

Weedon Parish Council

Clerk to the Council Mrs Ruth Millard

Minutes of a virtual meeting of Weedon Parish Council on Tuesday 21 April 2020 at 8.00pm

Present: Cllrs J Rose (Chairman), W Kett, S Gradley, N Winnett, T Jameson-Evans, S Gibbs

Clerk: Ruth Millard

Members of the Public: None

26/20 Open Forum: no members of the public

27/20 Apologies: from J Sellers

28/20 Members' Interests. Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Weedon Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

Cllr S Gibbs declared an interest on item 32/20 c. Grant applications for Hardwick graveyard & Churches together.

29/20 Approval of Minutes. Members **RESOLVED** the minutes from the Planning Meeting of Weedon Parish Council held on 13 February 2020 as an accurate record. On agreement, Chair will sign a copy and forward to Clerk by post.

30/20 Statutory and Governance Documents

a. *Review of WPC Financial and Governance Risk Assessment – Deferred.*

31/20 Planning. 20/00745/APP & 20/00746/ALB / 1 High Street Weedon Bucks HP22 4NW / Single storey rear extension. After a short discussion, members **RESOLVED** No Objection.

32/20 Finance and Accounts

a. Members noted the payments for this meeting and payments made since the last meeting.

b. Members agreed the financial statement of accounts and bank reconciliation for end March 2020

c. Members **RESOLVED** to give a £200 grant to Hardwick graveyard, £100 grant to Churches Together re parish magazine [Note the Clerk requires a written application for transparency] and £50 grant to The Citizens Advice Bureau.

d. Members **RESOLVED** to appoint Melanie Rose as the new internal auditor for the PC

33/20 Environment. To report and discuss any issues arising.

a. Footpaths, Footways and Highways, including

i. *Speed Control MVAS and SpeedWatch. Item deferred.*

ii. Transport for Bucks works: No update. Cllr JR will email TfB Local Area Technician.

iii. *Update on Options Review of speed control measures on Aston Abbots Road. Item deferred.*

iv. Village footpaths: replacing stiles with gates. Members considered the quotes for Aston Abbots Road kissing gate and **RESOLVED** to purchase a wooden one from Tuckwells for £480 plus VAT. Tuckwells had also quoted for a new wooden field gate, posts & fixings which the landowner had agreed to purchase. **Action;** the Clerk and Cllr WK will co-ordinate the purchase and installation.

b. Street lighting. *Update on streetlight conversion to LED. Item deferred.*

c. Play area, including monthly inspection.

i. Members considered the volunteer's inspection report and agreed the repairs. **Action:** The Clerk will ask G Millard to cost the materials & his time for labour. The clerk will ask GM Outdoor Services for his schedule for spraying the weeds in the park and village pavements.

ii. Members considered whether the Park should continue to be closed off in full to the public. After advice from the Clerk as to the legal position for small enclosed parks with no walkways through them, members **RESOLVED** that the Park and Play Area should stay closed at the access gates.

d. Pond, Grass, Hedges and Verges, including

i. Hedgerow Havens verges: some of the plants are starting to show in the verges.

ii. Overhanging hedges/trees: the daffodils are significantly better in the verges where the hedges have been cut back, but there is still more to do. Unfortunately, it is now bird nesting season so work will be limited. **Action;** letters to be sent to residents

iii. Tree and stump removal in the Park, graveyard and verges was finished and the members agreed it was all looking good.

iv. Horticultural and Devolution contracts from April 20: Members confirmed the decision to renew last year's contracts with the local contractors.

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- v. Other Devolution issues: (a) Members ratified the signatures on the Devolution Agreement Variation with Bucks CC/Buckinghamshire Council
(b) Members considered the sign cleaning quotes; and agreed to engage GM Outdoor Services.
Action: Clerk to get clarification of the signs quoted for from GM Services before engaging the company.

e. Management of Weedon Graveyard

- i. Members agreed to signing EROB certificates for Jean & Alan Fincher re transfer of EROB of their parents' graves. Certificates to be signed by Chair and Clerk via mail.
- ii. After a short discussion members **RESOLVED** the quote for levelling works required on the graves.
- iii. Cllr JR proposed and members agreed that the Graveyard Regulations and Fees for the new financial year from April 2020 would stay the same as last year.

f. New capital projects

- i. Fingerpost: No update
- ii. Pond planting against retaining wall; Cllr WK proposed a couple of large planters to be placed around the seating area and feed bin. The residents had offered to plant and look after them in the growing season. Members agreed for Cllr WK to do plans and costings for the next meeting.
- iii. Plank seat on wall close to noticeboards: The Clerk updated the meeting that the plank was ready to be installed.
- iv. PC land Bird's Acre: The new lease has been agreed and is awaiting signature by the tenant.

34/20 Correspondence & Communications

- a. Reviewed that the website is up to date.
- b. Best Kept Village 2020. Members noted that the competition has been cancelled this year.
- c. Parish council and local elections. Members noted the postponement to 2021.
- d. Members noted that the New Buckinghamshire Council had started 1 April 2020.

35/20 Appointment of Trustee; Cllr WK nominated Joanna Rose and the members confirmed her appointment of trustee for the Lord Fortescue charity.

36/20 Date of next meeting. To agree the date – provisionally Wed 20 May 2020 in Weedon Chapel for the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The meeting closed at 21.25 pm

Chairman's Signature Date.....