

**WEOBLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Weobley Parish Council meeting held on  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 19.00 at the Village Hall, Weobley, HR4 8SN**

**Present**

Councillors: Lorraine Anderson (in the Chair), Breen, Simons, Apps, Wilson, Fitzsimons, Mills and Saunders.

**In attendance**

Clerk: Mr Andrew London, and Nick Mason (Ward Councillor).

1. To receive apologies for absence.  
Councillor Ian Wilkinson gave apologies.
2. To receive declarations of interest and consider any written requests for dispensation.  
Councillor Simons declared an interest in planning application 243036.
3. Minutes: - To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
4. Open session.
  - 4.1 To receive a brief verbal report from West Mercia Police.  
No officers present. There was no written report.
  - 4.2. To receive a brief verbal report from Ward Councillor Mason.  
Councillor Mason gave an update regarding the Herefordshire Council budget and the by-pass. He further reported on recent countywide drainage and stated that more funding has been approved by Herefordshire Council Cabinet. There is to be a Teams meeting for parishes re drainage and flood management Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January.  
He stated that there was to be a meeting with Dilwyn and Weobley PFOs.  
Updates were given regarding the Government requirement for devolution and Mayoral system. He further stated that Herefordshire Council were under extreme pressure from Government finances with the abolition of the Rural Support Grant. He stated that there was to be a two million pound budget for flood remedial work and finished, stating, that the the PROW footbridge between Weobley and Dilwyn will be repaired.
  - 4.3. To receive the views of residents on local matters.  
A resident raised issues regarding some of the proposed road calming measures and the accuracy of the drawings. It was suggested that the proposals should be more widely advertised or displayed. This led to a discussion between councillors, Nick Mason and the floor. Possible discrepancies were reported and better circulation to the public was requested.  
An E Mail reporting uneven and poor condition of pavement by Bearcroft (1 – 9) had been received. Council will advise Balfour Beatty with an additional request for a dropped kerb at the Bearcroft junction.  
Concerns had been raised regarding Bell Square car park surface by E Mail. This is an overdue repair raising concerns about public safety. The Chair will chase the contractor.  
An E Mail requesting to do volunteer work ref Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. It was RESOLVED to forward details to Councillor Breen to use in the Play area.
5. Councillor Issues – For Councillors to raise local issues for further discussion.  
Council noted the deaths of former Ward Cllr John Goodwin and Jane Parsons, former owner of the Old School Shop. A card has been sent.  
The recent income from the filming in Weobley was awaiting suggestions as to its spend. This had been placed as a suggestion in the Magpie magazine

Issues were raised regarding the pavement in Hereford Road and Kerb stones at the entrance to Unicorn Court. This was to be reported to Balfour Beatty.

Overgrown shrub(s) on open space in Bearcroft (nos. 16) required attention by the Lengthsman.

6. Finance –

6.1. To note the current bank account balances.

Council was advised of the current balance in the current and reserve accounts. A donation of £30 to the footpath budget was noted.

6.2 To consider the following invoices for payment.

Council RESOLVED to make the below payments:-

6.2.1. Clerks Pay – January 2025 - £475.88p.

6.2.2. HMRC – Clerks PAYE – January 2025 - £119.00p – Standing Order.

6.2.3. Clerks Expenses – Land Registry Title - £29.95.

6.2.4. Clerks Affiliation to SLCC - £80.00p.

6.3. To note the below direct debits and prior payments

Council noted all payments and direct debits.

7. Parish Maintenance -

7.1. To consider works to be undertaken by the lengthsman.

Council had discussed items in 'Councillor Issues'

7.2 To consider works to report to Herefordshire Council.

As previously discussed.

7.3 To receive an update on Sec 106 monies.

Councillor Breen reported details of a site meeting report regarding the Play Area Drainage.

There had been a recent response to enquiries of S106 Highways Project Manager, Gregg Speller, that had been circulated to Councillors. Drawings of the Traffic Calming proposals had been publicised via Magpie, Parish and Community websites and in the Library.

7.4 To consider maintenance of the public toilets and library and to consider setting a working group to report to the Council on the condition and viability of the building.

Council discussed the current situation and state of the library / museum that had suffered in recent floods. This would appear to be a continuing problem that needs addressing. Council RESOLVED to set up a working group to consider necessary works. This group to report to full Council. Volunteers of Cllrs John Simons, Frank Fitzsimmons, Ian Wilkinson and Mr. John Shutler were appointed to the group. A maintenance report was being prepared by John Simons. A Surveyor had been contacted and re a condition survey and a quote received. This was agreed.

Toilets: There had been a tripped switch that had been attended to thanks to Cllr. Wilkinson who accessed loft area. Attention is required to an overflow pipe over Ladies toilet door.

8. To Consider Vacancy for Co-Option.

There was a resident of Weobley Marsh present at the meeting and asked by Council to consider applying for post in the absence of any other applicant. Weobley Marsh suffered in recent flooding and was not represented on Council.

9. Planning –

9.1. To discuss and comment on planning applications for decision by Herefordshire Council.

9.1.1. Planning application 243036 – Proposed two storey extension at 27 Garnstone Drive, Weobley. No objection

9.1.2. Planning application 250159 – Proposed tree works at Red Bank, Westhope Lane, Bush Bank (Not in Parish). No objection

9.1.3. Planning application 250177 – Proposed tree works at ‘Highbury’, Weobley. PTW – no objections

9.2. To note decisions made by Herefordshire Council.

Council noted the list of applications dealt with by Herefordshire Council.

9.3. To note planning applications awaiting decision by Herefordshire Council.

Council noted the list of outstanding planning applications.

10. Footpaths / Highways –

10.1. To Consider setting up Working group to report to consider drainage issues and report to Council accordingly.

Council have been aware of recent flooding issues in the parish and were looking at ways to minimise what will be a continuing problem. Council RESOLVED to set up a working group to monitor and consider ways to minimise the problem. The working group to report to Council. The working group will comprise of Cllrs. Chris Breen, John Simons and Mike Williams, John Shutler, and Peter Landsell. Ward Councillor Nick Mason will assist.

A Drainage Site Meeting was held on 29th November with the Clerk, Ward Cllr Nick Mason, Locality Steward Phil Pankhurst and the Chair.

There has been no response from Balfour Beatty regarding the enquiry of last deep clean of combined drainage system.

Quotes for jetting of drains at Library and grill gulley in Bell Square pull-in have been received. These quotes are Mayglothings: £942.95 (excl. VAT) Turnwater £750 (excl. VAT). It was RESOLVED to instruct Turnwater to proceed.

11. Play Area –

Cllr. Chris Breen has prepared a report and circulated to Councillors.

12. Magpie Magazine – A request for assistance. To Discuss and Resolve.

In keeping with the January 2025 agenda, Magpie local magazine had provided financial figures to support their request for financial assistance. Council asked questions of the two proprietors of the magazine present. Council then discussed the application in closed session before RESOLVING to donate £1000 to the magazine towards improving the magazine and increasing circulation. The Magpie team were asked to report back to PC in June/July with a business model (inc. financial report/details). It was stressed that this was not an annual donation and any future donation would require another application.

13. To consider items for the next agenda.

Working Group reports.

Change of weekday for meetings.

14. Date of next meeting – 7.00pm Tuesday 25th February 2025

15. Diary of Meetings.

Tuesday 25th March 2025.

Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

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