



**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 4th July 2019
at 7.30 p.m. at Weston Village hall.**

Present: Chairman Linda Dunn, Rod Barker, Chris Morris, Linda McGill, Martin Firman, Terry Prince, John Bonham
In attendance: Nick Richmond, Parish Clerk, Mark Hadley, Balfour Beatty Senior Project Manager, and one parishioner

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Liam Kearns, John Smart and Dierdre Byrne.

2. To receive declarations of interest and written requests for dispensations.

No declarations made.

3. Open Forum.

To receive the views of local residents on parish matters

None received.

4. Minutes of previous meetings.

4.1 To agree and sign the minutes of The Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 6th June 2019.

A concern was raised over the way the draft minutes had been presented on the website. The Clerk explained that this had been done during a training session with Mark Millmore (website creator) and he had explained that putting Word documents on the website enabled word searches to be available. Council felt however that for better presentation and to enable easier printing of the minutes they should be PDF's in future.

It was **RESOLVED:** to agree and sign the minutes of The Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 6th June 2019.

5. To receive verbal reports and consideration of any necessary actions.

5.1 Mark Hadley then introduced himself and his role in Balfour Beatty. He had been invited to present alternative uses of the section 106 Transport Contribution funds available from the new housing development.

The planned resurfacing work on the A40 through Weston had been postponed until Spring 2020 to allow any uses of the 106 money to be incorporated.

Section 106 funds he advised can be used in four categories:

- 1) Traffic calming & traffic management measures in the locality.
- 2) Pedestrian & cyclist crossing facilities.
- 3) New or enhancement of footways & cycleways
- 4) Safer routes to schools.

Cllr. Firman expressed the view that the resurfacing in itself would increase traffic speed through Weston, however pedestrian refuge islands might encourage people to think it was safe to cross the road and therefore increase the risk to pedestrians.

Mark advised that decreasing the perceived width of the road by painting lines on the road is an effective way of reducing speed. This method was seen as a good step forward, so Mark is to produce a report and

a mock-up of what this will look like in time for the next Council meeting. Mark also suggested that it might be possible to have a 20mph speed limit on the section of road around School Lane during school start/finish times.

Other matters on highways that were brought to Mark's attention were the state of the overgrown pavements and gutters along the A40, the difficulty residents at Rudge Pitch experienced coming out of concealed entrances (accidents have happened including a written off car), the 7.5T access only sign at Pontshill, which Mark agreed to look into and Cllr. Firman will provide him with the planning application reference number so he can investigate the conditions.

6. Highways

6.1 See above.

6.2 HGV vehicles in excess of 7.5T on the Pontshill-Bill Mills road.

See above.

6.3 Re-siting of 30mph sign.

William Wilding spoke to the landowner and it appears that the sign is to be supported on one single larger pole thus no longer impacting on the hedge.

6.4 Request for a sign at Hoovers Lane.

Rod Barker now has the sign advising HGV's that they will get stuck and council approved £50.00 expenditure to have the sign installed.

6.5 SID update

Rod reported that the west side A40 SID will be installed sometime in July and the east side will be back up in August.

6.6 Speed review through Lea Bailey.

Clerk has advised Lea Bailey council of its support for a speed review who are now writing to Herefordshire Council.

6.7 Road accident at Rudge Pitch.

As above – possible solutions are a 'concealed entrances' sign or a speed limit.

6.8 A40 road calming

As above.

6.9 Flower pots at the Weston Cross pub.

The owners would be contacted about re-siting the pots to allow better vision for road users.

7. Lengthsman

Cllrs Prince and Smart had met the Lengthsman Wayne Reed to discuss the council's requirements.

He is going to clean and clear foliage around all the parish road signs, and approval was given by council for two days work clearing footpaths and for clearing around the churchyard.

He has advised that regulations now mean that any work should be carried out by two people for safety reasons especially if heavy machinery and power tools are used. Council will therefore be faced with an increase in costs, and, as the Lengthsman's contract is due for renewal in September it seems reasonable to look for a new provider of Lengthsman services available. So investigations on this will be instigated.

In this respect the Clerk is to seek clarification from Balfour Beatty on who is allowed to work on the A40 and roads in general as this may restrict who council can employ.

8. Footpaths

8.1 The Footpaths Officer was not present, however, although his report was posted on the website it was not circulated to councillors. It was noted however that clearing footpaths around fields was work that fell to Balfour Beatty whereas across fields the landowner and council were responsible.

8.2 Miles without Stiles

As above and it being unclear what the estimated expenditure was it was held over.

8.3 A40 Pavements

This was discussed with Mark Hadley of Balfour Beatty.

110

9. Planning

- 9.1 192094 Weavers Knot, Weston-under-Penyard. It was **resolved** that the PC would not object to this application.

10. Finance

- 10.1 The bank balances were accepted as £30,063.98 and £3,526.35 as at 30th June 2019.
- 10.2 The budget report was **approved** by council.
- 10.3 It was **resolved** that the following would be paid:
- 10.3 (a) £100.00 contribution to The Weston News for inserting the Parish Council booklet in the June issue of The Weston News.
 - 10.3 (b) £138.77 Cost of 'you will get stuck' sign for Hoovers Lane.
 - 10.3 (c) £70.00 Two hour training session for Clerk on Wordpress.
 - 10.3 (d) £212.31 Clerk salary June
 - 10.3 (e) £53.08 Clerk tax June
 - 10.3 (f) £19.94 Clerk expenses
 - 10.3 (g) £54.00 Clerk mileage

10.4 2018/9 Accounts

Council discussed the points raised by the internal auditors HALC and their recommendations. Several of these have already been actioned and some of the cheques that HALC identified as not having been authorized in minutes had actually been found albeit not necessarily under the finance heading. Clerk is to monitor that all cheques issued have been properly minuted. A response from council is to be posted on the website.

- 10.4(a) Council **resolved** to sign the certificate of exemption for 2018/9.
- 10.4(b) Council **resolved** to accept the internal auditors report for 2018/9.
- 10.4(c) Council **resolved** to sign the Annual Accounting Statement for 2018/9
- 10.4(d) Council **resolved** to sign the Annual Governance Statement for 2018/9

11. Parish Projects

11.1 Road Safety

Covered under highways item 6.

11.2 Services and Facilities

No update

11.3 Sustaining the Rural Environment

11.3(1) Weston Tree Enhancement.

No update

11.3(2) Wild Flower Areas

Cllr Morris introduced a discussion on improving the environment through Weston by the provision of wild flower areas along the borders of the A40. This was felt to be a very positive idea so he will investigate further.

11.4 Community right to bid.

No update.

12. Sponsorship of Community Champion's Award

Cllr Firman reported that no nominations have been received as yet but leaflets have been delivered to 500 households and the Weston News will include this in its September issue.

13. Parish Council Booklet

This has been received with positive feedback and will now come off the agenda.

UPD

14. NDP

It was agreed by council that the planning group would meet to agree a response to the request from Herefordshire Council for a report on housing development.

15. Correspondence

- 15.1 Council considered a response to Herefordshire Council's letter regarding a potential allowances scheme for councillors. Although it was noted that at times when there was no Clerk in place it was appropriate to pay an allowance to a councillor who took on the responsibilities of the clerk it was not felt that this required a formal allowances scheme.
- 15.2 The state of pavements – the matter has been brought to the attention of Balfour Beatty as described above. Clerk to advise the parishioner of this.
- 15.3 Flower pots at the Weston Cross restricting view – dealt with under 6.9.

16. Items raised for the next agenda

Cllr Barker wishes council to consider the renewal of stone steps leading up to the church which have fallen into disrepair and may be dangerous. The steps are not actually on church property so may be an expenditure that council could look at.

17. Date and place of the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12th September at 7.30 pm at Weston Village Hall

Signed: *L.M.Dun.*

Chairman

Date *Aug 29, 2019*