

WEOBLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Weobley Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 22nd October
2024 at 19.00 at the Village Hall, Weobley, HR4 8SN.

In attendance: Councillors Anderson (Chair), Breen, Saunders, Wilson, Apps, Fitsimmons and Mills. There were two members of public present.

1. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Councillors John Simons, Ian Wilkinson and the Ward Councillor, Councillor Nick Mason.

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

None declared.

3. Minutes: - To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 23rd July 2024, and Tuesday 24th September 2024.

Both sets of minutes had been circulated to Councillors by E Mail and were available in written form. Council RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true and accurate record. The Chairman duly signed both sets of minutes.

4. Open session.

4.1.1.1 To receive a brief verbal report from West Mercia Police.

Apologies have been received from Pc Emma Turberfield. A written report had been provided and circulated to Councillors. The report gave brief details of a vehicle stolen in Weobley otherwise all was quiet.

4.1.1.2 To receive a brief verbal report from Ward Councillor Mason.

Councillor Mason had given his apologies but had provided a written report. This was circulated to Councillors. He reported during the recent heavy rains and floods he had attended the parishes within the ward. Some had been affected more than others. His written report follows:

Roads, drainage and flooding.

Front of my mind in recent days has been the horrendous floods from last week – where I’m sorry to say Weobley wasn’t the worst we saw, or even the worst in my ward. There are so many aspects of this that are all interconnected, and every flooding case is both tragic and yet different. With that in mind, I’ve asked for and been given a brief from the Leader of the Council to lead a cross-directorate inquiry as to what we can do to address the drainage and flooding issue in future across the whole of Herefordshire. I’ll report on this in the future. It would be enormously useful if the PC can catalogue all floods – I have some from my drive-around last week, but I won’t have them all.

Parish council summit, Footpath officers and the PROW network.

A few weeks ago, we hosted a parish council summit at HCC offices in Plough Lane. I presented on the support we are giving to the public rights of way network, and reiterated how vital we consider it that our footpaths and other prows (bridleways, “Boats”, etc) are maintained. We are able to confirm that all the bids for footpath assets (replacing stiles etc) were successful and would be funded from the £250k made available across the county. There is a bit of money left, should further assets appear! There’s also a fund of about £200k which I have had undertaking will support the replacement of the bridge that is shared with Dilwyn – this was discussed at the last meeting.

Finances.

Last week we had a salutary warning about councils facing bankruptcy, this time it was out neighbour Shropshire who was in the news. At HCC, we believe we are in a stronger place

than most of our neighbours/ peers, but we are keeping a very close eye on it. We are delighted to be the first county council to have our (previous year) accounts audited. This is just one indicator to make sure that we aren't walking into trouble, as the fact we have been able to get them through audit shows we have a good understanding of the fundamental position. And of course in the last year, we've had to work through huge savings to address the overspend we inherited. But I'm afraid I can't promise any council tax freezes in the near future.

Planning department.

A bit of good news – for the first time since I was elected last year, we now have a fully staffed team. I know that planning delays and issues have been a huge frustration; without a full team, it's been hard to argue that things should be better. But now we have a full team, we are much more confident we can get the team working as it should, and hitting those deadlines.

4.1.1.3 To receive the views of residents on local matters.

There were two members of the public present to observe the Council and to report on the recent flooding. They reported that some houses on the Weobley Marsh had nearly been flooded. They requested sandbags to prevent a repeat. This situation was discussed with Council RESOLVING to order a pallet of sandbags to be delivered to their address.

5. Councillor Issues – For Councillors to raise local issues for further discussion.

5.1. Magpie Magazine – Request for financial support.

At the request of the 'Magpie' this was deferred until the November meeting.

5.2. Income from recent filming in the parish – discussion regarding allocation.

£3220 had been given by the film company as donation in lieu of inconvenience.

Council discussed how to spend these monies within the parish. It was suggested that the Village Hall needed a new sound system. It was decided that villagers decide and the matter be advertised within the parish.

6. Finance -

6.1. To note the current bank account balances.

The Clerk gave details of the current and reserve account and stated that the Cashbook had been circulated to Councillors. He reported that Internet banking had now been set up and that payments could be completed on line. There were issues with the authority and that this was being rectified.

6.2 To consider the following invoices for payment.

6.2.1. Clerks Pay – October 24 - £475.88p.

6.2.2. HMRC – Clerks PAYE – October 2024 - £119.00p.

6.2.3. External Auditor – AGAR 23-24 - £378.00p.p

6.2.4. Clean-Clean Cleaning Services – Toilet Cleaning - £35.00p. (Incorrectly invoiced - adjusted post meeting)

6.2.5. DC Garden Services – Lengthsman - £58.80p.

6.2.6. Chris Breen – Play Area Expenses - £63.71p.

6.3. To note the below direct debits and prior payments

6.3.1. Direct Debits for Electricity, water and rates at Library and toilets.

6.3.2. Fran White – Rospa cert for play area - £62.50p.

6.3.3. DHF Products – the Park sign - £210.00p.

6.3.4. Weobley Village Hall Inv. 793 - £17.00p.

6.3.5. Weobley Village Hall Inv. 822 - £17.00p.

6.3.6. Weobley Village Hall Inv. 825 - £6.50p.

6.3.7. Weobley Village Hall Inv. 844 - £17.00p.

It was noted that payment for the Park View sign had been made and that the sign was in process on manufacture.

7. Parish Maintenance -

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

The Chair reported that the Village centre had been weeded and undergrowth by the abbatoir hedgerow had been cleared.. This has been invoiced. It was RESOLVED to

instruct the lengthsman to clear brambles in Bearcroft, clear the gulleys by the public toilet, clear weeds by the telephone kiosk and to attend the ditching in Gadbridge Road near to the play area.

7.2 To consider works to report to Herefordshire Council.

7.2.1. To note Road Closure to B4230 20/11 to 29/11.

7.2.2. To note Road Closure to U93203 Tibhall Road 16/10/ to 30/10.

7.3 To receive an update on Sec 106 monies.

It was reported that the tendering process had been completed with Owen Pell providing the most competitive figure of £15,630. Council RESOLVED to accept this quote. A site meeting is to be arranged.

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

The footpaths officers (PFO's) have had a meeting with Steve Organ of Herefordshire Council regarding the supply of requested gates. He was very impressed with work of PFOs, especially installation of disabled access kissing gates. The gates and hardware will be supplied direct without cost to the Weobley Parish Council.

The bridge between Weobley and Dilwyn parishes is in a state of disrepair and has been destroyed in recent floods. Ward Councillor Mason is mediating hopefully will get funding sorted.

The Clerk reported that the Rights of Way grant work will need to be completed by 31st March 2025

7.5 To consider maintenance of the public toilets.

The toilets were flooded in the recent storm. They were cleaned up by Councillors Anderson and Fitzsimmons. Thanks were owed to Bob and Jo Hughes for use of water supply.

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

A report has been received regarding the Foxley estate woodland management. This has been circulated to councillors.

The Tree Warden asked by Chair to source trees and prices planting on the land opposite surgeries and bell square.

8. Planning –

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

No Applications.

8.2. To note decisions made by Herefordshire Council.

8.2.1. Council noted the decision regarding planning application number [242108](#) 88 Bearcroft, Weobley – Tree Works. – **Approved.**

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

Council noted the below outstanding planning application.

8.3.1. Planning application [241286](#) – **3 Portland Street, Weobley** – Proposed erection of fence – **Pending.**

8.3.2. Planning application [241287](#) – **3 Portland Street, Weobley** – Proposed erection of fence – **Pending.**

8.3.3. Planning Application number [242170](#) – Stonehouse, the Marsh, Weobley – Proposed extension – **Pending.**

8.3.4. Planning application number [242290](#) – Highbury, Weobley – Proposed tree works – **Pending.**

8.3.5. Planning application number [242115](#) 4 Mill bank cottages, Weobley – Proposed insulation works – **Pending.**

8.3.7. Planning application number [242228](#) 19 Bearcroft, Weobley -Tree Works – **Pending.**

9. Footpaths / Highways –

9.1. P3 Grant allocation

This had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

10. Play Area –

Councillor Chris Breen gave a verbal report to Council. He reported that the last play area team (PAT) meeting was postponed. There were two new volunteers to help with maintenance, strimming and litter picking. He further reported that the Monkey bars had been replaced. An inventory had been completed for the container and contents together with the values. The portaloo had been removed for winter - PAT asked to consider extending hire period for 2025 e.g. Easter holidays to Autumn term. Potentially £600 more. Notices had been placed to deter placing of used nappies in the in bins, this seems to be working. Repair to the 'wobbly bridge' were pending and the RoSPA report showed no concerns. A Water roller has been donated to assist with mole hill removal.

11. Library and Museum –

To receive an update and consider action as required.

The Library was affected by flooding in the recent storms. A contractor will be required to clean carpets. A leak on pipework behind the toilets will require attention as will a drainage issue in the yard to the rear.

12. Website –

To receive an update on recruitment of village website manager.

There has been no interest from anyone in taking the post on. Councillor Apps will continue as the administrator.

13. To consider items for the next agenda.

Magpie Magazine – to discuss assistance.

Flooding/drainage update

Budget – To set a budget for 2025-2026 and set a precept.

14. Date of next meeting – 7.00pm Tuesday 26th November 2024, Weobley Village Hall.

15. Diary of Meetings.

Tuesday 28th January 2025.

Tuesday 25th February 2025.

Tuesday 25th March 2025.

Andrew London

Clerk

07976791730

clerk@weobleyparishcouncil.org.uk