test the Government's New Model Design Code aimed at improving the national standard of housing design, with Weobley chosen by Herefordshire Council to represent one of four distinct character areas in the county;
- The long-awaited work to resurface Gadbridge Road is happening, beginning on the 27th July, for five days. There will also be some road safety marking which will take the form of solid white lines at the sides of the road. This work is not, as first thought, being paid for out of S106 developer levies from the Garnstone Drive housing development. Funding for road repairs instead comes from the Highways Assets funding pot;
- A portion of the S106 Highways funding has been spent on installing a pavement along Gadbridge Road to the Play Area field gate, improving safety by reducing the number of young pedestrians using the access through the hall car park;
- Balfour Beatty Locality Steward, Philip Pankhurst, continues to support the Council by answering queries and assisting in the reporting of Highways issues. His constant reporting on the condition of Gadbridge Road and request for resurfacing helped to finally secure its place in the Highways programme of works for this year;
- Thanks were also extended to Ward Cllr, Mike Jones, who had helped to chase the Gadbridge Road issue for the Council and approached Highways Officers on our behalf. Mike also regularly attends the Parish Council's monthly meetings and gives reports and updates on Herefordshire Council news and issues. He also asks questions of various HC Officers and departments in response to issues we may have raised;
- There has increased usage of the 101 number to contact the local policing team. The more incidents that are reported, the more opportunity there is for police access to additional resources to help deal with the issues raised. The worst incident in recent months was the desecration of the Nativity Scene in the Rose Garden at Christmas. Unfortunately, the persons responsible have yet to be identified. The Parish Council are upgrading the community CCTV equipment, in addition to the equipment at the village hall. More advanced technology means better picture definition;
- The newly installed Skatepark, funded partly by S106 'Wellbeing' money and by Sport England and donations, was designed and constructed by Concreate. The project was helped along with the enthusiastic support and hard work of Heather Morison who has overseen similar projects elsewhere. The result is a beautifully constructed facility which is attracting interest not just from locals but from skateboarders farther afield;
- The Play area itself has continued to be well maintained by Chris Breen and his volunteer team, the Play Area Working Group. Equipment is regularly inspected and ideas for improvement are considered;
- The Parish Council owns and maintains the building that houses the Library and Museum. Both have been closed due to Covid, but some essential repairs have taken place to address urgent damp issues. The public toilets which the Council also own, with the facility are well looked after by local volunteer, Mary Kenny;
- A request has been made for allotments and the Parish Council are making enquiries of landowners in the hope that a suitable site can be found;
- In the early months of the pandemic, the Council were, and still are, supportive of the Weobley Support Group, whose volunteers looked after the most vulnerable in our community, shopping and collecting medicines, etc.

6. OPEN SESSION

The following points were raised:

- There had been a request by the Church to install litter bins around the church. The Council had previously offered to provide these if they were emptied by a volunteer.

- Queries over who owns the land across from the surgery and the Rose Garden. The clerk would investigate and report back in the future.
- Installation of a streetlight on the first section of Hereford Road.
- 'Freemans Home signs need to be removed, as houses are now sold.

7. PARISH MEETING LATER IN THE YEAR

A date would be set during the July Parish Council meeting if restrictions allowed.

Prior to the closure of the meeting, thanks were extended to Cllr Anderson, Chair of the Council, for all her hard work over the last two years.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.49pm.

CHAIR:

DATE: