



**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 7th November 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, Terry Prince

In attendance: Nick Richmond, Parish Clerk, and two parishioners.

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from 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.

The two parishioners had come to the meeting to express their concern over the closed dog bins at Pontshill. It was explained to them that a resident who had agreed to empty the bins had contacted Hereford Council and had been told she should not be clearing dog bins, so she had sealed up the bins in the absence of an alternative. The parishioners view was that the Parish Council should clear the bins and they were advised by the Chair that a different resident had agreed to clear the bins and one had been unsealed which will soon be followed by the other two, so it was agreed to see how things progressed, and in the meantime the Clerk is to investigate with HALC what other councils did and whether a larger bin can be provided which could be emptied by Balfour Beatty, or possibly by the Parish Lengthsman.

4. Minutes of previous meetings.

4.1 To agree and sign the minutes of the meeting on Thursday 3rd October 2019.

It was **RESOLVED:** to agree and sign the minutes of The Parish Council Meeting of Thursday 3rd October 2019.

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

The Chair advised that Cllr Dierdre Byrne intended to resign from the Council and would write to the Clerk to formally do so.

6. Highways

6.1 No new issues identified.

6.2 A40 Traffic Calming re Section 106 money.

No new information has been received from Balfour Beatty regarding the A40 design for traffic calming. The Clerk is to ask for an update particularly relating to pedestrian crossing, gateway restriction to traffic and the budget for the project. It was agreed to meet representatives of traffic management on Thursday 28th November to discuss the potential for no overtaking signs along the A40.

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

A group of parishioners from Wallow Farm had met representatives of Cobrey Farms but nothing had been resolved. Cllr Firman would contact Cobrey Farms and reiterate residents concerns and if unsuccessful the Clerk will write an official letter.

6.4 Re-siting of 30mph sign.

A group was observed around the sign in discussion but remains unresolved. M F Freeman is charged with replacing the existing two pole sign with a single pole therefore no longer in the landowner's hedge. Chairman Linda Dunn will contact Freemans about this.

6.5 SID update

Cllr Barker reported that the SIDs are proving to be less than effective and has complained to Balfour Beatty about them. They appear to be running out of battery very quickly and not in use all the time. As a result the Council will not be paying for the use of the SID. Cllr Morris has heard that these particular SID devices may all be defective, so Cllr Barker is to obtain costings for the council to purchase its own SID.

6.6 Road accident at Rudge Pitch.

No update on this item which will be taken off the next agenda.

6.7 Flower pots at the Weston Cross pub.

Chairman Linda Dunn is to approach the owners yet again concerning removal of the pots obscuring the view of road users. If no action taken then the Clerk will write an official letter.

6.8 Damaged grit bins.

The damaged grit bin at Bollitree was advised to Kevin Williams who has responded that it is a PC bin so not theirs to be replaced. Cllr Kearns asked that it be pointed out to BB that the damage to the bin was caused by them or their contractor. Two more bins have been identified in Hoovers Lane. Clerk is to take pictures and write to Kevin Williams of BB again and also bring up the road markings at Bollitree which Kevin was advised about but gave no answer.

7. Lengthsman

7.1 A grip at Bollitree was identified as needing the Lengthsman's attention.

7.2 Tender for the lengthsman contract.

The Clerk is to send out the tender document to the four persons identified as potential suppliers of Lengthsman services. They will be given two weeks to respond and then meetings arranged with them prior to the next PC meeting.

7.3 Silting of the stream at Penheligan House.

The Clerk is to arrange a meeting with the resident with Cllrs Smart and Prince and Kevin Williams of Balfour Beatty if possible.

8. Footpaths

8.1 The Footpaths Officer Cllr Smart had presented his report. The pavements work along the A40 was welcomed but Cllr Smart pointed out that pavements in the village itself had not been cleared. The Clerk is to write to Kevin Williams to ask that this job be put forward.

9. Planning

9.1 No new planning applications have been received. The Clerk is to ask for an extension to an application received too late for the agenda and this has been agreed.

9.2 The Planning Group Report was received.

10. Finance

10.1 The bank balances as at 31st October 2019 £ 33,754.22 and £ 3,528.11 were noted.

10.2 The budget report was received and approved. Two adjustments were identified by Cllr Smart which the Clerk will attend to.

10.3 The following invoices were approved for payment:

10.3 (a) £48.00 S J Harris Ltd installation of road sign.

10.3 (b) £66.00 HALC – website hosting.

10.3 (c) £54.00 Mileage for Martin Firman re Parish Council Booklet.

10.3 (e) £194.02 Clerk salary October

10.3 (f) £48.51 Clerk tax October

10.3 (g) £15.00 Weston Village Hall for PROW meeting.

10.4 The Finance Group report was received and approved.

10.5 To receive the 2020/21 Budget

The Finance Group having met to agree and propose the budget for 2020/21 and on the basis of this also proposed a reduced precept of £10,000, Discussion took place in which Cllr Smart disagreed with the budget amounts and the precept figure. In an email to the council a parishioner had also suggested a larger reduction in the precept. As a result Cllr Barker proposed that the budget be accepted but the precept figure be set at £7,500. This was seconded by Cllr Firman and voted upon with all in favour except Cllr Smart who voted against.

10.6 To approve an increase in the clerk's salary

It was resolved to increase the clerk's salary from £11.64 to £13.00 per hour.

11. Parish Projects the

11.2 Road Safety

Covered under highways item 6.

11.3 Services and Facilities

Unfortunately the litter pick could not go ahead on Saturday 9th November as several people could no longer attend and heavy rain was forecast. A new date will be set in due course.

11.4 Sustaining the Rural Environment

No report.

11.5 Weston Tree Enhancement.

A 'Trees for Schools' project had been identified, and the Chair said she will ask Weston School if they are participating with the idea that if any children had trees but had nowhere for the tree to be planted then the council would be happy to take these trees and plant them appropriately with advice from the Tree Officer, Paul Rutter.

11.6 Wild Flower Areas

Cllr Morris reported that Balfour Beatty have a budget to develop wild flower verges, and he has identified two areas where the initial work could be done.

12. Proposed renewal of crumbling steps to Weston Church.

A parishioner has raised an objection to council money being spent on this. As a result the Clerk sought advice from HALC. The advice was that, as ownership of the land including the steps was not known, council may be both taking action of which the landowner did not approve, or be seen as spending public money to the benefit of the individual landowner, or to the benefit of the Church and/or the owners of the cottage adjacent to the Church. In the circumstances Cllr Barker said he would make further enquiries into the ownership of the land.

13. Correspondence

Road flooding at Frogmore.

A parishioner advised that gullies in the area needed clearing to prevent more flooding. The Clerk is to notify the appropriate authorities.

14. Council E-mail policy

This matter is being held over to the next meeting.

15. Seeking opinions from young people in the Parish.

Progress is being made. Weston School is in favour and has suggested that a Council representative present this at school. Cllr Bonham would contact the school to progress this suggestion.

16. Items raised for next agenda (no discussion)

16.1 Neighbourhood Plan Review

16.2 Bank mandate

20. To note date of next meeting as Thursday 5th December 2019 @ 7.30pm Weston Village Hall

Nick Richmond
Clerk
Weston-under-Penyard Parish Council
11th November 2019

Signed: L.M. Dunn

Chairman

Date 5.12.19

We discussed the footpath/information boards - Chris Harris was to investigate finding someone able to ~~do~~ produce new hand painted maps. 10.