

WEOBLEY PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Weobley Parish Council Meeting held remotely via the Zoom platform on Wednesday 19th January 2021 commencing at 7:00pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors L Anderson (Chair), J Simons (Vice Chair), A Apps, C Breen, P Lloyd and H Quinlan.

ALSO PRESENT: Ward Cllr Jones, a Police representative and two members of the public.

OFFICER PRESENT: Clerk to the Council.

PUBLIC OPEN SESSION – Two members of the public were present. The following matters were raised:

- An update on the progress of the new skatepark was received. Due to the weather the completion date was difficult to predict;
- A photographic record of the construction of the skate park was suggested so that the community could keep a record;
- The construction team were currently living in caravans but due to the Coronavirus restrictions conditions were quite challenging. Support was requested;
- Contact had been made with the S106 Officer regarding the proposals related to the Wellbeing fund. A virtual tour was currently being organised;
- Potential match funding for future projects such as an outdoor gym may be available and would be investigated.

73/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs C Saunders, M Ware and M West. Council noted that Mrs Mackie had resigned from the Parish Council.

74/20 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

75/20 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 25th November 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

76/20 MATTERS ARISING

Council considered and adopted the update report. The following matters were noted:

- The Branching Out tree planting application had been submitted. A small fee may be required and it was agreed that the Parish Council would meet this;
- The Pump House issue would continue to be pursued.

77/20 POLICE REPORT

The Police had been present but due to a call out had left the meeting. A report would be requested. A request from the Police to access the CCTV in the village had been received. A number of upgrades to the existing infrastructure was required including a new recorder, some additional cameras and ways to improve the clarity of images. A meeting had been arranged with the CCTV initiative on Thursday 21st January 2021. It was agreed to ask for advice regarding private CCTV and its usage.

78/20 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

The following report was received from Ward Cllr Jones:

- Coronavirus figures had escalated considerably with approximately 4,794 positive cases being recorded in total resulting in 185 deaths. 5,000 people were being tested weekly;
- Council tax would be increasing by 4.9% in 2021/22. 1.9% (£2.2 million) would be spent on Council services and 3% (£3.2 million) would go towards the cost of social care;
- Herefordshire Council was aiming to increase the number of Foster Carers over the next few years. The aim was to increase by 30 Carers per annum. The allowance had been increased and Carers would be exempt from paying Council Tax. If this target could be met then a saving of around £1 million could be achieved;
- Additional property had been purchased to meet the needs of care leavers in Herefordshire. This was accommodation with social support;
- 8 self contained flats for rough sleepers had also been purchased;
- The Transport Strategy had been adopted. Options to take forward included cycling and walking options, electric buses and dedicated bus lanes and the Eastern link road and bridge. The Western bypass may not go ahead;
- The waste and recycling consultation was still open but closed on 7th February 2021;
- A request was submitted to find out further information regarding a health and wellbeing survey being conducted by Herefordshire Council.

79/20 FINANCES & POLICY

(a) **Litter Picking Equipment** – Council **RATIFIED** the purchase of 10 litter pickers at a cost of £12 each, including VAT.

(b) **Accounts Outstanding and Financial Statement** – Council approved the payment of accounts relating to December 2020 and January 2021 as outlined below:

PAYEE	SERVICE	CHEQUE	TOTAL
West Mercia Energy	Toilets	DD	£15.78
West Mercia Energy	Library	DD	£42.74
West Mercia Energy	Rose Garden	DD	£11.59
Steelway Fencesecure	Gate	FPO	£612.73
Concrete Skateparks Ltd	Skatepark	FPO	£21,840.00
West Mercia Energy	Toilets	DD	£15.18
West Mercia Energy	Library	DD	£50.43
P Russell	Salary Dec 20	FPO	£416.20
P Russell	Salary Jan 21	FPO	£416.20
P Russell	HMRC Cumbernauld	FPO	£96.00
P Russell	Clerk's Expenses	FPO	£63.68
Richard Mills	Lengthsman	1642	£91.20
Richard Mills	Lengthsman	1642	£93.60
Chris Breen	Timpson (keys)	FPO	£10.00
Chris Breen	Lights	FPO	£79.55
Chris Breen	Postmix	FPO	£25.80
Bell Brush WH&WB Doole Ltd)	Litter Pickers	FPO	£124.14
Mr Apps	Website	FPO	£101.88
TOTAL			£24,106.70

(c) **Budget Considerations 2021/22** – Following consideration, it was proposed by Cllr Breen, seconded by Cllr Lloyd and **RESOLVED** to adopt the budget for the 2021/22 Financial Year.

Council noted that there may be a requirement during the 2021/22 financial year to consider taking out a Public Works loan for repairs and maintenance to the Library and Toilets.

- (d) **Precept** – Following consideration, it was proposed by Cllr Breen, seconded by Cllr Quinlan and **RESOLVED** to formally request a Precept of £32,114 for the financial year 2021/22 from Herefordshire Council.
- (e) **Clerk to the Council** – Council noted the update regarding the recruitment of a new Parish Clerk. A number of applications had been received and interviews had taken place. An extraordinary meeting would be held to formally appoint a new Clerk.
- (f) **Grant Criteria** – Following discussion, Council agreed to adopt the revised grant application form and criteria. Consideration would be given to promoting grant opportunities in the future.
- (g) **Website & Newsletter** – Council considered the report received from Cllr Apps regarding a new website. Following discussion, it was agreed to commence the development of a new website and register the new site with www.create.net

Council further agreed to producing a newsletter and to complete it as soon as possible. Due to Coronavirus the newsletter would be in electronic form with a number of paper copies available throughout the village.

- (h) **Library** – Council considered the quotation received following the recent survey that has been undertaken, the possibility of applying for a Public Works Loan Board Loan and the purchase of a dehumidifier for the library.

Following discussion, it was agreed:

- To allocate a sum of £2,500 towards the emergency works to the chimney along with delegated authority to Cllr Simons to organise and oversee the works required;
- To carry out PAT testing and an electrical test for the building using Adam Davies Electrical;
- To review the layout of sockets in the store room;
- To review the heaters and obtain options to update the heating system;
- To carry out a fire safety check for the Library;
- To purchase a dehumidifier at a cost of no more than £250.

It was further agreed to obtain a quotation to provide an external socket from the electrical cabinet to the rear of the bus shelter in the Rose Garden and to replace the light in the telephone kiosk that housed the defibrillator.

- (i) **Risk Register** – Council reviewed the amended Parish Council’s Risk Register and **RESOLVED** to adopt it subject to the amendments agreed.

80/20 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- (a) **Footpath update** – Council noted that no update was available.
- (b) **The Pump House & Bell Square Car Park** – Council noted that no update was available regarding the Pump House. A reply was still awaited from Welsh Water.

Cllr Lloyd declared a personal and prejudicial interest during a general discussion on the topic of getting quotes for tree works.

- (c) **Christmas Lights** – Council noted the update from Cllr Breen regarding the Christmas Lights erected for 2020/21. Following discussion, it was **AGREED** to purchase a 20 metre LED festoon at a cost of £100 following the positive feedback received.
- (d) **Lengthsman Tasks** – Council approved the invoices from the Lengthsman received. It was agreed to discontinue to storage of the sandbags and ask the Lengthsman to dispose of them or deliver them to anyone who needed them.

It was agreed to replace the kissing gate by the Scout hut with a self-closing metal gate at a cost of £425 + VAT, which included installation.

It was agreed to undertake the tree surgery works at Bell Square and Bearcroft at a cost not exceeding £735 + VAT.

It was agreed to carry out the various works at the Bell Square car park, including the improvement of the surface, at a cost of £1,555 + VAT.

81/20 PLANNING MATTERS

- (a) **Planning** – To discuss planning applications received from Herefordshire Council. See update sheet.

APPLICATION: P204282
SITE: Stone House, Weobley, Hereford, Herefordshire HR4 8RP
DESCRIPTION: Proposed two storey rear extension, double garage and ancillary works
COMMENT: No objection subject to the retention of the cast iron window frames at the front of the building. These examples should not be lost and any replacement should be subject to a planning application.

APPLICATION: P204246
SITE: Field Known as Emily's Meadow, Opposite Marsh House Farm, Nr. Weobley, Herefordshire
DESCRIPTION: Retention of portable cabin for use as an agricultural classroom.
COMMENT: Council still has concerns regarding the visibility out of the proposed access. Signage should be considered, previous comments to be reiterated and the 5 year clause should be retained.

APPLICATION: P204295
SITE: St Peter And St Pauls Church, Church Road, Weobley, Hereford HR4 8SD
DESCRIPTION: Cherry tree (T1) - fell because it's pushing a stone wall over.
COMMENT: No objection

82/20 PARISH MATTERS

- (a) **Play Area** – Council received the play area update and agreed to meet the cost of installing the play area gate at a cost of £200.
- (b) **Skate Park** – Council noted that the completion of the Skate Park had been delayed and would probably not be open until the middle to end of March 2021.

It was suggested that a consultation be undertaken regarding play options for the play area, including a possible outdoor gym. Members were asked to submit their ideas to Cllr Breen.

- (c) **Rose Garden** – Council noted that there was a possibility of applying for Open Spaces funding to help towards the renovation costs of the Rose Garden. The trees, which had already been purchased,

needed to be planted in the near future. Cllr Anderson continued to pursue the long-term Licence for the management of the Rose Garden.

- (d) **LEADER Project** – Council noted that the map had been finalized and would be AO size. The issues relating to the frames would continue to be pursued and those damaged beyond repair would need to be replaced. It was noted that the Welcome Sign in Hereford Road had been defaced and advice was being sought to remove the black substance used.

83/20 CORRESPONDENCE – Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

- Locality Steward update –January 2021
- HALC Training Courses – January 2021
- Herefordshire Council Covid-19 updates
- Road Closure information – January 2021
- NDP Hierarchy Review.

84/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:55pm.

CHAIR:

DATE: