

WEOBLEY PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Weobley Parish Council Meeting held at Hopelands Village Hall, Weobley, HR4 8SN on Tuesday 27th September 2022 commencing at 7:00pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors L Anderson (Chair), J Simons (Vice Chair), C Breen, S Coleman, P Lloyd, C Mills, C Saunders, H Saunders and H Quinlan.

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk to the Council – Romily Giddens and two members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Apps.

2. CO-OPTION

Council **NOTED** that there are 1 vacancy on the Council. 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, Helen Saunders, was duly proposed and seconded and unanimously **RESOLVED** to be co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WRITTEN REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

Cllr P Lloyd declared an interest in work to trees (item 13).

Cllr H Quinlan declared an interest in P221866 (item 7)

4. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council Meeting held 26th July 2022 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

5. OPEN SESSION

5.1 Police Report - The Police were not present. The Council **RESOLVED** to enquire about the date of the next surgery after the previous success of the last one.

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

- The Ofsted Report into Herefordshire Council's Children's Services concluded that the status be changed from 'requires improvement' to 'inadequate'. This level was set across a number of areas including, communication, management and case loads.
- Helen Brazil has been appointed to act as the new commissioner to assess Children's Services over the next 12-weeks. Darrell Freeman is set to continue in his post as Head of Children's Services, which he has been in for the last 8-months.
- Herefordshire Council have agreed to set aside £11 million in funding (£6 million from reserves) to support improvements, in addition to the £10 million to be received from central government.
- Free weekend bus travel finished at the end of August. The scheme had been widely used and was thought to have been a benefitted local residents and businesses.
- Details of the new rubbish and recycling of material for disposal have been made available. There will be 5 bins for households, 3 x 240 litre wheelie bins, 1 x 180 litre wheelie bin and 1 x 23 litre bin for food waste which will be collected weekly. The other bins will be collected on a one every week basis on a three week cycle. This incentive comes from central government and could save the council up to £2 million pounds each year with more efficient recycling and less to pay for rubbish disposal.
- Hereford Council staff returned to work from Plough Lane in August. There is still a mixture of some people working from home a couple of days a week.
- A public meeting regarding S106 funding is due to take place in a couple of weeks, to detail the changes to accessing Parish S106 funds.

5.3 Local residents – The following issues were raised:

- Council **NOTED** a question raised regarding whether fly tipping had increased in line with the changes to accessing the tip through a booking system.
- Council **NOTED** a resident's concerns over the proposed works to the Rose Garden through S106 funding. The primary points included:
 - Need to keep design simple to ensure space is easy to maintain.
 - How were the four trees going to fit in the space which is currently useful for village events.
 - Concerns regarding the cost of installing electricity cable to the other end of the Rose Garden and what was the need?

Council **RESOLVED** to meet privately to review plans further with these comments in mind and to reply to residents in due course.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Payment schedule –

Council **RATIFIED** the following payments (including VAT) relating August and September 2022 as outlined below:

PAYEE	SERVICE	CHEQUE	TOTAL
West Mercia Energy	Back Lane Toilets Electricity	DD	£18.83
West Mercia Energy	Rose Garden & Library Electricity	DD	£82.93
West Mercia Energy	Back Lane Toilets Electricity	DD	£19.17
West Mercia Energy	Library Electricity	DD	£73.49
Three Counties Toilet Hire	July Portaloo Hire	FPO	£110.40
Autela Payroll Services	July – September Payroll	FPO	£51.61
Gareth Higgs Tree Surgeon	Fell Horse Chestnut Tree at Play Area	FPO	£50.00
West Mercia Energy	Rose Garden Electricity	DD	£16.56
Autela Payroll Services	April – June Payroll	FPO	£65.57
			£488.56

Council **APPROVED** the payment of accounts (including VAT) relating to August and September 2022 as outlined below:

PAYEE	SERVICE	CHEQUE	TOTAL
Romily Giddens	Clerk Salary August 2022	Cheque 1768	£338.68
Romily Giddens	Clerk Salary September 2022	Cheque 1768	£338.68
Romily Giddens	Clerk's Expenses August + September 2022*	Cheque 1768	£19.98
Romily Giddens	Clerk's Allowance April – September (6 months)	Cheque 1768	£50.00
Richard Baugh	Installation of New Information Boards	Cheque 1769	£74.00
Stuart Hurds	Repairs to Back Lane Toilets	Cheque 1770	£60.00
Weobley Village Hall	Hall Hire July	Cheque 1771	£18.75
Three Counties Toilet Hire	September (1-Week) Portaloo Hire + Collection	FPO	£39.60
Upper Bridge Enterprises	Clerk Email and Domain	Cheque 1772	£54.60
Parks and Playgrounds	Annual Play Area Inspection 2022	Cheque 1773	£63.40
HALC	Internal Audit 2021-22	Cheque 1774	£264.00
C Breen (Wickes)	25 x Fixing Plates (PA)	Cheque 1775	£91.00
C Breen (Tudors)	10 x ½ Round Rails (PA)	Cheque 1775	£108.00
C Breen (Amazon)	1 x Box Screws (PA)	Cheque 1775	£5.34
C Breen (Wickes)	10 x Straight Brackets + 5 x Corner Brackets (PA)	Cheque 1775	£60.00
C Breen (Amazon)	Bolt Protection Covers (PA)	Cheque 1775	£11.99
C Breen (Wickes)	3 x Corner Sleeper Brackets (PA)	Cheque 1775	£12.00
C Breen (Tudors)	11 x ½ Round Rails (PA)	Cheque 1775	£118.80
			£1,728.82

Council **NOTED** the current income balance for 2022-23 to date as outlined below:

Date	Name	Details	Precept	Play Area	Interest	Misc	VAT	Total
08/04/2022	Lottery Fund	Skate Park		£1,750				£1,750
19/04/2022	Herefordshire Council	Precept	£18,219.50					£18,219.50
16/09/2022	Herefordshire Council	Precept	£18,219.50					£18,219.50

To date	Lloyds Bank	Interest			£0.16			£0.70
			£36,439.00	£1,750	£0.22	£0.00	£0.00	£38,189.70

6.2 Bank Reconciliation April 2022 - August 2022 – The Council **NOTED** the bank reconciliation for the 5-month period with the balance of £33,520.30. Expenditure for the period totalled £7,898.95 and Receipts totalled £19,969.93. The Reserves account balance on the 31st August 2022 was £6,381.37.

6.3 Budget Monitoring for April 2022 – August 2022 – The Council **NOTED** the budget monitoring report for this period. £7,898.95 of the budgeted £36,439.00 precept had been spent during this period. Council **RESOLVED** for the Finance Working Group to meet on the 5th October 2022 @ 6pm to begin drafting the budget for 2023-24.

6.4 Village Marquee – The Council **NOTED** that a formal request from a resident had been received regarding the purchase of a village marquee for public use. Council **RESOLVED** that Cllr S Coleman would investigate potential options and would report back in due course after liaising with the resident over requirements.

7. PLANNING

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

APPLICATION: P222818 – Works to Trees in a Conservation Area
SITE: The Bear 9 Broad Street Weobley Hereford Herefordshire HR4 8SA
DESCRIPTION: Reduction of Birch tree to maintain good structure.
TREE WARDEN COMMENT – ENDORSED BY PARISH COUNCIL:

In relation to the planning Application P222818K - to reduce the Birch tree by 30%, I have visited the garden and the owner and would agree with their proposal. I looked for signs of nests and bats and none were seen. The best time to prune is late autumn so I would agree a good time to undertake the works.

APPLICATION: P222819 – Works to Trees in a Conservation Area
SITE: The Stables Broad Street Weobley Hereford Herefordshire HR4 8SA
DESCRIPTION: Fell Ash tree.
TREE WARDEN COMMENT – ENDORSED BY PARISH COUNCIL:

In response to the planning Application P222819K - to Fell the Ash tree because it has early signs of Ash die back. I have visited the owner today and inspected the tree (a self set) it unfortunately does seem to have started to show slight signs of Ash die back disease. The Tree Council advise that where safe, to leave Mature Ash trees with early signs of Ash Dieback but in this case I would personally agree that unfortunately this tree overhangs other gardens and electricity/BT lines so there is a risk that branches could fall in the future. So I would agree this work should be undertaken. I have looked for signs of bats and nests and none could be seen (no ivy was present).

APPLICATION: P221866 – Full Householder
SITE: 18 Burtonwood Weobley Hereford Herefordshire HR4 8SU
DESCRIPTION: Excavate existing lawn/garden area, reinstate with stone binder course and porous surface course. Kerb/edge to retain surfacing. Reduce kerb and pavement to allow access to new driveway.
COMMENT: No objections.

The Council **NOTED** that although comments had been submitted to the relevant planning officers, comments were yet to be uploaded to the planning portal.

8. PARISH MAINTENANCE

8.1 Lengthsman

- Council **NOTED** the potential new funding for the Lengthsman grant and **RESOLVED** to make enquiries regarding the funding and recruitment of a new Lengthsman.

8.2 Highways

- Council **NOTED** that Hereford Road was in need of leaf and silt clearance after heavy rainfall.

- Council **NOTED** that reports had been made to Herefordshire Council regarding the displaced Kerbing at Unicorn Court and the condition of the road surface in Back Lane and lower Broad Street.
- Council **NOTED** that Portland Street drains needed jetting

Council **RESOLVED** to submit these works to the Locality Steward for investigation.

9. ALLOTMENTS

Council **NOTED** that the draft lease agreement which had been received from Belmont Abbey's Solicitors and had been forwarded to NALC for advice before signing, who had advised that they do not deal with lease agreements, despite the advice of HALC

Council **RESOLVED** to forward the agreement to T.A.Matthews Solicitors for review.

10. WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER

Council **NOTED** that the Parish Council and Community websites were continually kept up-to-date thanks to Cllr A Apps, with local events, clubs and news.

Council **NOTED** that the Summer/Autumn edition of the newsletter was in a draft state but would be reduced in size from the previous issue due to lack of response to article requests from local groups.

11. LIBRARY/MUSEUM

Council **NOTED** that a meeting between the History Society, Library Volunteers and Parish Council Representatives had recently taken place to discuss the potential for the History Society to have access to more space within the building for private research purposes.

Council **NOTED** that the Museum is due to be redecorated in December.

12. ROSE GARDEN

Council **NOTED** that before proceeding further with plans, a meeting would take place on Thursday 29th to review the proposed design and consider recent comments received from residents.

13. PLAY AREA

13.1 Update Report - Council **NOTED** P.A.T meeting minutes from 7th September 2022 which included:

- The Portaloo toilet had been seen as a success. The P.A.T are due to discuss proposing the hire of the Portaloo again next year for an extended period of 23-Weeks.
- A Wildlife Report had been conducted and received
- The first 3rd of the ROSPA report had been reviewed and the following points had been noted:
 - Nails in fence to be removed, rails on picnic table top to be replaced, bolt thread caps to be bought and fitted to picnic table, and to paint exposed.
 - Scrap metal had been sold for a total of £47.60, after reimbursing the use of the trailer needed for transporting it, a cheque for £27.60 was received by the Parish Council for cashing.
 - Next meeting due to take place on the 9th November 2022.
- Cllrs agreed to the expenditure of £117.12 + VAT or manufacture and installation of two 'weobley.org' promotional signs on the apex of the weather shelter

13.2 Disease Resistant Elms – Council **NOTED** a suggestion had been made to plant disease resistant Elms, to replaced recently removed Dutch Elm trees. The cost for 4 x 6ft trees was £184 + VAT, which was to be discussed with the P.A.T team before proceeding further.

14. WEOBLEY WILDLIFE MEADOWS

Council **NOTED** that a draft maintained plan had been circulated by the Wildlife Trust. The Council **RESOLVED** to enquire regarding the use of the Catholic Church carpark and to query the need for a kissing gate at the entrance to the PROW off Meadow Street.

15. INFORMATION SHEET

15.1 Correspondence

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

- Herefordshire Locality Steward update – August and September 2022

- Talk Community updates – August and September 2022
- Road Closure Notices - August and September 2022

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16.1 Council **NOTED** that the next meeting of the Council would be held on **Tuesday 25th October 2022** at 7.00pm in Hopelands Village Hall, Weobley, HR4 8SN. The Council also **RESOLVED** to postpone the January 2023 meeting from the 24th January 2023 to the 7th February 2023 at 7pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.12 pm.

CHAIR:

DATE: