



**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 3rd October 2019
at 7.30 p.m. at Weston Village hall.**

Present: Chairman Linda Dunn, Rod Barker, Chris Morris, Linda McGill, Martin Firman, Liam Kearns, John Bonham, John Smart
In attendance: Nick Richmond, Parish Clerk, Stuart Nowell, Balfour Beatty Road Designer, William Wilding County Councillor and ten parishioners.

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Dierdre Byrne and Terry Prince.

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.

This was combined with Highways item 6.2. Mr. Stuart Nowell from Balfour Beatty introduced himself and the draft plans were laid out on a table for ease of reference. An hour long discussion took place in which Mr. Nowell answered questions from both councillors and parishioners about the draft proposals. While the majority of the parishioners present broadly supported the draft road plans, there were reservations expressed about pedestrians crossing the road safely.

Mr. Nowell will take these concerns back and possibly do further monitoring of pedestrians crossing at places other than at the Weston Cross where a survey had shown low numbers crossing. It was also suggested that chicanes should be considered at the 30mph points which would also allow for larger gates to be installed. A further question was asked concerning the budget for the proposals given that the money available from the Ariconium Place development for transport measures is £ 85,000, and Mr Nowell advised that a budget can be produced and he would ask the relevant department to provide this.

It was RESOLVED to agree in principal with the A40 proposals so far, subject to budget figures and pedestrian safety concerns being addressed.

4. Minutes of previous meetings.

4.1 To agree and sign the minutes of the meeting on Thursday 29th August 2019, and of the extra ordinary meeting on Wednesday 25th September 2019.

It was **RESOLVED:** to agree and sign the minutes of The Parish Council Meeting of Thursday 29th August 2019, and the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Wednesday 25th September 2019.

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

No verbal reports.

6. Highways

6.2 See above.

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

Council RESOLVED to ask for a sign to be put at the Walford end of the road as at the

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Pontshill end for a 7.5T only except for access, and also to ask for a traffic survey to be undertaken to determine the extent of the problem faced by parishioners at Bill Mills

6.4 Re-siting of 30mph sign.

Mr Nowell advised that this matter was going to be resolved imminently with a single post and sign.

6.5 SID update

Cllr Barker reported that the SID's were to be deployed again in the next few days.

6.6 Road accident at Rudge Pitch.

Cllr William Wilding had visited the site with Kevin Williams Balfour Beatty locality steward and it appears that the best way forward would be a sign advising of concealed entrances.

6.7 Flower pots at the Weston Cross pub.

Chairman Linda Dunn is to approach the owners again concerning removal of the pots obscuring the view of road users.

6.8 Damaged grit bins.

Kevin Williams advised that grit bins that were damaged beyond actual use as bins would be replaced, so councillors are asked to forward any pictures of such bins to the Clerk to advise Balfour Beatty.

7. Climate Emergency

Cllr William Wilding introduced the subject and advised that in his opinion although the County Council had declared a climate emergency they were not actually taking steps to implement changes to their own planning and other decisions to effect any change.

Parish Council declared it's support for Herefordshire Council's initiative in declaring a climate emergency and undertook to take into account climate considerations in all planning applications and all other decisions.

8. Lengthsman

8.1 There were no outstanding jobs for the lengthsman. The lengthsman is to be instructed to clear the silting of the stream next to Penheligan House, following which an investigation is to be undertaken to determine the cause of the silting. A footpath clearing job in this vicinity is also to be undertaken by the lengthsman at the same time.

8.2 Tender for the lengthsman contract.

Cllr Bonham having drafted a tender document based on the previous contract that has expired, a discussion took place as to whether some of the proposed actions were appropriate, and Council considered that the lengthsman should not negotiate with landowners on behalf of the Council. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to take these sections out of the tender document and send out the revised version to the four entities identified as potential suppliers of lengthsman work.

9. Footpaths

8.1 The Footpaths Officer Cllr Smart had presented his report – he advised that all footpaths were now clear and open to walkers. Council thanked Cllr Smart for the extensive and impressive work that had been done.

8.2 Miles without Stiles

Cllr smart is in talks with various landowners about replacing stiles with gates.

10. Planning

No new planning applications have been received..

11. Finance

11.1 The bank balances as at 14th September 2019. £ 29,997.46 and £ 3,528.11 were noted.

11.2 The budget report was received and approved.

11.3 The following invoices were approved for payment:

11.3 (a) £ 100.00 Eyelid Productions annual website support.

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113 (b) £ 112.64 John Smart expenses relating to PROW work completed.

11.3 (c) £ 200.21 Clerk salary August

11.3 (d) £ 50.05 Clerk tax August

11.3 (e) £ 214.18 Clerk salary September

11.3 (f) £ 53.54 Clerk tax September

11.3 (g) £ 265.00 Lengthsman Wayne Reed – style maintenance

11.5 The Finance Group report was received and approved.

11.5 Budget 2020/21 timetable

The Clerk advised that he would prepare a projection of expenditure for the Finance Group who would prepare a budget for the November meeting, following which the precept for 2020/21 would be decided and advised to Herefordshire Council in December.

12. Parish Projects

12.2 Road Safety

Covered under highways item 6.

12.3 Services and Facilities

A litter pick is to be arranged – the date was proposed as Saturday 9th November 10.00am at Weston Village Hall.

12.4 Sustaining the Rural Environment

No report.

12.5 Weston Tree Enhancement.

No update

12.6 Wild Flower Areas

Cllr Morris has written to Balfour Beatty's sustainable development Manager but had no response so far and will chase this.

13. Sponsorship of Community Champion's Award

Cllr Firman reported that no nominations have been received. Council will therefore write to the Weston News and say that there has been an unfortunate lack of interest in this scheme, and it can now come off the agenda.

14. Proposed renewal of crumbling steps to Weston Church.

Cllr Barker having been away this item will be considered in November.

15. Correspondence

Several items of correspondence had been received relating to the A40 proposals, and were largely positive.

16. Council E-mail policy

This policy has been circulated. Cllr Linda McGill will look at the policy and propose some additions specific to our Parish Council.

17. Seeking opinions from young people in the Parish.

Cllr Bonham presented a survey document that could be presented to Weston School for it's pupils to consider. This is particularly relevant as money is available from Ariconium Place for the play area. The addition of this as a specific question was supported and Cllr Bonham encouraged to continue with this initiative.

18. The problem of dog mess around Weston under Penyard.

It was decided that a notice placed in The Weston News was the only avenue open in helping to address this ongoing problem.

19. Items raised for next agenda (no discussion)

No new items raised.

20. To note date of next meeting as Thursday 7th November 2019 @ 7.30pm Weston Village Hall

Nick Richmond

Clerk

Weston-under-Penyard Parish Council

7th October 2019

Signed:

L.M. Dim

Chairman

Date

7.11.2019.