

WEOBLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Weobley Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 19.00 at the Village Hall, Weobley, HR4 8SN**

Present

Councillors: Lorraine Anderson (in the Chair), Frank Fitzsimmons, Stephen Coleman, Colin Mills and Andrew Apps, Ian Wilkinson, Heather Wilson

In attendance

Clerk: Mr Andrew London, Amanda Apps (tree warden), and Nick Mason (Ward Councillor).

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies received from Councillors Simons, Saunders and Breen.

2. Declarations of interest & written request for dispensation:

None were declared.

3. Minutes:

3.1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd July 2024.

The minutes had been circulated by E Mail and were available in written form at the meeting. There was request for alteration of item 13. Council RESOLVED to amend the records as requested. The amended minutes will be presented to Council at the next meeting for signing.

4. Public Participation Open Session:

4.1. West Mercia Police:

4.1.1. Pc Emma Turberfield had sent apologies for non-attendance but had supplied a written report which had been circulated to Councillors by E Mail and reported a Theft of motor vehicle, Malicious communications and a Domestic incident. Pc Turberfield also gave an update regarding a recently obtained court order.

4.2. Ward Councillors Report: The Ward Councillor reported:

4.2.1. Councillor Mason reported that Herefordshire Council were reducing staff in service departments. He further stated that the Planning Department was now fully staffed. There were to be changes following the election of the new Government:

1. the Housing target has been increased almost two fold, with the original target of 16 to 17 thousand now set at 27 thousand new dwellings. This equivalent to a new Hereford city. 1500 new houses per year is considered unreasonable leading to discussion with the new Government with existing infrastructure being an important part.
2. Herefordshire Council have been asked by the Government to join a new Metropolitan area – This leading to further discussions to locate Herefordshire within the best area to suit the County and its needs. The Government will be lobbied for better understanding of the Counties rural needs.

4.3. To receive the views of residents on local issues.

4.3.1. A resident raised issue with parking in Gadbridge Road. It was said that the staff and public from the Doctors surgery and Dental practice were causing issues. This had been raised before with persons being asked to use the village hall car park. One person having been challenged about the issue stated that they were entitled to park in Gadbridge road. Council RESOLVED to send a letter to the Doctor and Dental practices asking all concerned to use the village hall car park – The Clerk will compose a letter and send to the practices concerned.

5. Councillor Issues.

- 5.1.** Councillor Saunders had raised issues regarding the installation of CCTV cameras at the community centre. Stonewater housing had had advised Councillor Saunders that as a resident she should not lead in this application. Council discussed and RESOLVED to contact Stonewater housing and advise them that the Parish Council would fund the purchase of CCTV but would not install or monitor the recordings.
- 5.2.** Council received an update regarding the recent filming within the parish and the restoration on the village centre and road sweeping. The Clerk confirmed payment from the film company. Council discussed other payments to the village. The Chairman stated that she would contact the lengthsman regarding distribution of aggregate in bell square car park. She will write to the film company acknowledging payment.
- 5.3.** The Chair reported that she had attended a webinar on 12th September regarding electric vehicle points. This followed a call for suitable sites for provision of electric vehicle charging points. The village hall was suggested as the only suitable location but only council owned land or the highway were being considered.
- 5.4.** It was reported that there was new sign with coloured lights hanging at the Red Lion. The legality of the sign was questioned. Councillors discussed the subject and likened the lights to those on nearby properties. Council RESOLVED to report the matter to Planning Enforcement.

6. Finances:

6.1 Bank Balances:

The Clerk stated that he now had gained full access to both accounts at Lloyds. He gave details of balances in both accounts and stated that he had transferred money from the current to the savings account.

6.2. To Consider the following invoices for payment:

- 6.2.1. Clerks Pay – September 24 – In line with contract.
- 6.2.2. Weobley Village Hall – Inv. 554 - £7.50p.
- 6.2.3. Three Counties Toilets – Portaloo on Play area – Inv. 2567 – £96.00p.
- 6.2.4. Three Counties Toilets – Portaloo on Play area – Inv. 2604 - £114.00p.
- 6.2.5. Mike Williams – Purchase of gate post – P3 - £13.80p.

An additional list of payments was provided by the Chair.

6.3 To Consider the below prior payments and direct debits.

- 6.3.1. Clerks Pay – August 24 - £475.88p.
- 6.3.2. HMRC – Clerks PAYE – Direct debit.
- 6.3.3. Direct debits for the library, toilets and Rose Gardens. In respect of electricity and water.
- 6.3.4. payments in respect of the play area drainage to HCR Legal.

7. Parish Maintenance:

7.1. To Consider works to be undertaken by the Lengthsman:

Herefordshire Council will provide funding for drainage works. The Chair and lengthsman surveyed the parish to highlight areas in need of work. This followed recent heavy rain that showed areas in need of attention. The Lengthsman will provide a quote for works. The Clerk stated that the closing date was 29th September, but he would apply for an extension of a month in order to submit a complete application. Councillor Mason stated that this funding may extend into the new council year in addition.

7.2. To Consider works to report to Herefordshire Council:

Potential drainage grant as above.

7.3. To receive an update on Section 106 monies:

The Chair gave an update on a recent briefing from Herefordshire Council.

Highways: The project was on course for delivery in Spring / summer next year, the final designs delayed by the pending Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) on the C1094 Pepper Plock Ley. Speed Indicator Devices (SID) are still included ahead of the main project.

Open Spaces: Responses being received regarding drainage work that have been put to tender by Herefordshire Council. The land agreement is awaiting confirmation from HCR Legal for the sum to be paid by Weobley Parish Council (WPC). This would be claimed against the section 106 monies and relates to legal a legal undertaking from adjoining landowner.

7.4. To Consider works to footpaths and Public Rights of Way (PROW) (P3).

The Clerk reported on the progress of the PROW grant application. There was no further information.

7.5. To Consider Maintenance of the Public Toilets.

Council was still awaiting an invoice from Jeanette Robertson despite the Chairs reminder. The cleaning is to the required standard. The Chair will ask for additional volunteers via the local Magpie magazine.

7.6. To receive an update from the Parish Tree Warden.

The Tree Warden, Mrs Amanda Apps, was present at the meeting and gave an update on recent planning applications and issues. She gave an update on an overgrown tree outside of the surgery and stated that the seating plan for the turning circle outside of the school may not be possible due to highway safety concerns. The Chair asked for help to log location and condition of trees in Bearcroft and Bell Square to which the warden suggested the help of a tree surgeon as she was not qualified in this field. A discussion followed regarding ownership and works to different trees. The Clerk stated that unless the trees were owned by WPC then they should be left alone to be worked on by the correct owners. He was concerned about liability.

8. Planning:

8.1. To Discuss and comment on planning applications for decision by Herefordshire Council.

8.1.1. Planning application number 242170 – Stonehouse, the Marsh, Weobley – Proposed extension. Council RESOLVED to support the application without comment.

8.1.2. Planning application number 242290 – Highbury, Weobley – Proposed tree works – Council RESOLVED to support the application without comment.

8.1.3. Planning application number 242115 – 4 Mill Bank Cottages, Weobley – Proposed insulation works – Council RESOLVED to support the application without comment.

8.1.4. Planning application number 242108 – 88 Bearcroft, Weobley – Tree Works – The Clerk had already responded to this application following consultation with Councillors – Council had RESOLVED to support the application without comment.

8.1.5. Planning application number 242228 – 88 Bearcroft, Weobley – Tree Works – Council RESOLVED to support the application without comment.

8.2. To note Planning Application decisions made by Herefordshire Council:

Council noted the decision to approve with conditions planning application 240929 at the Leys, Weobley.

8.3. To Note Planning applications awaiting decision by Herefordshire Council:

Council noted the outstanding list.

9. Footpaths / Highways:

9.1. To consider applying for grant.

The Clerk had already updated Council on this matter and confirmed that the application prepared by the Public Footpath Officers (PFO's) had been submitted.

9.2. E Mail regarding light pollution.

A copy of the E mail had been circulated to Councillors and was available in written format at the meeting. The matter was discussed. It was noted that Herefordshire Council had reviewed this topic and undertook a pilot project, switching off lights at night. The locality steward had been consulted and suggested that the risks to personal safety and property would outweigh the local support for turning off lights. Street lighting is a Herefordshire Council matter and any decision would be for them and not the Parish Council.

9.3. Complaint of Dangerous Parking:

An E Mail had been received regarding dangerous parking at Corn Mills. This has been circulated to Councillors and a written copy was available at the meeting. Council were in agreement that a problem did exist. Council RESOLVED to write to the residents that were alleged to be causing the problem advising of the problems caused. It was noted that any regulation might require a TRO and that this would take time. Councillors noted the issues with inconsiderate parking in Broad Street near to Market Place and Corner House.

10. Play Area:

Councillor Breen was not present at the meeting but had prepared a written report. This had been circulated and was available at the meeting.

10.1. Request for suitable disposal of dog and nappy waste at the Play Area.

A request had been made following recent issues of nappy and dog waste in the bins provided. Council discussed the situation. Dog waste can lawfully and correctly be disposed of in the standard provided bin. Any dedicated bins would require emptying and would come at a cost and require an additional contractor to clear. Signs had already been erected by the Play Area Team (PAT) drawing attention to the problem.

11. Library and Museum:

It was reported that a new tube light was required in the library to which the clerk will address. There had been issues with the heating timer. The Chair will enquire with Herefordshire Council as to the best way to deal.

The Chair reported that a reply had been received from Whittle Warehouses regarding the flooding issues. This had put the onus back on the Parish Council. The Chair and Councillor Simons will review the situation.

12. Website:

Councillor Apps reported that he had been unable to recruit a volunteer in manning the website. He will continue as the administrator and asked for more content to be forwarded for inclusion on the site.

He reported that the new service provided had been found and was now providing the service. He will review the need for individual E Mail addresses in the new year.

13. Information Sheet:

Correspondence had been received from Trelleborg regarding Community Engagement Fund and potential projects for 2025. The Chair will circulate. PAT have already been approached.

14. Items for next agenda:

1. Draft Budget for 2024-25.
2. Request from 'Magpie' magazine for financial support.
3. Filming income – public consultation.

15. Date of next Meeting:

Council noted the date of the next meeting as 7.00pm Tuesday 22nd October 2024.

16. Diary of meetings:

Council noted the diary of meeting for the current Council year.

Business concluded; the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

SIGNED DATE