



**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 5th March 2020
at 6.45p.m. at Weston Village Hall.**

Present: Chairman Linda Dunn, Chris Morris, Linda McGill, Martin Firman, John Smart, Terry Prince, John Bonham, Liam Kearns.
In attendance: Nick Richmond, Parish Clerk, William Wilding Ward Councillor, Mark Hadley from Balfour Beatty, PCSO Simon Hall and 8 parishioners including three applicants for Co-Option to Council.

1. To receive apologies for absence.

None received as all councillors attended.

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.

Agenda item 8.2 (A40 Traffic calming) was now taken as parishioners had attended to hear an update from Mark Hadley. Mark summarized where the plans for resurfacing and traffic calming had reached. The likely date for the work has been moved back to June due to flooding issues taking precedence, and two aspects of the design ie the lighting design at the mini roundabout and road 'pinching' at the 30mph sign had not yet been completed and incorporated into the plans. Traffic speeds along the straight were brought up as a concern and some concerns over the removal of the central white line which Mark agreed to take away from the meeting and consider. Clerk to follow up with and e-mail to Mark summarizing these concerns.

The meeting was then addressed by PCSO Simon Hall from Ross Police Station. He wishes to engage with the local community via the Parish Council so that any local issues can be addressed, and seeks support for a talk at Weston Village Hall on crime prevention particularly staying safe from fraudsters and scammers.

4. Minutes of previous meetings.

4.1 To agree and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th January 2020.

It was **RESOLVED:** to agree and sign the minutes of the meeting of Thursday 9th January 2020.

5. To co-opt two new councillors.

Three residents having come forward for the two positions available, each candidate gave a short presentation on their background and skills, following which a ballot of councillors was held, the result being the co-option of Helen Barker and Adrian Bagg as new councillors. The unsuccessful candidate was thanked and asked if he would maintain an interest if a further position became available as council felt he would make an able councillor.

6. To elect a Vice Chairman.

No candidate having come forward prior to the meeting it was proposed that Cllr Chris Morris be appointed Vice Chairman and this was **APPROVED** by council unopposed.

7. To receive verbal reports, the clerk's actions report, the Chairman's report and any necessary actions.

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No verbal reports were made and the Clerk's and Chairman's reports were accepted without further actions. Cllr Smart suggested that verbal reports should not be on the agenda, however Cllr Morris was of the opinion that should a matter arise after the publication of the agenda but before the meeting that council needed to discuss then this would allow the matter to be presented.

8. Highways

8.1 New issues identified.

Flooding of the A40 was discussed with particular reference to Freemans jetting gullies and Balfour Beatty clearing gullies but not then investigating and clearing the source of the problem. Ward Councillor William Wilding is to find out who parish council can write to at Balfour Beatty to take up the standard of their work.

8.2 A40 Traffic Calming re Section 106 money.

see item 3 open forum.

8.3 Re-siting of 30mph sign.

The existing sign and two poles have been removed. We await a new sign on a single pole to match the sign on the opposite side of the road.

8.4 SID update

Balfour Beatty have apologized for the battery issues that have affected data from the SID's and we still await data from December. Clerk is **INSTRUCTED** however to request new SID deployments starting April 2020 alternating between both SID bases.

8.5 Culvert at Penheligan House.

Clerk continues to ask the Balfour Beatty Locality Steward when the work to clear the culvert will be carried out, and replies to the parishioner accordingly.

8.6 Proposal for road name signs.

The Chairman has again asked Balfour Beatty for quotes for new road signs, and the Clerk is to request quotes also from our Lengthsman Terry Griffiths for signs and installation.

8.7 Lea Bailey TRO.

Chairman Linda Dunn attended the meeting and advised that, although there could be improvements to the scheme because of the long time it has taken to reach this stage it seemed better to support the scheme as it stood rather than raise new questions, and council **RESOLVED** to support the scheme. The Clerk to confirm this by e-mail.

9. Lengthsman

9.1 The new lengthsman Terry Griffiths Contracts having carried out an initial maintenance day and reported what had been done and identified some defects that they had not had time to rectify, it was **RESOLVED** that they be instructed to carry out two further days maintenance ideally before the end of March and carry out the specific tasks to remedy the defects identified. Clerk is to obtain copies of the Lengthsmans Public Liability insurance and permit to work on the A40.

9.3 Lengthsman and Parish Paths Partnership Scheme 2020/21.

Council **AGREED** to return a completed expression of interest form in respect of the 2020/21 scheme.

10. Footpaths

10.1 The Footpaths Officer Cllr Smart presented his report.

10.2 Update on Improvement of Footpaths.

Landowners have been e-mailed requesting their approval for the installation of new gates. Cllr Kearns requested to see copies of the e-mails which the clerk will provide to him. Cllr Smart proposed that the budget for improvements agreed in January be increased from £ 2,330.00 to £ 2,630.00 to incorporate an additional gate and installation. This was **AGREED**.

11. Planning

11.1 200378 – Ariconium Place – retrospective planning application for ‘turning areas’

The Clerk is **INSTRUCTED** to submit the planning group’s objections to the application. A meeting is then to be arranged with Luke Freeman and HC to discuss council’s objections and to discuss the trees that are in the original plans to make the entrance to the village attractive.

11.2 The Planning Group Report was received and accepted.

11.3 To receive a report from the NDP review meeting.

The report was received and accepted. The councillors in attendance did not think the session answered any important questions, and that we needed to keep this under ongoing review.

12. Finance

12.1 The bank balances as at 31st January 2020 £32,898.94 and £ 3,529.87 were noted.

12.2 The budget report was received and approved.

12.3 The following invoices were approved for payment:

10.3 (a) £ 124.28 Clerk salary January

10.3 (b) £ 31.07 Clerk tax January

10.3(c) £ 244.40 Clerk salary February

10.3 (d) £ 61.10 Clerk tax February

10.3 (e) £ 33.06 Clerk expenses

Not approved:

10.3 (f) £ 169.20 Balfour Beatty SID Deployment invoice from November

13. Neighbourhood Planning Projects

13.1 Road Safety

Covered under Highways item 8.

13.2 Services and Facilities

The litter pick was attended by 15 people including a lady and four young people from the Aston Project. The Clerk is to e-mail them thanking them for their support. An autumn litter pick is to be arranged with refreshments provided in the village hall afterwards.

13.3 Sustaining the Rural Environment

13.3.1 Weston Tree Enhancement.

Cllr Morris has contacted Tree Officer Paul Rutter and they will work on planning tree planting around the recreation ground.

13.3.2 Wild Flower Areas

Cllr Morris has a new contact at Balfour Beatty Fiona Myles – she will arrange a survey of utilities at the sites identified as electricity cables etc may render the project impossible, but provided there are no issues with this a ‘Section 96’ licence can be applied for which will allow work to take place on the A40 to start the wild flower areas.

14. Proposed renewal of crumbling steps to Weston Church.

The process of investigating ownership of the steps has been completed but although some information has come to light it has not been possible to establish ownership, although it is known that the Church do not own the steps. Council therefore considers that in the interests of safety the steps should be renovated. Two quotes have been received and council **AGREED** to accept the lower of the two quotes at £ 2,250.00. Before proceeding however Cllr Firman will obtain legal advice on how council can carry this out without accepting any liability toward users of the steps.

15. Renewal of footpath sign boards.

Cllr Morris reported that he has arranged for the Ross Men’s Shed to build the new notice boards for which it is **AGREED** council will make a donation. A quotation for the art work graphics has been obtained in the region of £ 2,500. A second quote will be obtained. Cllr Bagg advised that council should obtain the intellectual property rights to the graphics, and it was suggested that the content that will be used from the old noticeboards be checked for accuracy of the footpath information.

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16. Bus shelter at Penyard Gardens.

The bench has been examined and found not to be in need of renovation. The bins are being emptied so the only action required is to remove the bins from the inside of all three bus shelters and replace them with outside bins with lids to make the inside of the shelters cleaner. Clerk is to ask Terry Griffiths for a quotation.

17. To consider a proposal on Council Working Groups.

Cllr Smart introduced his report which proposes an increase in working groups that may co-opt non councillors – the working groups producing reports and recommendations to council that may result in more efficient council meetings. It was AGREED that given the limited time that councillors had the report that the matter be held over until the next meeting, and councillors wishing to express an opinion should e-mail the clerk.

18. Correspondence.

18.1 Village Hall committee – Cllr Prince agreed to be the council representative on the village hall committee.

18.2 Defibrillators – This matter may come under a new working group if the proposal above is agreed, however for the time being Cllr McGill agreed to take on the responsibility and will meet with Rod Barker to achieve an understanding of what is required. The clerk is to examine his files to provide any relevant information.

18.3 Upper Weston Barn – Following a complaint about vehicles parked on the road causing problems visits to the site were arranged by HC planning and the Balfour Beatty locality steward to make the point that vehicles should be parked on site rather than on the road. In the circumstances council has done what it can, and while this may not lead to a great improvement the resident accepts that council has done what it can.

19. Seeking opinions from young people in the parish.

Cllr Bonham has submitted the questionnaire to Weston School for their approval. They have requested that council provides some representatives to visit and answer any questions, and it was AGREED that Cllr Bonham and Chairman Dunn will attend and will explain to the children the difference between the village and the Parish. The questionnaire will be put on the council website so that young people not at Weston School also have an opportunity to express an opinion. A prize of a book token will be made.

20. Items raised for the next agenda.

20.1 Change to the methodology of litter picks.

20.2 Dog bins.

21. To note date of next meeting as Thursday 2nd April 2020 at 7.30pm Weston Village Hall, and the date of the Annual Parish Meeting 7th May 2020.

Nick Richmond

Clerk, Weston-under-Penyard Parish Council

12th March 2020

Signed:

L.M.Dun.

Chairman

Date

APRIL 16TH 2020