

WEOBLEY PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Weobley Parish Council Meeting held remotely via Zoom on Tuesday 23rd March 2021 commencing at 7:00pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors L Anderson (Chair) J Simons (Vice Chair), A Apps, C Breen, P Lloyd, H Quinlan, C Saunders (19.26) and M Ware (2 Vacancies).

IN ATTENDANCE

Clerk to the Council – Romily Giddens.

Ward Cllr Jones and two members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WRITTEN REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

The Following Declaration of Interest was made:

- Cllr Lloyd: Personal – Tree surgeon.

3. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23rd February 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

4. OPEN SESSION

4.1 Police Report - The Police were not present however; the following report was received in advance and was read by the clerk:

The local policing team has received a number of reports of mini motor bikes being ridden in an anti-social manner – We are keen to catch any offenders in the act; I would encourage the local community to report concerns at the time offences are being committed.

I am aware of the continued concerns surrounding wild birds being killed/captured, this matter is being investigated.

4.2 Ward Councillor Report - The following report was received from Ward Cllr Jones:

- A public consultation had been held on proposed new options to improve levels of recycling ahead of renewal of Herefordshire Council's rubbish and recycling contract in 2023. The new option involved additional bins to separate waste and possible three-weekly collections. 53% voted to keep the present system and 47% for the new option. Changes must be expected as central government is pushing for more to be recycled.
- There has been an increase in fly tipping in neighbouring Parishes. Ward Cllr Jones requested that people report any on the Herefordshire Council website with a photograph of the rubbish and a police incident number. The more reports of fly tipping that are recorded will inform the council of the scale of the problem.
- Herefordshire Council has identified that over £650,000 is needed to purchase 1,300 laptops, 4G routers and internet access to fill the gap for online teaching. This will be largely funded by central government. If these are provided it will increase the resilience post pandemic for future online learning.
- Herefordshire Coronavirus cases recorded since the start of the pandemic has risen to 6,745, with 51 cases in the last seven days up to the 19th March. Approximately 6,000 people had been tested in the last week and 97,000 vaccinations have been done in Herefordshire.
- Ward Cllr Jones had recently spoken with Simon Hobbs at Herefordshire Council and submitted photographs to illustrate the ongoing poor condition of Gadbridge Road. A site meeting was

proposed. Resurfacing of the road was on the BBLP Annual Plan for this year but no timescale was given. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to Herefordshire Council to further express their concerns and the need for urgent action.

4.3 Local residents - The following matters were raised:

- An update on the progress of the skate park was received. The skate park opening is planned for the 12th April. Protective painting and landscaping will take place in due course. A volunteer group has been formed to assist with ongoing maintenance and skate park-based projects .
- A report on the potential grant funding options available to the Council to support parish developments and improvements.

FINANCE

5.

5.1 Payment schedule –

Council **RATIFIED** the following payments relating to March 2021 as outlined below:

PAYEE	SERVICE	CHEQUE	TOTAL
Concrete Skateparks Ltd	Concrete works	FPO	£19,200.00
TOTAL			£19,200.00

Council **APPROVED** the payment of accounts relating to March 2021 as outlined below:

PAYEE	SERVICE	CHEQUE	TOTAL
West Mercia Energy	Toilets	DD	£14.11
West Mercia Energy	Library	DD	£186.89
West Mercia Energy	Rose Garden	DD	£11.59
Romily Giddens	Clerk's Expenses*	Cheque	£41.05
Upperbridge	Email/Server Support	Cheque	£108.00
Chris Breen	Play Area Signage	FPO	£21.57
Richard Mills	Lengthsman	Cheque	£43.20
Weobley Mower Services	Mower Service	Cheque	£205.64
HALC	HALC & NALC Subscription	Cheque	£856.49
HALC	Clerk Recruitment & Training	Cheque	£288.00
Romily Giddens	Salary February 2021	Cheque	£332.80
HMRC	Deductions & PAYE February	DD	£83.20
Romily Giddens	Salary March 2021	Cheque	£332.80
HMRC	Deductions and PAYE March	DD	£83.20
TOTAL			£2,608.54

5.2 Internal Auditor – Council agreed that the Clerk would continue to compile a list of quotes for review at the next Parish Council Meeting.

6. CO-OPTION

One application had been circulated prior to the meeting of the Council to fill the one Casual vacancy within Weobley Parish Council and was **NOTED** and **RECEIVED** by the Council. The candidate, Colin Mills, was duly proposed and seconded and unanimously **RESOLVED** to be co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

It was **RESOLVED** to delegate to the Clerk, to contact the SNT for further information about the role of the Neighbourhood Watch village coordinator.

8. PLANNING

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

8.1 APPLICATION: P210237

SITE: Beam Ends, 2 High Street, Weobley, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR4 8SL

DESCRIPTION: Variation of a condition 2 following grant of planning permission. 174623/FH (Proposed demolition & replacement of existing single storey rear extension. New window to first floor. New roof light to existing roof.) – to include more rooflights in the attic conversion than originally proposed.

COMMENT: The Council notes that this is a Listed Building and would expect to see a Listed Building application in due course. We note that the application includes the addition of further roof lights. Whilst those to the rear are not problematic, we have concerns about those on the front (north) elevation, which faces onto High Street. Notwithstanding the grant of permission for roof lights on the north frontage of the newly converted part of no.3 High Street, we consider this case to be more sensitive. The property is late medieval in origin and retains most of its original timber framing, though the rear and lower part of the front elevation have been altered. The application shows three fairly large roof lights in the north facing roof slope. The Council is of the opinion that these are out of proportion with the scale of this elevation. A more acceptable option would be to have two, smaller roof lights aligned with the windows on the lower storeys. We would be particularly concerned if the installation of the roof lights, or other alterations, involved the cutting away or loss of significant historical fabric, particularly medieval timbers.

8.2 APPLICATION: P210546

SITE: The Folly, Weobley, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR4 8RR

DESCRIPTION: Proposed extension and alterations.

COMMENT: No objections.

8.3 APPLICATION: P219346

SITE: Richmond, Weobley, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR4 8SH

DESCRIPTION: Proposed extension on the rear of property.

COMMENT: No objections.

Cllr Saunders declared a personal interest on the following application due to the proximity of the application to his residence.

8.4 APPLICATION: P202925

SITE: 10 Broad Street, Weobley, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR4 8SA

DESCRIPTION: Change of use of front room and driveway from residential to commercial use.

COMMENT: Council has no objections to the change of use. However, it was **RESOLVED** to delegate to the Clerk to get clarification over the use of the driveway. It was also **RESOLVED** to delegate the final comment to the clerk, following her liaison with the Planning Working Group.

9. ROSE GARDEN

Council **NOTED** that plans were currently under review due to considerations such as wheelchair access needing to be taken into account. Any development is now on hold until the Autumn to allow the Rose Garden to be open to residents and visitors during the Summer months. Council also noted that the five trees were still awaiting collection and planting. Council also wished to thank Mrs. B Dennis for her purchase and donation of these trees and would write to her.

10. COMMUNITY CCTV

Council reviewed the quotes for the upgrading of the existing community CCTV. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with Stop That Thief's recommended upgrades.

11. PARISH MAINTENANCE

11.1 Lengthsman Tasks – Council **NOTED** that their Lengthsman had resigned earlier in the month. It was agreed to continue with the previously agreed work:

- Resurfacing of the Bell Square car park.

The proposed works to trees in Bell Square and Bearcroft could be deferred until later in the year. The boards on the fingerpost post near Corn Mills required attention

11.2 Contractors for Parish Maintenance during 2021/2022 – It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk would seek quotes from contractors for parish maintenance during 2021/2022.

11.3 Parish Maintenance Jobs – Council **RESOLVED** that the clerk would adapt the Parish's previous year's list to include all annual parish maintenance jobs. The Council **NOTED** that the list would be submitted alongside the Parish's Lengthsman Scheme contract for 2021-22.

12. ALLOTMENTS

Council **NOTED** that a letter had been received containing six signatures from residents requesting the Council to provide village allotments. Under Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908, the Council is required to explore providing allotments for residents. After discussion, Council **RESOLVED** that the clerk would investigate further and present at the next Parish Council meeting.

13. FOOTPATHS

Council **NOTED** the update provided. Due to increased use of the footpaths the requirement to mow had been reduced but mowing would begin again, once necessary.

14. PLAY AREA/SKATE PARK

Council received an update regarding play area maintenance and the skate park progress. The self-closing gate and new 'No Dogs' signage had recently been installed. A ROSPA inspection was due to take place at a cost of £95 prior to the Skate Park being opened to the public. Investigations into field drainage at the eastern end of the Play area had begun. Arrangements for the annual Bonfire and Fireworks event would be discussed at the June Council meeting.

15. WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER

Council **NOTED** that the website was now live and thanked Cllr Apps for his work on this. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the publication of the newsletter once the final draft had been reviewed.

16. LIBRARY/MUSEUM

Council **NOTED** that contractors, Royston Davies, had begun work on the Library/Museum building. The old plaster has been removed, and walls have now been left to dry. The capping of the chimneys would begin when they had been cleared of old nesting debris.

17. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Council **NOTED** that the Annual Parish Meeting should be held between the 1st March and 1st June inclusive. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk would request advice on where the meeting should be held in accordance with the Government's COVID-19 restrictions.

18. INFORMATION SHEET

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

- Verge Cutting – March 2021
- Parish Council Summit– March 2021
- Herefordshire Locality Steward update – February 2021
- Council Covid-19 updates
- Road Closure information – February & March 2021
- Brief Police Report – February 2021

Verge cutting on all Parish C/U roads would continue at the rate of twice of year.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on **Tuesday 27th April 2021** via the Zoom platform at 7.00pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:04pm.

CHAIR: _____

DATE: _____