



**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 29th August 2019
at 7.30 p.m. at Weston Village hall.**

Present: Chairman Linda Dunn, Rod Barker, Chris Morris, Linda McGill, Liam Kearns, John Smart, John Bonham

In attendance: Nick Richmond, Parish Clerk, Mark Hadley, Balfour Beatty Senior Project Manager, and two parishioners.

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Martin Firman and Terry Prince.

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

Chairman Linda Dunn declared an interest in planning application 192642 The Lodge.

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 4th July 2019.

It was **RESOLVED:** to agree and sign the minutes of The Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 4th July 2019.

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

5.1 The Clerk reported that he and Cllr John Smart had attended a website seminar at Herefordshire Council and that a 'digital visit' to look at how we might better use the website would be arranged.

6. Highways

6.1 A40 Traffic calming and pedestrian refuges.

Draft plans had been received from Balfour Beatty on a proposed new road layout for the A40 through Weston under Penyard including a mini roundabout at the Weston Cross. Councillors had attended a session with Balfour Beatty project manager Mark Hadley at The Weston Cross prior to the Parish Council meeting to look at the plans and receive his advice.

As a result of the discussions a revised plan would be made available by Balfour Beatty by the 19th September. In order that the plans could be incorporated in the re-surfacing of the A40 planned for April 2020 the Parish Council are required to make a decision on the plans at the next meeting on October 3rd. The clerk is to publish the draft plans on the Parish Council website and place a banner on the website homepage drawing parishioners attention to this.

6.2 Highways issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty.

Cllr Liam Kearns advised that white road lines at Bollitree Castle needed repainting.

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

Mark Hadley advised council that the planning decision that gave rise to the 7.5T with access sign had no conditions attached to it relating to the access, so there can be no enforcement procedure preventing

HGV's from accessing businesses beyond Bill Mills. Council has not received any information from Balfour Beatty concerning the bridge survey at Bill Mills to ascertain if the bridge is unsuitable for HGV's, so this will be followed up with Balfour Beatty.

6.4 Re-siting of 30mph sign.

This matter remains unresolved. Council had been advised that the sign is to be supported on one single larger pole thus no longer impacting on the hedge, but this has not yet happened and the clerk is to follow this up with Balfour Beatty.

6.5 Request for a sign at Hoovers Lane.

Cllr Rod Barker advised that the sign has been installed and residents are happy.

6.6 SID update

Cllr Rod Barker reported that the SID's at both locations on the A40 should now be in place but neither were, and he was getting no response from the person responsible at Balfour Beatty. Mark Hadley agreed to contact the appropriate person to chase this up.

6.7 Speed review through Lea Bailey.

Having expressed Council's support this can now come off the agenda.

6.8 Road accident at Rudge Pitch.

Mark Hadley is to discuss this with his colleague at Balfour Beatty Kevin Williams,

6.9 Flower pots at the Weston Cross pub.

Three pots have been removed but there are others that still obscure drivers view. Council voted by 4 votes to 3 that the remaining pots represented a danger to drivers and should also be removed.

6.10 Poor condition of pavements.

The two parishioners attending the meeting expressed their concern over the pavements from Weston to Ross, some parts of which have been barely passable. Cllr John Smart advised that following his request for four specific sections of pavement to be cleared by Balfour Beatty action has been taken on some, albeit that the earth removed has been piled on the banks of the road which may well see this washed back onto the pavements somewhat defeating the object. The locality manager for Balfour Beatty did advise Cllr Smart that the whole of the A40 pavements in Weston under Penyard parish are booked in as jobs to be cleared.

7. Lengthsman

In the absence of Cllr Terry Prince, Cllr John Smart reported that the lengthsman Wayne Reed had completed the work he had been requested to do, ie clearing around and cleaning all road signs (A40 excepted as Cllr Smart advised that Balfour Beatty are to carry this out), replacing stiles and hedge cutting at Weston Church. Wayne had presented his invoice for this work now carried out by two people as is required, and it was RESOLVED to pay the invoice of £ 920.00 and minute this in the next agenda. Wayne is to be tasked to clear Green Lane as he has before by the 30th September 2019. There followed a discussion about renewing Wayne's contract. It was felt that although Wayne carries out some jobs well, there seem to be other jobs he either is not interested in or does not get round to, so Council decided that the lengthsman contract be put out to Tender and three alternative contractors be sought. Cllr John Bonham having experience in this field is tasked with drawing up a tender document with the assistance of the Clerk.

8. Footpaths

Cllr John Smart presented his PROW report. 10 parishioners have adopted a footpath and are reporting on the state of their footpaths to Cllr Smart so that action can be taken to clear them. It was decided that the Clerk should send e-mails to the individual parishioners thanking them for their assistance. Cllr Smart also reported that waymarkers were now in place across the parish, however the footpath information boards were in need of updating and painting so a suitable person will be sought to do this via the Weston News. Council thanked Cllr Smart for his excellent work on footpaths.

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9. Planning

- 9.2 192378/9 Bollitree Castle- extensions and internal alterations.
- 9.3 192366/7 Bollitree Castle – refurbishment and alterations to existing barn to provide sleeping accommodation. Council **RESOLVED** not to object to these applications provided they were approved by Historic England.
- 9.4 192642 The Lodge, Woodfield Springetts Lane. Chairman Linda Dunn explained that the clerk being unaware of the correct procedure had received some responses from councillors that there were no objections and advised this to Herefordshire Council.
- 9.5 192766 Nuttshell Bailey Lane End – storage and workshop building. After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** to object to the application on the basis that it is not compliant with the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 9.6 192803 – Land adjacent to Upper Weston. 21 planning conditions to be met as per Planning Group report. The Herefordshire Council enforcement officer has attended the site.
- 9.8 **Management of Planning Matters by the Parish Council Revision 5.**
The policy having been circulated to councillors, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the policy and publish it on the parish website.

10. Finance

- 10.1 The bank balances were accepted as £29,298.88 and £3,526.35 as at 14th August 2019.
- 10.2 The budget report was **approved** by council.
- 10.3 It was **RESOLVED** that the following would be paid:
- 10.3 (a) £ 376.60 Balance of repair to bench at Penyard Gardens.
 - 10.3 (b) £ 338.40 HB Digital Printing – Weston Connect and nomination forms for the champions award
 - 10.3 (c) £ 190.90 Clerk salary July
 - 10.3 (d) £ 47.72 Clerk tax July
 - 10.3 (e) £ 240.00 HALC Completion of 2018/9 internal audit.
 - 10.3 (f) £ 16.00 Chair's mileage expenses to attend HALC training in Hereford.
 - 10.3 (g) £ 273.00 Service of the Church clock.

11. Parish Projects

11.1 Road Safety

Covered under highways item 6.1

11.2 Services and Facilities

A date will be set for a litter pick in October.

11.3 Sustaining the Rural Environment

11.3(1) Weston Tree Enhancement.

No update other than that a trial tree area may be started near the Village Hall.

11.3(2) Wild Flower Areas

Council formally **RESOLVED** to adopt this as a Parish Project. Cllr Chris Morris advised that the first step is to find out from Herefordshire Council which verges they own and what support they will offer in terms of digging the verges to the required depth of 18 inches.

11.4 Community right to bid.

No update and this can be taken off the agenda for the time being.

12. Sponsorship of Community Champion's Award

No update apart from a further notice having been placed in the Weston News.

13. Proposed renewal of crumbling steps to Weston Church

Cllr Rod Barker proposed that Parish Council pay to have the seven steps leading up to St Laurence's

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Church replaced as they are crumbling and becoming a hazard to health. The steps ownership is not known although it is known that they are owned neither by the Church or the adjacent St Laurence Cottage. Council advised that three quotes should be obtained for the work which would then be considered.

14. Correspondence

14.1 Request from a parishioner that dog bins around Pontshill be emptied by a licensed company.

Chair Linda Dunn advised that the waste was neither business or commercial and could be taken to the household waste unit in Ross-on-Wye. Chair Linda Dunn will speak to the parishioner.

15. Items raised for the next agenda

15.1 E-mail policy for the Parish Council

15.2 Suggestion that Parish Council seek the opinions of younger people in the parish as to what they wanted to see in the parish.

15.3 The problem of dog mess in and around Weston under Penyard.

16. Date and place of the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd October at 7.30 pm at Weston Village Hall

Signed:

L.M. Dunn

Chairman

Date

OCT 3, 2019