



**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 9th January 2020
at 7.30 p.m. at Weston Village Hall.**

Present: Chairman Linda Dunn, Chris Morris, Linda McGill, Martin Firman, John Smart, Terry Prince, John Bonham.
In attendance: Nick Richmond, Parish Clerk and one parishioner.

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Liam Kearns and William Wilding (Penyard Ward Councillor)

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.

Mr Steven Edwards was present to address the council on his planning application for a residential dwelling at Millbrook Cottages (Item 9.4)

4. Minutes of previous meetings.

4.1 To agree and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th December 2019.

It was **RESOLVED:** to agree and sign the minutes of the meeting of Thursday 5th December 2019 with the addition of a note thanking Cllrs Rod Barker and Dierdre Byrne for their service to the council and the parish.

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

The Clerk's actions document was discussed and accepted. The issue of filling our grit bins would be addressed under item 7 Lengthsman.

6. Highways

6.1 No new issues identified.

Cllr Smart advised that pavements in Weston Village itself were still to be cleared by Balfour Beatty. Clerk to confirm with the Locality Steward the date of when this would be done.

6.2 A40 Traffic Calming re Section 106 money.

Updated designs have yet to be received from Balfour Beatty. Several councillors expressed reservations about the dangers of having no central line on the A40. Council instructed the Clerk to e-mail Balfour Beatty asking what progress had been made and when the final designs would be available.

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

The further correspondence on this matter was noted by council, however it was the opinion of council that in bringing this matter to the attention of Cobrey Farms council had done all it could, and the clerk is to reply to the correspondence along these lines. The matter would be taken off the next agenda.

6.4 Re-siting of 30mph sign.

The Chair had contacted M F Freeman to confirm when the 30 mph sign single pole was going to be installed. No response had been received and contact would be made again.

6.5 SID update

The unsatisfactory nature of the SID deployments was discussed together with the correspondence received. The Clerk is to e-mail Balfour Beatty expressing this, asking for a copy of the contract for the

current year and requesting that BB take urgent action to enable proper deployment. Council wants this matter resolved so that public money already spent has the desired conclusion.

6.6 Flower pots at the Weston Cross pub.

Matter resolved and can be taken off the agenda.

6.7 Grit bins.

Clerk is to contact Balfour Beatty again concerning refilling of grit bins in Church Lane & Rectory Lane. Parish Council bins will not be filled by Balfour Beatty.

6.8 Culvert at Penheligan House.

Balfour Beatty have yet to clear the culvert. Clerk to contact BB to obtain a date when the work is to be carried out.

7. Lengthsman

7.1 No new work identified.

7.2 Tender for the lengthsman contract.

Cllr Bonham outlined the meeting held with the three parties who tendered for the Lengthsman's contract; how each had scored on several key factors i.e. experience, cost, reliability. On this basis the candidate who scored highest and was therefore the recommendation of the panel interviewing the candidates was Terry Griffiths (Contracts). It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Terry Griffiths be appointed. The clerk is to confirm the appointment to Terry Griffiths and send the contract for him to sign and return, upon which the other candidates will be advised that they have not been successful.

7.3 Proposed Annual Maintenance Plan Contract.

The contract was signed and has in turn been signed by Balfour Beatty. Clerk is to obtain clarification of annex 3.

8. Footpaths

8.1 The Footpaths Officer Cllr Smart presented his report.

8.2 Proposal for the Improvement of Footpaths.

Having been circulated before the meeting this was proposed by Cllr Smart and seconded by Cllr Morris and **APPROVED** unanimously.

9. Planning

9.1 Planning applications below.

9.2 The Planning Group Report was received.

The visibility splay at Rudge Farm (P171259) has still to be resolved, the Chair will ask the enforcement officer to ensure that the condition is met before any work commences.

9.3 P194195 – Fairfield's Bromsash – Council **RESOLVED** not to support the application to change land usage from agricultural to residential.

9.4 194058 – Millbrook Cottages – Council **RESOLVED** not to support the application.

Mr Edwards was advised that the planning group had met and had proposed to council that the application was not supported as it does not comply with policies in the NDP. A copy of the council's decision was handed to Mr Edwards.

9.5 To review the NDP.

It was agreed to write to Herefordshire Council at the end of January if no date for the strategy surgery had been set.

10. Finance

10.1 The bank balances as at 31st December 2019 £33,067.94 and £ 3,529.87 were noted.

10.2 The budget report was received and approved.

10.3 The following invoices were approved for payment:

10.3 (b) £169.00 Clerk salary December

10.3 (c) £42.25 Clerk tax December

11. Neighbourhood Planning Projects

11.1 Road Safety

Covered under Highways item 6.

11.2 Services and Facilities

A litter pick will be arranged for Saturday 29th February and a notice put in the Weston News.

11.3 Sustaining the Rural Environment

11.3.1 Weston Tree Enhancement.

No update. It was felt that this area needed more action and Cllr Morris agreed to take this up.

11.3.2 Wild Flower Areas

Cllr Morris reported that the person at Balfour Beatty responsible for the budget for wild flower areas had left and cover was only being provided for existing projects until a new appointment was made.

11.4 Community Right to Bid.

Nothing to report and can be taken off the agenda.

12. Proposed renewal of crumbling steps to Weston Church.

Cllr Morris has taken over the correspondence from Cllr Barker and had received a quotation.

An article will be placed in the Weston News and Ross Gazette asking for information on the ownership of the land before any work was considered. There would be a deadline of 28 days to receive any information. Two further quotes are to be obtained for the re-seating of the steps.

13. Correspondence

13.1 Bus shelter at Penyard Gardens.

The shelter had been cleaned and quotes to be obtained to repair the seating inside.

13.2 HGV's on the Pontshill to Bill Mills road. See Highways item 6.3.

14. Seeking opinions from young people in the Parish.

Cllr Bonham to complete and circulate the questionnaire which will then be presented to Weston School.

15. Initiate process for two new councillors.

Election notices have been received from Herefordshire Council and have been displayed on the notice boards. Council again expresses its thanks to Rod Barker and Deirdre Byrne for their service to the council and Parish.

16. Agenda Focus.

Cllr Firman raised this as he felt that council meetings too often veered from the agenda items, spent too much time discussing some items and then rushed matters at the end of the agenda occasionally meaning items were carried over. These points were noted as was a suggestion that written submissions before the meetings could enable shorter, or indeed, remove the need for discussions on some areas where decisions were required.

17. Items raised for next agenda (no discussion)

17.1 Footpath sign boards.

19. To note date of next meeting as Thursday 5th March 2020 at 7.30pm Weston Village Hall

Nick Richmond

Clerk, Weston-under-Penyard Parish Council

16th January 2020

Signed: *L.M. Dunn*

Chairman

Date

MARCH 5TH 2020