

**WEOBLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Weobley Parish Council meeting held on  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 19.00 at the Village Hall, Weobley, HR4 8SN**

**Present**

Councillors: Lorraine Anderson (Chair), Simons, Fitzsimmons, Saunders, Wilson, and Apps.

**In attendance**

Clerk: Mr Andrew London, and Nick Mason (Ward Councillor). And two candidates for co-option.

**1. To receive apologies for absence.**

Councillors Wilkinson and Breen.

**2. To receive declarations of interest and consider any written requests for dispensation.**

Councillors Anderson, Simons, Saunders and Fitzsimmons declared interest regarding the village hall.

**3. To discuss: - 1. Mr. Stephen Flint and 2. Mr Graham Saunders as candidates for Co-option to the Council.**

There were two vacancies on the Council with two candidates. Both candidates had forwarded a short resume, and both were known to the Council. Both were questioned regarding disqualification and both declaring themselves fit for office. Council having established their suitability RESOLVED to Co-opt both to the Council. Both Councillors signed their acceptance of office and took their place in the meeting.

**4. Minutes: - To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

Draft minutes had been circulated to Councillors and were available in written form at the meeting. Councillors RESOLVED to adopt the draft minutes as a true and accurate record. The Chair signed them accordingly.

**5. Open session.**

**1. To receive a brief verbal report from West Mercia Police.**

PCSO Rawlinson was in attendance and reported on several issues:

1. There was a question about a possible abandoned car in Bell Square car park – The owner has been identified and can be contacted by Parish Council.

2. Criminal damage - death of lambs by the Castle Green. The cause of death has not been determined so no crime recorded but person identified has been spoken to by police.

Burton Gardens – A report of persons in white vans looking through skips. Persons named and spoken to by police. No crime recorded.

3. Questions were asked regarding cyclists in Castle Green and possible damage to the area. Prevention is a landowner issue, but signage has been suggested – Council will consult with Parish Footpath officers (PFOs) and the landowner Mr. James Verdin. Police could deal with any incidents of ASB.

4. There will be a Police Surgery in Green Bean 10 – 11 am on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025. Cllr Apps to promote on websites.

**2. To receive a brief verbal report from Ward Councillor Mason.**

Councillor Nick Mason was in attendance. He gave a short personal statement to the Council and stated that he no longer represented the Conservative Party but stood as an independent. He has also stood down from the Herefordshire Council (HC) Cabinet but is still heading up Flooding Programme. He reported that the drainage issue at Stocking bends was now repaired.

He reported on planned changes to bin collections – more items will be accepted, e.g. small electrical items. Introduction of garden waste bins for annual charge.

He gave an update regarding the bus services stating that there are planned improvements to routes and services.

Good progress is being made on the relocation of the Hereford Library to the Shire Hall and a planned opening in latter half of 2026. This will include a study area for young people.

The Old House in High town will be rebranded.

There was a Parish Summit on the 8<sup>th</sup> April; the Clerk and Chair attended. A few topics were raised including the proposed Parish Charter, Public rights of way and PFO's.

### 3. **To receive the views of residents on local matters.**

There has been an E Mail regarding the Post Office Van. This parks in Bell Square and is some distance for residents to travel to on foot. Enquiries show that Bell Square is used because of the necessary internet connection due to poor signal in centre of village. Enquires will be made for possible parking at Burton Gardens or Village Hall. Council needs to approach both the post mistress and St Weonards Post Office as the mobile service is provided by them.

The subject of overhanging hedges in Hereford Road was raised. This restricted access to pavements, endangering pedestrian safety re traffic, particularly school traffic including buses.

### 6. **Councillor Issues –**

For Councillors to raise local issues for further discussion.

The Chair had circulated an Email with reference to social media reports re a HC order to remove traveller family from Leominster.

CCTV meeting with OM Security to be arranged ref existing Community systems and proposal to install at Burton Gardens Community Centre.

### 7. **Finance -**

#### 7.1. **To note the current bank account balances.**

The Clerk gave balances of the current and reserve accounts.

#### 7.2. **To consider the following invoices for payment.**

##### 7.2.1. Weobley Village Hall Car Park rentals.

£520 per annum due in May each year. The 2024 payment is outstanding. It was requested that the Village Hall (VH) submit an invoice.

There followed a discussion regarding funds paid to the VH. Agreements are in place re rental of the hall car park and reimbursement of safety check expenditure.

Play Area expense claim by Councillor Breen £38.83 Approved

#### 7.3. **To note the below direct debits and prior payments.**

Direct Debits for Electricity, water and rates at Library and toilets. List of payments attached.

### 8. **Parish Maintenance -**

#### 8.1. To consider works to be undertaken by the Lengthsman.

The Fence by library has been repaired but further repairs could be undertaken including painting.

It was agreed to purchase more feather board and fence paint.

Council noted the Bell Square car park levelling by Gareth Higgs has been completed.

#### 8.2. To consider works to report to Herefordshire Council.

Council was aware of Welsh Water (WW) digging Trial Holes in Burtonwood and Chapel Orchard areas. Highway Work and road closure that had been planned for the Weobley Marsh was now delayed pending further notice.

Concerns were raised regarding traffic congestion and school buses endangering property at Castle Gate. The Chair will liaise with the Locality steward.

#### 8.3. To receive an update on Sec 106 monies.

There was no update regarding the Play Area (PA).

Highways: The Chair has spoken with Mr. Gregg Speller, Senior Project Manager at HC. All is going to plan regarding delivery. The 30mph consultation with ADL is still current. The Planning application re-consultation for land East of Primary School shouldn't impact on proposals. There is also a likelihood of more Section 106 monies from this development. Mr Speller will be leaving post at the end of May.

#### **9. Report from the Library / Museum Working Group.**

Councillor Simons had circulated the latest report from the working group that included actions that need to be followed up. Mr. Jon Chedgzoj, HC Museum, Libraries and Archives Manager was present at meeting and is supportive of plans and will assist. There will be a Meeting with Whittal Warehouse regarding the drainage issue exploration in rear yard. Council RESOLVED to carry out immediate repairs as per Condition Report recommendations and this was estimated at £7400. Councillor Simons will obtain three quotes for the work. The Clerk reported that there was enough in the Reserve Account to cater for this.

#### **10. Report from the Drainage working group.**

The following highlights of the report:

An article in the Magpie magazine will encourage flood affected residents to report experiences to help support funding opportunities.

There is a need to draft an annual drainage maintenance plan / schedule.

Attenuation pond proposal to be followed up and effectiveness evaluated via a survey – HC to assist with funding.

Brush screen for Marlbrook stream entrance to Cornmills to be investigated.

HARC records were searched for any plans of drainage system under the library.

Flood training available for FLAG volunteers.

New flood defence options available, e.g. alternative to sandbags. The Council will seek suitable storage for the existing sandbags in the Bell Square car park.

Permission granted by the Lengthsman, D C Garden Services, for former Lengthsman Mr. Richard Mills to assist with identifying missing gullies on Balfour Beatty (BB) mapping. The Locality Steward will assist.

The next flood response online briefing will be held on Thursday 8 May 2025 on the Community Flood Signage scheme. This has been circulated to Councillors and the Flood Action Group (FLAG). It was agreed that the new Cllrs, Flint and Saunders, will join FLAG.

#### **11. Planning –**

##### **11.1. To discuss and comment on planning applications for decision by Herefordshire Council.**

11.1.1. Planning application **250846** – Land at Dairy Farm, Sarnesfield, Weobley – Proposed demolition of agricultural building and erection of two dwellings. Council RESOLVED to support the application with comment that the tree line as specified is adopted with indigenous planting.

11.1.2. Planning application **251191** - Tree works at 1 Burton Wood, Weobley. Council RESOLVED to support the application in line with the tree warden report.

11.1.3. Planning application **202833** – Sec 106 works to land east of Weobley primary school. There was some discussion regarding this application and to the Sec 106 aspect. It was decided that clerk ask for an extension to respond. The Chair will check regarding the Sec 106 aspect.

##### **11.2. To note decisions made by Herefordshire Council.**

Council noted the below decisions.

11.2.1. **240386** – Planning appeal – fence erection, 3 Portland Street, Weobley – **Approved with Conditions.**

11.2.2. **250328** Proposed tree works at Parkfields, Church Road, Weobley – **Approved.**

##### **11.3. To note planning applications awaiting decision by Herefordshire Council.**

Council noted the below outstanding applications.

11.3.1. **250747** – Proposed tree works at 15 Burton Wood, Weobley.

11.3.2. 250450 House works at 'the Sallies', Gadbridge Road, Weobley.

**12. To Discuss the film funding.**

There had been several suggestions as to how the fund be spent:

1. Upgrading of (permissive) footpath through Play Area. Financial support from walkers offered.  
Official opening by film cast member.
2. Horizon board on Windmill Knapp
3. Contribution to Library repairs
4. Bus shelter in Market Place

Council RESOLVED to defer a decision pending further discussion and possible use for existing projects.

**13. Footpaths**

Following a Public Rights of Way (PROW) discussion at HC Parish Summit on 8<sup>th</sup> April all information has now been forwarded to our PFO's after oversight by the Clerk. PFO Steve Dartnell should have now attended a training session.

Steve Dartnell requests that the following people are recognised as volunteers for the PROW. They are regular helpers and are Mr. Rob Young, Mr. John Shutler, Mr. Peter Eburne, Mr. Geof Peat and Mr. Russel White. These will be listed as volunteers and their status with the insurance.

Councillor Anderson stated that the surplus aggregate in Bell Square car park will be offered to the PFOs for footpath repair.

**14. Play Area.**

To receive an update and consider action as required.

Play area Report circulated by Councillor Breen.

**15. To consider items for the next agenda.**

Parish Charter

Confirm Mandate for banking.

**16. Date of next meeting – 7.00pm Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025**

**17. Diary of Meetings.**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 – Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - Annual Parish Meeting.

SIGNED ..... DATE .....