

Weedon Parish Council Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 16 January 2024 7.30pm

Minutes of a General Meeting of Weedon Parish Council held in The Old Schoolroom Tuesday 16 January 2024 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Rose (Chair), G Delaney, W Kett, D Atkins, P Gupta

Clerk: Ruth Millard

Members of the Public: Bucks Cllrs P Cooper, A Bond and D Blamires, R Bates (resident)

01/24 Public Open Forum

The Bucks councillors gave their reports and answered questions from the members. Useful updates were given with regard to the Bucks Council budget status and Community Boards.

R Bates updated Members on progress with the gap land (see 04/24) and reported good feedback from residents about the tree planting already undertaken.

R Bates also passed on suggestions on behalf of other residents about the installation of a CCTV camera and the purchase of more defibrillators in the village. Members agreed to discuss further with the initiators of the proposals, with a view to placing items on the next meeting agenda.

02/24 Apologies and Members' Interests

Members received and accepted apologies for absence from Cllrs S Gibbs, T Jameson-Evans.

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. No Members' interests declared.

03/24 Approval of Minutes

Members agreed the minutes from the planning meeting of 5 December 2023 as an accurate account. The Chair signed the minutes.

04/24 Planning

- a. Update on OS 7009 Aston Abbots Road remaining gap land (wildlife amenity space and public park bench)
 - i. Legal and contracts are still ongoing. Cllr SG had sent draft copies to the NALC solicitor to check that they are in line with Parish Council law, but had not yet heard back. RB confirmed that he has changed solicitors and that there were some further points arising in the Heads of Terms, which would need to be resolved.
Discussions were pending with MP about protecting the views across the land of the new house, too.
Action: The cllr working party of SG, JR and TJ-E would push for a final draft of the Heads of Terms with RB to present to the rest of the council. They would also talk to MP.
 - ii. Public Bench. More research needed on specifications. Positioning needs to be finalised and land built up to ensure the public can see over the fence when seated. Cllr JR will suggest a 3-way funding of the bench to MP and RB. Ground works, moving the litter bin and installation of the bench would be carried out by one of the contractors working for MP or RB, at their cost.

05/24 Finance and Accounts

- a. **Payments.** Members noted invoices to be paid and payments made between meetings.
- b. **Accounts.** Members agreed statement of accounts and bank reconciliation for end December 2023.
- c. **Clerk Annual Review.** JR reported on the Clerk's Annual Review. Members agreed with the implementation of 2023-24 National Salary award including the backdating to April 2023. The clerk would stay on SCP 18. Members also agreed to a proposal to raise the number of paid hours worked by the Clerk to 7 per week (from 6) from 1st February 2024.

d. **Grants.** The members agreed a grant to Hardwick PCC toward the upkeep of the graveyard footpaths, of £200. The members agreed a grant to 1st Granborough Scouts, the local group which is attended by at least 5 Weedon children, of £50.

e. **2024-25 Budget and Precept.** The members discussed the budget for 2024/25 and agreed to the proposal of £22,835 – twenty-two thousand, eight hundred and thirty-five pounds – of total expenditure. The Members agreed to JR's proposal for a Precept request 2024/25, of £14,448 – fourteen thousand, four hundred and forty-eight pounds. As the number of households remained the same as in 23/24, this would represent a 2.95% increase on residents' council tax.

November/December 2023 Balances

Business Account	27 November 2023	20598.11
Treasurers Account	27 November 2023	1000.00
Business Account	28 December 2023	19323.44
Treasurers Account	28 December 2023	1,000.00

Income November/December 2023

Business Account3205	09 November 2023 - Interest	25.37
	09 December 2023 - Interest	23.54

Direct Debits Nov/Dec 2023

SSE, invoices 01.10.2023-31.10.2023 Acc. for Oct 2023	LGA 1972, Sched. 14 para	DD	47.36
SSE, invoices 01.11.2023-30.11.2023 Acc. for Nov 2023	LGA 1972, Sched. 14 para	DD	45.82

Invoices for online payments

NOVEMBER 2023			
Buckland Landscapes Ltd, invoice 49619	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19 & LGA 1972, s214	BP 438	402.50
MRA garden Services, invoice 02976	LGA 1972, s101	BP 439	660.00
ER Millard, November 2023 Salary Month 8	LGA 1972, s112	BP 440	339.06
HMRC, Income Tax November 2023	LGA 1972, s112	BP 440a	30.40
Wild Rose Flower Company, invWR917 Xmas Tree	LGA 1972, s137	BP 441	138.00
DECEMBER 2023			
Buckland Landscapes Ltd, inv.49930	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19 & LGA 1972, s214	BP 442	402.50
SF Richards, reimbursed Bird Food inv.29348	LGA 1972, s137	BP 443	89.43
The Old Schoolroom, inv.7069	LG(misc Prov)A 1976, s19	BP 444	20.00
ER Millard, Dec 2023 remuneration	LGA 1972, s112	BP 445	306.66
HMRC Dec 2023 Income Tax	LGA 1972, s112	BP 445a	62.80
JANUARY 2024			
1 st Granborough Scout Group, Xmas tree removal	LGA 1972,s137	BP 446	15.00
The Old Schoolroom, inv. 7077	LG(misc Prov)A 1976, s19	BP 447	8.00
Reimbursement J Rose Strimmer Guards, Tudor Environmental IN0292073	LG(misc Prov)A 1976, s19	BP 448	24.84
Reimbursement R Millard Bird Spikes Amazon	LG(misc Prov)A 1976, s19	BP 449	40.76
Buckland Landscapes Ltd, inv.50231	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19 & LGA 1972, s214	BP 450	402.50

06/24 Environment

a. Footpaths, Footways and Highways

i. **Speed Control.** Members considered the purchase of 1 upgraded solar powered SID and agreed the quote from Elan City. Initial location would need to be decided from amongst the 6 approved sites. In order to allow for maximum flexibility on the siting, a new longer pole would need to be specified and purchased, so that this could fit in the existing ground screws. **Action:** Cllr GD to ask ElanCity for pole specifications and propose sources. The purchase order for the unit would be filled in and provided to the Clerk for signature.

- ii. *Litter, Dog and Grit bins.* The litter bin at one of the A413 bus stops became damaged beyond repair and was taken away as waste by Bucks Council. JR proposed replacing it, all agreed. **Action:** Clerk to source exact replacement green pole-mounted bin.
- iii. *Footpaths inc gates, signs.* WK reported that brambles in one area on footpath 12 were becoming a problem. **Action:** JR will ask the contractor to deal with it.
- iv. *Bucks Highways.* Various traffic issues were reported – complaints about cars parking just at the ingress to High Street opposite the pub, liable to cause an accident; there is a strange white van parked in High Street; a car belonging to a resident opposite the pub had been crashed into by an unknown vehicle overnight. As there is no clear legal basis for action, the members agreed to monitor the situation. If no improvements, solutions such as CCTV cameras or notes on the vehicle windscreens would be investigated.
- v. *Bucks Highways Devolution.* Members agreed to send an expression of interest for 2024-25
- vi. *Highways Devolved Horticultural Contract.* JR would revise the 24/25 contract to revert the Cooks Hill wildflower verge to standard cuts per agenda item 06/24 d ii. Members agreed that the revised contract would be sent out to the two horticultural suppliers from 23/24 for new quotes, as their work had been very satisfactory last year. **Action:** Clerk to send out the contract for quotes.

b. *Street lighting* No problems have been highlighted.

c. *Park and Play Area*

- i. *Inspections and works arising.* Some work is still to be completed. Bird spikes and strimmer guards have been purchased. **Action:** GM to finalised the works when weather permits.
- ii. *Horticultural.* Members agreed to send the Amenity Contract (unchanged from 23/24) to the two horticultural suppliers from 23/24 for new quotes, as their work had been very satisfactory last year. **Action:** Clerk to send out the contracts for quotes.

d. *Pond, Grass, Hedges and Verges* including wildflower verges, village tidiness/litter, overhanging hedges/trees, horticultural works, WWG pond information board

- i. *Overhanging issues.* Whitebeam House owners have cut back their hedge and cleared the ditch to an excellent standard. The Parish Council have heard from the executors to the will of the previous owners at 8 New Road and are in discussion with them to clear the hedge back from the ditch and clear the self-sets in the ditch. **Action:** SG to prepare a detailed email setting out the requirements. Clerk/Chair to send.
- ii. *Cooks Hill wildflower verge.* JR proposed to add this verge, where the wildflowers did not take, in with the standard cut-and-leave regime. All members agreed.

e. *Capital Projects/Exceptional Expenditure*

07/24 Weedon Graveyard Management inc horticultural, administration, applications for memorials/EROBs

- a. *Administration* – The Chair and Clerk signed the EROB for A Sadler & P Hay
- b. *Horticultural* Members agreed to send the Graveyard Contract (unchanged from 23/24) to the two horticultural suppliers from 23/24 for new quotes, as their work had been very satisfactory last year. **Action:** Clerk to send out the contracts for quotes.

08/24 Correspondence and Communications inc website, Community Board, annual/other newsletters

The Community Board has some grant funds still available for 23/24. No Highways grants eg for MVAS were being made by CBs. However, WK proposed that a micro-grant application be made (£1,000) as a contribution to the graveyard works. Members agreed. **Action:** JR and Clerk to meet with the new CB co-ordinator for an orientation visit and to get advice on this.

09/24 Date of next meeting Tuesday 19 March 2024

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm.

Chair Signature

Date.....