

Weedon Parish Council

Clerk to the Council Mrs Ruth Millard

Minutes of the Meeting of Weedon Parish Council held in The Old Schoolroom on
Wednesday 18th March 2015 at 8.00pm

Open Forum Adjournment;

District and County Cllrs Reports:

Cllr Netta Glover gave her report, please see attached, Appendix 1

21/15 Attendance and apologies.

Apologies: Cllr Nigel Winnett-returning from Switzerland

Present Cllr Joanna Rose, Cllr Wendy Kett, Cllr Tom Jameson-Evans,

Cllr Justin Sellers, Cllr Kirsty Ashurst, Cllr Mark Talbott.

Clerk - Ruth Millard.

County Cllr Netta Glover, District Cllr Ashley Bond

Public: 2

22/15 Declarations of interest.

Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests to items on the agenda as required by the Weedon Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011. Cllr Joanna Rose declared an interest in the Planning Applications for Manor Fields as she is an immediate neighbour.

23/15 Approval of Minutes. To agree and sign the minutes from the Planning Meeting of Weedon Parish Council held on 5th March 2015.

Resolved the minutes of the meeting are approved and are signed as a true record of the meeting.

24/15 Planning

Whitchurch 80 houses

Cllr Ashley Bond, as Chairman of Whitchurch Parish Council, gave an outline of the application for 80 properties planned at Whitchurch. After a discussion the Parish Council

Resolved to send in an objection to the development, the reasons being:

- It is an area of Attractive Landscape
- Problems with Traffic and access
- Problems created accessing School and Doctors Surgery

15/00326/APP and 15/00327/ALB Manor Fields 1 Northcroft Weedon Buckinghamshire HP22 4NR

Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey extension and demolition of outbuildings and erection of replacement barn.

Cllr Joanna Rose removed herself from the table to the floor.

Mr Nigel Smith gave a resume of his property and the application to change it. The property is a converted cowshed and over the years various buildings have been added. The application would replace some of the buildings and tie every thing together into a comfortable 3 bed-roomed home.

Joanna Rose said that she wasn't happy with the height of the barn. She had thought that it would step down in height, to complement the range of buildings on her land. She also wasn't happy with the free standing wall, in the application. She didn't think it was sympathetic to the conservation area and in character with her listed Grade 2 star property, adjacent to it.

Joanna Rose left the room for the Council to make a decision.

The Councillors discussed the free-standing wall and decided to request the listed buildings officer to pay particular attention to the setting and design when giving his/her report.

Resolved; No Objection to the application but make comments that it would like to see the listed building officer pay particular attention, regarding the free standing brick wall, to the setting and design, bearing in mind its position adjacent to a Grade 2 star listed building and in the conservation area.

25/15 Environment.

a Footpaths, Footways and Highways, including

- i. Stiles to Gates project – Cllr W Kett showed the Council a plan of the gates and stiles and gave a résumé of all the changes – see map attached, Appendix 2.

Two stiles at New Road and Kirby's Field (marked 1 & 2 on the map) had been replaced with gates – The gate where the Kirby's Field footpath joins East End (marked 3 on the map) had been replaced. An additional step had been added to the stile marked 4 on the map & an additional step and a hold-

Weedon Parish Council

Clerk to the Council Mrs Ruth Millard

ing post added to the stile marked 5 on the map. The Council were very happy with the progress, and Cllr Kett was mandated to continue negotiations with landowners and BCC to achieve the maximum number of gates.

- ii. **Speed Control** - Cllr M Talbott reported that a resident (no. 66 Aston Abbots Road) was unhappy with one of the positions for a MVAS on Aston Abbots Road. The Council also discussed how many hinged brackets and ground screws it would purchase.

Resolved that Cllr Talbott approach the neighbour living near the chosen survey site to find out if she would object to an MVAS situated outside her property (no. 64). If she had no objection, Cllr Talbott would contact the LAT with the change of position. The Council agreed on 2 hinged brackets/posts and 4 ground screws.

- iii. **Noticeboard replacement at Aston Abbots Road/East End corner**

Resolved; that Cllr M Talbott would provide a quote for a board of the same size and similar design to the existing one.

- b **Street Lighting** The Clerk reported that E.on were increasing the deemed contract rates for the un-metered supply from the 1st May, from 9.20p per kWh to 12.40p. She had been in contact with E.on and was waiting for a fixed term price.

Resolved; that other un-metered suppliers are sought and asked their prices, for comparison. Cllr Rose agreed to make initial enquiries.

The Council asked if the local electrician had given the Clerk a quote for converting the existing lamps to LED, which he hadn't.

Resolved; that the Clerk would contact ADJ Electrical Services in Aylesbury and ask for a quote.

- c **Play Area**: Cllr W Kett reported that the Pyracantha had been treated with stump killer. There were no other outstanding issues

- d **Pond, Grass, Hedges and Verges**:

- i Cllr T Jameson-Evans had received 2 estimates to remove and replace any broken/rotted wooden stakes on the verge adjacent to the pond and from the roadside of the pond bank. After consideration the Council chose Maltings Gardens estimate.

Resolved: that the Clerk puts in a work order to Maltings Gardens Ltd.

- ii Cllr M Talbott said that he would provide a quote for a new "Ducks crossing" / "Deep water" sign for the Council's consideration within the week.

- iii The Council considered some designs and quotes off the internet for a floating pontoon and small duck house and agreed to purchase a square design.

Resolved: that Cllr T Jameson-Evans sends the link to the Clerk to place the order.

- iv Cllr W Kett reported that when she looked at the trees on the New Road that needed re-staking, someone had already carried out the work..

- e **The Chapel graveyard**: Cllr J Rose reported that the lease was almost at completion. The Clerk had attended the Cemetery Management & Compliance training day. After the lease is signed the Council will have to meet and agree the policies for running the graveyard. Catherine Moran has kindly offered to continue to give a donation towards the maintenance of the graveyard.

- f **War Memorial**: the council discussed applying to "list" the memorial.

Resolved: not to apply for listing.

- g **Best Kept Village competition**: The Council discussed the changes in the marking rules.

Resolved: that Cllr J Rose would update the maps to reflect the changes and liaise with the Clerk to forward the information, for the competition, before the 30th April 2015

- h **52 Aston Abbots Road**: The Council discussed this item, there had been no problems with the home.

Resolved: that this item be taken off the agenda.

26/15 Correspondence and other communications including reports on Local Area Forum and training courses

- i. 10.02.2015 - AVALC - Minutes of January, 2015 Executive Meeting
- ii. 12.02.2015 - AVDC regarding North Bucks Planning Consortium
- iii. 26.02.2015 - Letter of response from the NBPCC. A Councillor proposed that the Parish Council investigate whether or not it is in interests of the Council to become members of the NBPCC.

Weedon Parish Council

Clerk to the Council Mrs Ruth Millard

iv. 27.02.2015 - Your entry to the Best Kept Village Competition is invited.

v. 27.02.2015 - Notice that Election Packs are being processed at the moment by AVDC to be sent to the Clerk.

Resolved; that the correspondence is noted. That the Clerk will contact NBPC for information of their constitution.

27/15 Communications. To review content and report any issues.

a Website. No problems. The Council thanked Cllr K Ashurst for all her help to the Village regarding the construction and updating of the website.

b Parish magazine/newsletter; article for May issue.

Resolved: Cllr W Kett would write a piece on the changes that had been made to the stiles and gates on the village footpaths and send it to Cllr J Rose for inclusion in the May magazine.

28/15 Finance & Accounts.

a To agree the financial statements of accounts and bank reconciliations for the year to date, end of February 2015

b To draw cheques and ratify cheques drawn since the last meeting.

Resolved that the Financial Statements and bank reconciliations to the 28th February 2015 are noted and the invoices presented be paid.

Bank Statements to 28th February 2015

Account3205	28287.53
Account7936	1,000.00
	29,287.53

Income

9 th January 2015	Interest	1.22
9 th February 2015	Interest	1.21

Ratify payments made in February 2015

Wendy Kett, bulbs from Hillyards of Oundle	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19	1258	20.00
Mike Moore, duck food	LGA 1972, s137	1259	52.69
Green Thumb, invoice 097059	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19	1260	48.00
ER Millard, January 2015 Remunerations	LGA 1972, s112	1261	CONFIDENTIAL
The Old Schoolroom	LGA 1972, s133	1262	13.00
Chris Race, hosting website	LGA 1982, s142	1263	60.00

Pay Payments for March 2015

Payee	Power	Cheque	Amount
E.on, invoice 1 st February 2015	LGA 1972 s14 para 27	DD	45.28
ER Millard – February 2015 remuneration	LGA 1972 s112	1264	CONFIDENTIAL
ER Millard – March 2015 remuneration	LGA 1972 s112	1255	CONFIDENTIAL
HMRC, 4th Quarter	LGA 1972 s112	1256	CONFIDENTIAL
E.on, invoice 1 st March 2015	LGA 1972 s14 para 27	DD	62.09
AVDC – Dog waste Service		1267	69.40
ER Millard – Expenses 2014 - 2015	LGA 1972 s112	1268	

c Complete Bank Mandate adding Cllr Mark Talbott as a signatory. The Clerk had forgotten to bring the bank mandate to the meeting.

Resolved that the Clerk would provide Cllr Mark Talbott with the mandate paperwork, to take to the Bank with his documents, to get authorised copies and return to the Clerk.

29/15 Resolved the date of next meeting as Wednesday 20th May 2015 in The Methodist Chapel. This would be the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 8.00pm.

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

Chairman's Signature Date.....

Chairman's initials

Weedon Parish Council

Clerk to the Council Mrs Ruth Millard

Appendix 1

Cllr Netta Glover report

Weedon March 2015

Aylesbury Town Centre: Work will start almost immediately on the demolition the rear wings of the old county council offices. The space will be used as a car park for the time being. The older part of the building will be retained for mixed use. Part of the Police HQ opposite the roundabout will be kept but the old police station next to it will be demolished otherwise there would be no access to the new Waterside North area – i.e the Theatre, Waitrose, the new University etc. The old Police HQ will become a posh restaurant.

Feedback invited on revised library hours proposal

Residents are being asked for their feedback on proposed revisions to library opening hours in a six-week consultation launched Monday, March 2.

Martin Phillips, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, said pressures on the County Council's 2015/16 budget meant making savings in all areas and the Libraries Service needed to save £270,000.

He said the proposed revised opening hours would more closely match the times when most people used them.

'We're under enormous pressure from reduced government revenue support, and we have to balance people's needs with the way we spend their taxes,' said Martin.

'We are committed to delivering an efficient service and I know that if the new hours are informed by the views of our customers, then we'll be able to ensure value for money.'

The plan - reducing opening hours between 5.5 and 8.5 hrs a week - affects only the county-run branch libraries at Aylesbury, Amersham, Beaconsfield, Buckingham, Chesham, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, Marlow, Micklefield and Princes Risborough.

Comments can be made via the County Council's Have Your Say web page www.buckscc.gov.uk/haveyoursay or in writing at all libraries.

Parish and town councils, along with Local Area Forums and community organisations, will also be canvassed for feedback.

'These are challenging times, yet my commitment remains as strong as ever to continue developing our libraries as active hubs in their communities,' said Martin.

Social Work Academy: Bucks County Council have set up a social work Academy. It is a formal partnership between the county council and the Buckinghamshire New University. The aim is to help to overcome the national shortage in social workers for children and families – The Council hopes this move will help to overcome the serious national shortage in frontline social workers for children and families by allowing it to recruit and retain the very best staff for the county.

Social work in Bucks is set to benefit from a new academy. Bucks County Council and Buckinghamshire New University will work together to improve the way the county helps vulnerable children and their families.

They will develop workers so they deliver a better service to vulnerable children. Taking them forward from where they are then improving them then seeing the outcome at the end of a year."

The initiative, called 'The Social Work Academy', is a formal partnership between Buckinghamshire County Council and Buckinghamshire New University.

The Council hopes this move will help to overcome the serious national shortage in frontline social workers for children and families by allowing it to recruit and retain the very best staff for the county.

The academy consists of regular master classes for students, new social workers and more experienced staff - giving ongoing up-to-date training for whoever needs or wants it.

Weedon Parish Council

Clerk to the Council Mrs Ruth Millard

Academics at Bucks New University will develop and lead the sessions which will feature guest speakers who are experts in their field. In return, the university will be guaranteed placements at the Council for a number of its social work students.

Warning issued after fires at Household Waste Recycling Centres

Residents have been warned to take care over how they dispose of hot embers – after three fires at Buckinghamshire Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in less than a week the fires are believed to have been caused by householders placing hot ash in the waste containers. The problem is that embers can remain hot enough to rekindle a fire for several days - especially when mixed with other combustible materials such as the paper used to wrap them! The fire service had to attend all the blazes which course about £2000 of damage to the containers. The message is please take the greatest of care with any leftover ashes and make sure they are comfortably cold before you dispose of them.

Apprenticeship leaflets: The County is pushing for young people to be made aware of apprenticeship opportunities. If you would like some leaflets let me know.

This is the article I copied from the Public Finance website the other day:

Betts welcomes lifting of barriers to creation of more 'super councils'

By Richard Johnstone | 20 January 2015

Relaxing the rules governing the formation of combined authorities will remove barriers to fiscal devolution across England, the chair of the Commons communities and local government select committee has told *Public Finance*.

Clive Betts: 'It shouldn't be for central government to say what the boundaries of combined authorities are.'

Clive Betts, Labour MP for Sheffield Southeast, said plans for greater flexibility in membership of combined authorities – ending the need for member councils to share boundaries and allowing different functions to operate in different areas – matched the committee's view of how they could reflect local priorities.

Under Department for Communities and Local Government plans, county councils will be able to join combined authorities and delegate powers over services such as transport, even if not all districts are represented.

'Both of these particular recommendations – allowing councils to join that don't have a physical link to other authorities and sorting out the problem of transport arrangements in two-tier areas – we made [in the committee's report on devolution in England last July],' Betts said. 'I'm pleased the government has acted on both those issues.'

The committee wanted these restrictions removed to ensure authorities match functional economic areas. As these are formed, they should then become the level to which powers could be devolved from Whitehall.

The so-called 'super councils' – which currently exist in the Northeast, West

Yorkshire, Sheffield and Liverpool city regions – show the way forward as they reflect 'economic realities', Betts said.

With others now being planned in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and the West Midlands, the new flexibility will ensure they match functional economic areas.

'The issue of an authority that isn't attached to another authority in a combined authority area is particularly related to York, and their desire to join the Leeds city region,' he added.

'In the end, these boundaries should be local decisions. It shouldn't be for central government to say what the boundaries of combined authorities are. That is what government has listened to.'

The decision to loosen the regulations around combined authorities could help more be created as a staging post to further devolution across the country, Betts said. 'We've still got to convince politicians in the centre that devolution is anything more than allowing people to spend money in a slightly more flexible way. I think there is degree of change of attitude that we still need to achieve.'

So far, deals to increase local control over transport, skills and housing have been agreed with Manchester and Sheffield, with Manchester also creating an elected mayor. The next step is to convince Whitehall politicians to devolve revenue-raising powers, Betts said.

Weedon Parish Council

Clerk to the Council Mrs Ruth Millard

'The prime minister and the chancellor have completely ruled out this government doing any fiscal devolution, while Labour is committed to a bit but not a lot,' he said. 'There is still some way to go to recognise that you can't get real devolution unless you also have the ability to decide on taxes at a local level, as well as spending.'

Paul Watson, leader of Sunderland City Council and chair of the Key Cities group of 24 'mid-sized' English cities, told *PF* the DCLG's changes will allow authorities that share economic interest, such as tourism, to work together on economic development plans. 'We understand that in the 21st century, governance for certain things on a bigger geographical footprint is sensible and the way to go.'

Frances Foster, treasurer of the Special Interest Group of Metropolitan Authorities (Sigoma) said: 'With 30 Sigoma members already a part of combined authorities, we welcome the ability for authorities who do not share boundaries to collaborate more, as long as it remains voluntary.'

'That said, the new authorities do not address the fundamental issue of inadequate local government funding, which is undermining their ability to deliver vital services. Without confronting this it will be harder to see genuine gains made by simply increasing the number of combined authorities'

Weedon Parish Council
Clerk to the Council Mrs Ruth Millard

