

# WEOBLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Weobley Parish Council Meeting held at Hopelands Village Hall, Weobley, HR4 8SN on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 commencing at 7:00pm.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors L Anderson (Chair), J Simons (Vice Chair), A Apps, C Breen and H Quinlan (2 Vacancies).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Clerk to the Council – Romily Giddens, Ward Councillor M Jones, Guest Speakers Heather Morrison and Kate Best.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WRITTEN REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

No declarations of interest or written requests for dispensation were received.

### 3. CO-OPTION

Council **NOTED** that there are 2 vacancies on the Council. No applications had been received.

### 4. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 be agreed and signed as a correct record with an amendment to item 5.1 which was as follows *“The Parish Footpath Officer reported that he had been bitten by a dog belonging to owners of a property near a PROW and was concerned for members of the public also using this path. The issue would be investigated.”*

### 5. OPEN SESSION

**5.1 Police Report** - The Police were no present and no report had been received in advance. There were unconfirmed reports that another dog bite had occurred.

**5.2 Ward Councillor Report** – The following written report was received from Ward Cllr Jones:

- At the Full council meeting on the 28th January 2022 two motions were passed. One to make the River Wye system a Water Protection Zone. This is to bring bodies together such as the Environment Agency, Local River Authority, Wye and Usk foundation and other representatives to address pollution affecting the River Wye. It is hoped that a common goal can be shared to alert problems and gain funding to tackle the issue. Another motion was also passed to encourage the use of Low Noise Fireworks on Council owned land at displays around the county. Every year many complaints are received about excessive noise from fireworks and its impact on pets and residents.
- At the Council Cabinet meeting on the 31st January 2022, the Council earmarked £32 million pounds for spending over the next 12 months. Over £5 million is going into infrastructure projects but nothing into easing the traffic congestion. To encourage even more bus use, a planned expenditure of £300,000 has earmarked for bus shelters.
- The Lengthsman Drainage Grant Scheme has been given the go ahead again. £250,000 has been made available for all Parish Council who have signed up to the scheme. Applications have to be submitted by the 1st April.
- P.R.O.W and T.R.O will be transferred back to Hereford Council from Balfour Beatty following a decision by cabinet. Staff are in the process of TUPE back to the Council which should speed up this work within the county. Within the PROW, a lot of support and volunteer work will hopefully come forward from the Parishes for this vital work.
- In Herefordshire, Covid cases have increased 32% up to the end of January, with Weobley School and surrounding village having very high numbers. Despite this, the school has remained open and classes have managed to take place.

- At the full council Meeting on the 11th February 2022, it was voted to raise council tax by 2.99%. This is despite several amendments to raise by 0% or just 1%. Money would have been taken out of reserves to allow for a smaller increase. I voted for these amendments as I think any increase in council tax at this point in time was not correct with pressure on house hold incomes with inflation and rising energy bills.
- Those who have claimed the £15.00 shop local card have until the end of March to spend it. Also still available is free bus travel on the weekends anywhere within Herefordshire which will carry on up to the end of September.

### 5.3 Local residents – The following issues were raised:

- Council **NOTED** an email had been received from a concerned resident regarding the flooding which occurs on the corner of Chapel Orchard, next to Hereford Road. The flooding is said to contain remnants of sewage. The Council **RESOLVED** to speak with the Locality Steward and Environmental Health.
- Council **NOTED** an appeal request had been received from a resident regarding the pruning of Aspen next to Gadbridge Road. Council reconsidered the request again but **RESOLVED** that the tree had been in place before the residents bought the property, and therefore, since the tree is not an emergency case, the pruning would be reviewed at a later date.

## 6. FINANCE

### 6.1 Payment schedule –

Council **RATIFIED** the following payments relating February 2022 as outlined below:

PAYEE	SERVICE	CHEQUE	TOTAL
A Apps (Create.net)	'weobleyparishcouncil.org.uk' Website Package	FPO	£101.88
West Mercia Energy	Library Electricity	DD	£129.74
West Mercia Energy	Back Lane Toilets Electricity	DD	£16.15
Mark Hurd Butchers	Christmas Lights Electricity Reimbursement	Cheque 1727	£55.00
Mr R Metcalfe	Christmas Lights Electricity Reimbursement	Cheque 1728	£50.00
Katrina Hughes	Christmas Lights Electricity Reimbursement	Cheque 1729	£20.00
Fiona Ambler	Christmas Lights Electricity Reimbursement	Cheque 1730	£20.00
			<b>£392.77</b>

Council **APPROVED** the payment of accounts relating to February 2022 as outlined below:

PAYEE	SERVICE	CHEQUE	TOTAL
Romily Giddens	Clerk Salary February 2022	Cheque 1731	£392.60
Romily Giddens	Clerk's Expenses February 2022	Cheque 1731	£9.99
TayPlay	Scramble Net Play Area (June 2021)	Cheque 1732	£521.48
Weobley Mower Services	Play Area Mower Service	Cheque 1733	£199.64
HALC	HALC/NALC Subscription and Affiliation Fee 2022/23	Cheque 1734	£918.66
			<b>£2,042.37</b>

**6.2 Bank Reconciliation April 2021- January 2022** – The Council **NOTED** the bank reconciliation for the 10-month period with the balance of £26,404.93. Expenditure for the period totalled £54,745.78 and Receipts totalled £50,729.62. The Reserves account balance on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 was £6,380.84.

**6.3 Budget Monitoring for April 2021 – January 2022** – The Council **NOTED** the budget monitoring report for this period. £25,880.27 of the budgeted £36,315.00 precept had been spent during this period.

**6.4 Insurance Provision** - The Council **NOTED** that there are only two insurance providers specialising in Parish Council Insurance. The Council **RESOLVED** to review the current provision, and update if necessary during the May meeting.

**6.5 Queen's Jubilee** - Guest speaker Kate Best reported that she had come forward to organise Jubilee Events in the village and members of the public were being invited to a meeting to discuss arrangements. Cllr Lloyd would represent the Parish Council. A request for funding was made. The Council **RESOLVED** to award £250 to be spent on the Jubilee celebrations and their organisation.

## 7. PLANNING

**Planning applications** - It was **RESOLVED** to make the following comments on applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council:

<b>APPLICATION:</b>	<b>P220197 – Listed Building Consent</b>
<b>SITE:</b>	Camberwell Cottage, Weobley, Herefordshire, HR4 8SH
<b>DESCRIPTION:</b>	Proposed replacement windows and alterations to external walls and roof over kitchen.
<b>COMMENT:</b>	No objections.

The Council **NOTED** that the tree warden would be asked to look at the trees in Bell Square car park and just outside of the car park and would report back at the next meeting.

## 8. PARISH MAINTENANCE

### 8.1 Lengthsman

- Council **NOTED** no requests but **RESOLVED** to look into appointing a Lengthsman for 2022-23 and drawing up an Annual Maintenance Plan.

### 8.2 Highways

- Council **RESOLVED** to request a sweeper on Hereford Road and also request a jetty to clear the gully/drain by Chapel Orchard. The drainage issue and sewage problem would also be reported.
- Council **RESOLVED** to report the potholes in Burton Wood and the condition of the Back Lane road surface.
- Council **NOTED** that two trees, next to the Scout Hut and on the Town Ditch footpath had fallen during storm Eunice but have now been cleared.
- Council **RESOLVED** to opt for 2 x cuts per year on all parish road verges.

**8.3 Drainage Grant** – The Council **NOTED** that Balfour Beatty was welcoming applications for Drainage Grant funding. The Council **RESOLVED** to apply for the grant in relation to the Town Ditch and drainage issues on The Marsh. The deadline for initial applications is the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

**8.4 Lengthsman Scheme 2022-23** – The Council **RESOLVED** to enrol into the next year's Lengthsman Scheme.

## 9. HEREFORDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN 2021-2041

The review and **NOTED** the proposed plan and were concerned by the number of dwellings needed and the urgency of developing the plan. Council **RESOLVED** to meet on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February @ 7pm in the village hall to formulate a detailed response. This will be reported at March's meeting.

## 10. ROSE GARDEN

Council **NOTED** the final design plans and **RESOLVED** to proceed with the design with the revision of disabled access/seating.

Guest Speaker Heather Morrison reported to the Council on the status of the S106 funding:

- Unlike the Skatepark, the S106 monies will need to be claimed back via Herefordshire Council through invoicing, rather than the Parish Council receiving the money in a lump sum. Council **NOTED** the risk of cash flow issues relating to this.
- 3 quotes are needed for each stage in the projects.
- A project manager has been appointed to manage the Rose Garden work.

## 11. PLAY AREA

Council **NOTED** that the final £1750 of the Sports England grant has now been requested. This will be spent on teaching as per the grant criteria.

The following expenditure was agreed:

- ROSPA Chains - £378.07
- Roller Hire - £120
- Woodchip - £500
- 18 Week Portlalloo Hire - £434 (£23 per week)
- Strimmer for use by volunteers – up to £250

## 12. INFORMATION SHEET

Council **NOTED** that the following correspondence had been received:

- Herefordshire Locality Steward update – February 2022
- Talk Community updates – February 2022
- New Model Code of Conduct – February 2022
- Spatial Options Meeting Recording & Responses – February 2022
- Qwell Information Session for Adults in Herefordshire and Worcestershire – February 2022
- Planned Road Closures – February 2022

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Council **NOTED** that the next meeting of the Council would be held on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022** at 7.00pm in Hopelands Village Hall, Weobley, HR4 8SN.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.29pm

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**CHAIR:**

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**DATE:**