

# Weedon Parish Council Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 17 September 2024 7.30pm

Minutes of a General Meeting of Weedon Parish Council held in The Old Schoolroom 17 September 2024 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs J Rose (Chair), S Gibbs, T Jameson-Evans, W Kett, D Atkins, J Hopper

**Members of the Public:** L Draper (Grave owner), C Draper, C Fincher, R Bates (resident), Bucks Cllrs P Cooper, D Blamires, A Bond

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## 67/24 Apologies and 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.

No Members' interests declared.

Members received and accepted apologies for absence from Cllr G Delaney and Clerk R Millard.

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## 68/24 Open Forum

LD explained the application for a memorial headstone for her father's grave – see item 72/24 e.ii. below – and indicated that the lead time would be 2-3 months so likely installation in January 2025.

Reports were received from each of the Bucks Councillors, noted under items 70/24 b.ii (Ongoing planning applications) and item 70/24 b.iii (NPPF National Planning Proposals) below. DB advised that progress on pothole maintenance was better than it had been for a few years.

RB told attendees that he had put the legal agreements for the gap land on hold for the time being whilst he dealt with another issue at his property. He would respect the obligations to maintain the unobstructed visibility splay. See item 70/24 b.i below.

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## 69/24 Approval of Minutes

Members agreed the minutes from the Parish Council General Meeting of 17 July 2024 as an accurate account. The Chair signed the minutes.

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## 70/24 Planning

### a. New planning applications

Members considered 24/02355/APP and 24/02356/ALB Planning application and Listed Building application relating to 1 High Street Weedon Bucks HP22 4NW for a glazed lantern rooflight to single storey extension and resolved to respond No Objection. **Action:** Clerk

### b. Updates

#### *i. Legal agreements for the land at 50 Aston Abbots Road*

SG reported that matters had moved forward with the draft transfer and lease which were currently with RB's solicitors to whom she had spoken last week. There were a couple of outstanding issues on which SG would revert after liaising with the Parish Council's working party but nothing that should hold up a swift conclusion to this transaction. A separate meeting would be convened to pass necessary resolutions to sign documents when ready.

#### *ii. Ongoing planning applications*

The outcome was still awaited on the application for a traveller site at the bottom of Cooks Hill. Bucks Cllr D Blamires reported that an appeal by travellers in relation to a similar site at Finmere had been dismissed and she thought there might be comparable circumstances here and would seek an update from the planning officer this week. There remains a holding objection to the application by the Ecology and Trees teams.

#### *iii. NPPF National planning proposals – consultation*

The Bucks Cllrs discussed the merits of responding to a Government Survey on the proposed new regime, deadline 24 September 2024. Changes would result in Buckinghamshire's target for housing rising significantly, with local authorities moving to a "minded to approve" based response to planning applications and the easing of restrictions on green infrastructure (eg wind turbines/solar farms). There were also plans for a new town in the Calvert/Steeple Claydon/ Winslow area which would not be included in target housing numbers. The consultation document was comprehensive and would require a detailed response. After due consideration, Members decided not to submit a Parish Council response to the consultation which is also open to individuals to share their views.

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## 71/24 Finance and Accounts

- ### a. Payments
- Members noted and signed invoices to be paid and payments made between meetings.

- b. **Accounts** Members agreed statement of accounts and bank reconciliation for end August 2024. Noted that the 22/23 VAT reclaim had been paid into the bank in September. The 23/24 VAT reclaim is being finalised.  
**Action:** Clerk/RFO
- c. **Grants/Donations** Members agreed donation of £100 to South Bucks Ambulance Trust re defibrillator training.  
**Action:** Clerk/RFO

<b>BANK BALANCES</b>			<b>Total</b>
31 July 2024	Business Reserve Account	12,803.63	13,803.63
	Treasurer's (Current) Account	1,000.00	
31 August 2024	Business Reserve Account	11,136.01	12,136.01
	Treasurer's (Current) Account	1,000.00	
<b>INCOME</b>			
Business Reserve Account	Interest	9 July 2024	15.21
	Interest	9 August 2024	12.69
Treasurer's (Current) Account	WVA donation towards bench	7 August 2024	831.25
	Adstock Parish Council reimbts re error	30 July 2024	275.00
<b>DIRECT DEBITS July/August 2024</b>			
SSE, 01.06.2024-30.06.2024 Acc. for June 2024 invoice IV01201979	LGA 1972, Sched. 14 para	DD 31-07-24	45.93
SSE, 01.07.2024-31.07.2024 Acc. for July 2024 invoice IV01377648	LGA 1972, Sched. 14 para	DD 31-08-24	47.49
<b>ONLINE PAYMENT INVOICES</b>			
<b>JULY 2024</b>			
S Richards Duck Food inv		BP 488	89.43
War Memorials Trust Donation		NO REF	50.00
<b>AUGUST 2024</b>			
MRA Garden Services invoice 83832	LGA 1972, s101	BP 489	590.00
CYAN Buckingham Bench Pro Forma No. R224248		BP 490	997.50
		Not used BP 491	
Weedon Schoolroom, invoice 7131 July 2024	LGA 1972, s133	BP 492	20.00
Buckland Landscapes Ltd. Invoice 52362	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19 & LGA 1972, s214	BP 493	442.69
ER Millard – August 2024 Salary	LGA 1972, s112	BP 494	421.77
HMRC – August 2024 Income Tax	LGA 1972, s112	NO REF	39.60
<b>SEPTEMBER 2024</b>			
Buckland Landscapes Ltd, invoice 52635	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19 & LGA 1972, s214	BP 495	442.69
MRA Garden Services invoice 83881	LGA 1972, s101	BP 496	635.00
George Cheshire invoice 2782		BP 497	2,352.00

## 72/24 Environment

### a. Footpaths, Footways and Highways

#### i. Speed Control Update

*MVAS install of new ElanCity unit.* JR had circulated the advice from the LAT that he did not think a wider pole nor a new position at location 6 were necessary. Members agreed to purchase a pole extension which should allow the use of existing groundscrews and either try at (already agreed) location 6 to see if the newly repositioned electricity pole now interfered and if so, to move to location 5. TJE would take a look at the existing location 6 and JR would report back to M Talbot who had kindly assisted with deliberations relating to the new equipment with a view to help with fixings.

*SpeedWatch.* Members agreed to hold activity in abeyance for the time being due to volunteer absences and the impending addition of the new MVAS.

*ii. Footpaths, gates, signs.* Nothing to report.

*iii. Dog & Litter bins.* Nothing to report.

*iv. Bucks Highways.* Members considered a written request from a resident that a mirror be installed opposite the exit from Stockaway to assist pedestrians in crossing the Aston Abbots Road more safely. Members decided not to progress with this matter after due consideration of the request and a response from the LAT warning against the use of mirrors. **Action:** JR would forward the LAT's letter to the resident.

*v. Devolved services.* Nothing to report.

*vi. Best Kept Village.* The detailed scores from the judges (in which Weedon won BKV in the Gurney Cup category for small villages) were still awaited. There would be a presentation on 21 September. The village was offering lunch to the presentation panel which The Five Elms had agreed to prepare and would be served outside the pub or at the Chapel dependent on weather. **Action:** JR would confirm cost (not to exceed £5 per head) and helpers for the event.

b. Street lighting

*i. Electricity contract renewal.* JR had received no satisfactory correspondence from SSE after several calls about changing from an unmetered supply following the Parish Council's contract end date of 30 September 2024. It was an OFGEM requirement which has not yet properly been implemented by the energy supply companies. No indication had been given as to how a meter might be installed, who would have to pay nor how the street lighting might be connected to it. **Action:** JR to follow up.

c. Park and Play Area

*i. Inspections and works arising.* Members considered and accepted the quote from local resident J Batchelor to carry out remedial works at the Park, as no other quotes had been forthcoming and the works were now due.

*ii. Horticultural.* Contract continues to be satisfactorily carried out.

d. Pond, Grass, Hedges and Verges

To include wildflower verges, village tidiness/litter, overhanging hedges/trees, horticultural works, WWG pond information board

*i. Overhanging issues.* SG would make contact with the trustees managing 8 New Road as the undergrowth had started to thicken once more on the verge and in the ditch. JR would contact a couple of other residents whose trees/bushes were overhanging pavements.

*ii. WWG Pond information board.* WK had circulated layouts and copy for a new information board (A1 size) at the Village Pond. Individual members would comment back on the text but the wording referring to sponsorship by the Parish Council was to be removed as it was a WWG paid-for initiative. On the whole, Members agreed with the style of design. WK would send round details of the proposed stand once it had been costed and agreed by WWG.

e. Management of Weedon Graveyard

*i. Horticultural.* Thanks were given by Members to SG for organising the Unpaid Work Team to assist in clearances, tidying, bench treatment etc over the summer season.

*ii. Applications for burials, memorials and EROBs.* Members considered and approved the application for a headstone for the grave of Graham Fincher.

*iii. Graveyard works.* The rear clearance of earth spoil had now been expertly carried out by George Cheshire. SG proposed asking the Unpaid Work Team to assist in further works to the newly exposed area. This should be seeded with grass as soon as possible to get a head start this season. The Kent bench could be put back in line with the Kent grave after this.

It was agreed that the conifer hedge be left for the time being until the grass had grown and arrangements could be made for a rear boundary hedge/fence and composting.

**Action:** SG would seek to arrange for the Team to do the seeding and would purchase appropriate "back lawn" grass seed.

f. Other capital projects

*i. Update on new seat at the gap land.* The bench had been ordered and would be delivered soon, after a 10-12 week lead time. A local builder had agreed to create the platform for it to sit on.

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## 73/24 Correspondence and Communications

To include website, Community Board, annual PC newsletter

*i. Village Connect bus service.* This new village service to Weedon had been well-received by several adult residents. It was still quite pricey for juniors. No further information had been provided for circulation. **Action:** JR will try to get more publicity material for noticeboards and email.

*ii. Annual PC newsletter.* JR had produced a first draft and would circulate it to Members for comment.

*iii. Community Boards.* JR reported that the number and make-up of the Community Boards would change after April 25, as the number of Bucks councillors will reduce (from 147 to 97). Weedon is proposed to move into the "West Bucks Board" with Waddesdon, Whitchurch, Hardwick, Oving etc.

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## 74/24 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 19 November 2024 for a General Meeting. Interim planning meeting to discuss a new application to be arranged.

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The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

Chair Signature .....

Date.....