

WEOBLEY PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Weobley Parish Council Meeting held at Hopelands Village Hall, Weobley, HR4 8SN on Tuesday 7th March 2023 commencing at 7:00pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors L Anderson (Chair), J Simons (Vice Chairs), A Apps, P Lloyd, C Saunders, H Saunders and H Quinlan.

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk to the Council – Romily Giddens and one member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Breen, S Coleman and C Mills and Ward Cllr M Jones.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WRITTEN REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

Cllr P Lloyd declared an interest in work to trees.

Cllr L Anderson declared an interest in matters relating to the Village Hall.

3. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council Meeting held 7th February 2023 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

4. OPEN SESSION

4.1 Police Report – The Police were not present and no written report was received in advance. The Council **NOTED** the following events which had occurred recently:

- Local policing team currently short-staffed due to officers off duty due to injury and maternity leave.
- Two residents had come forward to enquire regarding being a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for the village.
- Member of the public had raised concern regarding the increase in rural crime and was looking to communicate with other local councils to address the issue.

4.2 Ward Councillor Report – The following written report was received from Ward Cllr Jones and **NOTED** by the Council:

- Plans have been released for the 'Super Cycle Highway' for cyclists and walkers to travel around Hereford city. The Saint Owen street section has been completed and over the next twelve months, cycle routes will be created along Holme Lacy Road, Rotherwas, Commercial Road and Aylestone Hill. Hereford Council will be funding this Super Cycle Way at a cost of £1 million pounds, which was part of the requirement of the £19 million pound levelling up grant fund awarded to the council from central government. There will also be quiet walking routes set up at a cost of over £400,000 which will come out of the levelling up grant fund.
- There was a Full Council meeting on the 10th February, mainly to look at the budget for 2023 to 2024 and the proposed council tax increase of 4.99%. Also, on the agenda to discuss was the council tax reduction scheme where more than 11,500 residents qualify for this in the county. 4,956 are pension age and 6,547 are working age. Also proposed was to increase parking charges by 10%. In all the council is looking to make savings of £14 million pounds.
- Hereford Council received an extra Rural Services Grant, to the value of £682,000 on the 6th February and at the full council meeting on the 10th February, it was voted to spend £482,000 on setting up a Phosphate commission to address the River Wye problem and the other £200,000 to be spent on P.R.O.W footpaths across the county. The other proposal was to spend £612,000 on repairs to rural C & U roads and £70,000 towards renewing the Athletics track at the race course. This proposal was voted down.

- At the Council elections taking place on the 4th May, voters will have to produce photo identification. This can be passport or driving license or any other official photo identification. This will happen across the country and not just Herefordshire.
- There was free parking in Hereford council car parks on Saturday the 11th February. This was from 12 pm onwards. This was to encourage people into the city when it goes quiet in the afternoon. Similar free parking was trialed last year to stimulate growth. More free parking is planned throughout the coming year.
- The council are looking to recruit more foster carers as they have been doing over the last few years. The target was for 25 new foster carers every year for next 3 years which was set in 2022. There is a recruitment market manager in place to drive this target forward. Each child that goes into residential care costs around £170,000 per year and currently there are 50 children in the county placed in care.

4.2 Local residents – The following issues were raised:

- Council **NOTED** a request to consider a road sign indicating Meadow Street's name. Council **RESOLVED** to consider the costs of installing around the village.
- Council **NOTED** a request for a seat to be located between Garnstone Drive and the village and up Hereford Road. Council **RESOLVED** to review options.
- Council **NOTED** a request for agreement to improved Museum signage and installation of visitor bench. Council **RESOLVED** that a bench may be an invitation for anti-social behavior and would take up room in the small carpark but agreed that signage would be a useful addition.

5. FINANCE

5.1 Payment schedule –

Council **RATIFIED** the following payments (including VAT) relating February 2023 as outlined below:

PAYEE	SERVICE	CHEQUE	TOTAL
West Mercia Energy	Back Lane Toilets Electricity	DD	£18.80
West Mercia Energy	Library and Rose Garden Electricity	DD	£412.47
R S Signs and Engraving	S106 Rose Garden Plaques	FPO	£319.25
			£750.52

Council **APPROVED** the payment of accounts (including VAT) relating to February 2023 as outlined below:

PAYEE	SERVICE	CHEQUE	TOTAL
Romily Giddens	Clerk Salary Backdated Pay February 2023	Cheque 1803	£366.35
Romily Giddens	Clerk's Expenses February 2023*	Cheque 1803	£9.99
Andrew James	S106 Rose Garden Work	FPO	£10,362.00
Andrew James	Movement of Bins and Delivery of Seat	FPO	£180.00
C R & J Jenkins	S106 Rose Garden Moling	FPO	£660.00
Dave Campbell	Lengthsman Duties February 2023	FPO	£913.80
			£12,492.14

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Village Hall's grant request for £700 towards 2022 annual Safety inspections. Council **RESOLVED** for the clerk to forward on comparisons regarding the 2022 vs. 2023 Library electricity cost.

5.2 Bank Reconciliation April 2022 – January 2023 – The Council **NOTED** the bank reconciliation for the 10-month period with the balance of £63,851.94. Expenditure for the period totalled £19,357.20 and Receipts totalled £59,622.19. The Reserves account balance on the 31st January 2023 was £6,386.78.

5.3 Budget Monitoring for April 2022 – January 2023 – The Council **NOTED** the budget monitoring report for this period. £17,780.70 of the budgeted £36,439.00 precept had been spent during this period.

6. PARISH MAINTENANCE

6.1 Lengthsman

- Council **NOTED** DC Gardening had completed ditch and drain clearance on Hereford Road for £761.50 + VAT. Work was also done to clear a blocked gully on Church Road.

- Council **RESOLVED** to get quotes for weed spraying and the repair of the kerb stone at Unicorn Court.
- Council **RESOLVED** to make enquiries regarding the Lengthsman scheme for 2023-24.

6.2 Highways

- Council **RESOLVED** to report the need for line markings to be repainted in Bell Square and near to the school.

6.3 Footpaths and P.R.O.W

- Council **NOTED** that the Parish Footpath Officers had met with Herefordshire Council's Footpath Officer to discuss repairs and potential funding options. An update would be received in due course.

7. PLANNING

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

APPLICATION: P230038 – Works to Trees in a Conservation Area

SITE: Folly Cottage, Bell Square, Weobley, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR4 8SE

DESCRIPTION: Cedar in back garden, has been declining for 3 or 4 years. Canopy sparse, weeping figures in bark possible 'phytophthora'. Request permission to fell.

COMMENT: In relations to the planning Application P230038/K - to fell the Cedar tree, the tree warden looked at this tree back in the Autumn and noted significant loss of needles, which they thought was most probably due to drought from summer heatwave. It did have a few fissures (not figures? As stated in application) which could be due to a disease present unfortunately. There were no immediate issues with obvious health and safety (e.g. limbs damaged or diseased) so they suggested to leave the tree until the summer 2023 and see if the spring brought new vigour to the tree and water it during this growing season to see if it recovers.

On looking at the tree this year it has not improved so far and in their opinion, they would suggest leaving it until the spring to give it a chance. The parish tree warden would support the decision of felling if an arboriculturist has advised their thoughts were to fell, and indeed the planning officer.

The tree warden would also recommend that the owner replants a tree in their garden to replace

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

APPLICATION: P230526 – Works to Trees in a Conservation Area

SITE: 103 Bearcroft, Weobley, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR4 8TD

DESCRIPTION: 1 and 4 reduction of 2 Leylandii hedges, to approx height of 2.300m. 2 Black Oak Later: possible crown thinning and reduction. 3 Mixed hedge of Beech, Hornbeam & Holly requires trimming and levelling up to approx 1.500m. 5. Removal of Ash tree, mature. Enveloped in Ivy & suffering die back. 6 Leylandii, a mature branch from the hedging reduce height. 7 Silver Birch, mature. Removal of Ivy only at this stage. Later: possible crown thinning/reduction. 8 Hazel, mature growing through the hedging Later - probably for crown thinning & reduction. 9. Unknown mature deciduous tree and 10. Maple, mature Later - probably for crown thinning, reduction & raising.

COMMENT: Awaiting tree warden's comment.

APPLICATION: P230279 – Full Householder

SITE: Market Pitch Cottage, High Street, Weobley, Hereford Herefordshire HR4 8SJ

DESCRIPTION: Proposed variation of condition 2 of planning permission 162297 (Demolition of mono pitch rear lobby. Construction of enlarged rear dormer. Kitchen extension to rear). To allow alterations to approved ground floor plan.

COMMENT: To ratify comment at the next meeting.

APPLICATION: P230403/230404 – Full Householder/Listed Building Consent

SITE: The Ley, Weobley, Hereford Herefordshire HR4 8QR

DESCRIPTION: Installation of 3 no replacement windows, installation of wood burning stove & flue pipe/repair & repoint 1 no chimney.

COMMENT: To ratify comment at the next meeting.

8. ALLOTMENTS

Council **NOTED** the Allotment working group meeting on the 21st February to review the comments made by T.A Matthews for the Parish Council. The Lease with amendments was submitted to Belmont's Solicitor's for comment. The Allotments working group consisted of Cllr L Anderson, Cllr J Simons, Cllr S Coleman and the Clerk.

Council **NOTED** that an agreement would need to be drafted between Weobley Parish Council and Weobley Allotment Group.

9. CORONATION

After discussion, Council **RESOLVED** to help facilitate and decorate a public organised event through funding and the organisation of a road closure on Portland Street for the 'Big Lunch' on Sunday 7th May. The Village Hall would also be booked in case of unfavourable weather.

10. WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER

Council **NOTED** that Cllr Anderson had sent final ideas for the Newsletter to Cllr Apps for review and that this might now take the form of a directory of useful information for residents.

11. ROSE GARDEN

Council **NOTED** that work began on the Rose Garden on the 9th January and work was now nearly complete and that the Roses had been planted on the 7th March. A bench had been given to Mike Ware, along with a plaque, to thank him for all his work on and for the Council over several decades.

Council **NOTED** that the stone table had been attracting negative comments and that a local stone mason was to help adapt the appearance of the table.

12. PLAY AREA

Council **NOTED** P.A.T meeting minutes from February had been circulated. Council **NOTED** the proposed replacement trees for the felled Elms, as suggested by the tree warden and to discuss options further before proceeding.

13. INFORMATION SHEET

13.1 Correspondence

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

- Herefordshire Locality Steward update – February 2023.
- Talk Community updates – February 2023.
- Road Closure Notices - February 2023.

Council **NOTED** that a tree planting report had been received from the Parish Tree Warden with proposed planting areas and species that would suit. Council **RESOLVED** to review the proposals at the next meeting.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14.1 Council **NOTED** that the next meeting of the Council would be held on **Tuesday 28th March 2023** at 7.00pm in Hopelands Village Hall, Weobley, HR4 8SN.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.08 pm.

CHAIR:

DATE: