

WEOBLEY PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors J Simons (Vice Chair) in the Chair, A Apps, C Breen, P Lloyd, H Quinlan, C Saunders and M Ware (1 Vacancy).

IN ATTENDANCE

Clerk to the Council – Romily Giddens.

Ward Cllr Jones and two members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr L Anderson (Chair). Council noted that Mr West had automatically disqualified himself from the Parish Council as a result of over six months of non-attendance at Parish Council meetings.

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 19th January 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26th January 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

4. OPEN SESSION

4.1 Police Report - The Police were not present due to live job. A report would be requested. There was concern about the recent reports of theft of catalytic convertors in the village. An update on this would also be requested.

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

- Hereford Council Chief Executive Alistair Neill retires from the role in February after Eight years in the position. He will be succeeded by Paul Walker who currently works for Hackney and London Borough Council.
- Hereford Council voted to cancel the proposed Western Hereford bypass and Southern Link road. An amendment proposed to keep the Southern link road was unsuccessful with 27 voted to stop the progress of the Southern link road, 19 against and six abstentions.
- Council tax would increase by 4.99%. The Council Tax Reduction Scheme was to increase from an 80% - 84% reduction to 100%. Currently around 11,000 people in Herefordshire qualify for this scheme.
- Housing Land Supply in Herefordshire is currently 4.22 years an increase on 3.69 years. More houses have been built in the last couple of years to bring this figure up towards the target of 5 years.
- Herefordshire Coronavirus cases recorded since the start of the pandemic has risen to 6,378, which has resulted in 277 deaths. Approximately 6,000 people had been tested in the last week.

4.3 Local residents - The following matters were raised:

- An update on the proposed tree planting at the skate park was received. A grant of £1,021 had been awarded for the purchase and planting of 13 trees, with the condition that young people were involved in the process. The village scout group had been contacted.

5. FINANCE

5.1 Payment schedule –

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

PAYEE	SERVICE	CHEQUE	TOTAL
Concrete Skateparks Ltd	Concrete works	FPO	£13,200.00
P Russell	Zoom Subscription 4 Months	FPO	£57.56
Mark Hurd Butchers	Christmas Lights Electricity	1645	£55.00
Mr R Metcalfe	Christmas Lights Electricity	1646	£50.00
S J Elder	Christmas Lights Electricity	1644	£30.00
Katrina Hughes	Christmas Lights Electricity	1643	£20.00
TOTAL			£13,412.56

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

PAYEE	SERVICE	CHEQUE	TOTAL
West Mercia Energy	Toilets	DD	£15.63
West Mercia Energy	Library	DD	£111.16
West Mercia Energy	Rose Garden	DD	£11.21
West Mercia Energy	Rose Garden	DD	£11.89
The Tree Shop	Skate park Trees	FPO	£829.00
C Breen	Litelines Direct – Bin Bags	FPO	£28.49
Autela	Annual Payroll Services	FPO	£290.50
R Giddens	Zoom Monthly Subscription	1649	£14.39
M Ware	Footpath Maintenance and Mowing	1650	£436.80
TOTAL			£1,398.07

5.1.1 Parish Council Mobile – The Council agreed the purchase of a mobile phone to be used by Clerk. This was to be purchased at the Clerk's discretion. Council **RESOLVED** a contract of £10 a month.

5.2 Bank Signatories – Council **RESOLVED** that at the start of the new financial year Cllrs Anderson and Simons would remain signatories and Cllrs Breen and Saunders would be appointed as new signatories, replacing Cllrs Lloyd and Ware.

5.3 Finance Working Group – Council noted that Cllrs Saunders and Simons had previously been part of the Parish Council Finance Working Group with the previous Clerk. Council **RESOLVED** to continue with this group with the new Clerk.

5.4 Internal Auditor

Council agreed to seek quotes and review these at the next Parish Council meeting before appointing an internal auditor for the financial year 2021-2022.

6. VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

Council noted that Vicky Mackie had previously been the representative, and that Cllr Anderson was secretary. Council opted to postpone the appointment until the return of Cllr Anderson.

7. PLANNING

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

7.1 Application: P204495 and P204496 (Listed Building Consent)

Site: Tithe Barn, Meadow Street, Weobley, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR4 8SF

Description: Proposed garden studio

Comment: Although there were differences of opinion by Councillors in respect of the style of the building and its mono roof design, the Council has no objections.

7.2 Application: P203246/K

Site: 25 Bearcroft, Weobley, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR4 8TA

Description: Fell Lime Tree

Comment: No objection.

7.3 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: It was **RESOLVED** to delegate the final comment to the Clerk, following her liaison with the Planning Working Group.

8. ROSE GARDEN

Following discussion on the proposed improvements, it was **RESOLVED** that quotes for extending electricity to the other end of the Rose Garden and hard landscaping would be sought. Council also noted that the five trees were still awaiting collection and planting.

9. COMMUNITY CCTV

A Community CCTV Working Group consisting of Cllrs Anderson and Breen was created to review the quotes received from Stop that Thief. The Working Group would report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

10. PARISH MAINTENANCE

10.1 Lengthsman Tasks – Council agreed to undertake the following work:

- Resurfacing of the Bell Square car park.

Council agreed to seek quotes regarding the pruning of seven trees in the village.

Council also noted Cllr Ware's repair to the Castle Green gate and thanked him.

10.2 Contractors for Parish Maintenance during 2021/2022 – Council agreed that Cllr Lloyd would compile a list of regular parish maintenance jobs. The discussion was postponed until the next Parish Council meeting.

10.3 Expression of Interest for Herefordshire Council's Lengthsman Scheme 2021/2022 – Council endorsed the submission of an Expression of Interest for Herefordshire Council's Lengthsman Scheme during January.

11. 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.

Thanks were extended to Cllr Ware for his work and repair on the Castle Green gate.

12. PLAY AREA/SKATE PARK

Council received an update regarding play area maintenance and the skate park progress. The self-closing gate had not yet been installed. Cllr Breen to investigate.

13. INFORMATION SHEET

Council noted the following correspondence received:

- Empty property service – February 2021
- Boundary commission – February 2021
- Herefordshire Locality Steward update – February 2021
- Council Covid-19 updates
- Road Closure information – January 2021

Council acknowledged notice of planned tree felling work on Garnstone Estate land and was grateful for the advance notification but regretted that works were required on well established trees.

The following updates were received from Councillors:

Library – Contractor to be appointed following further detailed discussion concerning scope and price.

Website and Newsletter – Website was ready for publication & only domain needed to be moved.

Newsletter will be distributed digitally once it had been reviewed. A small quantity of hard copies will

be available for those without access to the internet. A new community website was also in the design stages.

LEADER funding – Council was still awaiting delivery of the three remaining Information Boards.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on **Tuesday 23rd March 2021** via the Zoom platform at 7.00pm.

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

VICE CHAIR:

DATE: