

Weedon Parish Council Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 19 November 2024 7.30pm

Minutes of a General Meeting of Weedon Parish Council held in The Old Schoolroom
Tuesday 19 November 2024 7.30pm

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

Clerk: R Millard (Remote Dial)

Members of the Public: R Bates, Bucks Cllr A Bond

83/24 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 Bucks councillors D Blamires and P Cooper, and from Clerk R Millard, who dialled in remotely. Cllr J Hopper kindly acted as Minutes Secretary.

84/24 Open Forum

Bucks Cllr A Bond gave an update that the Cooks Hill applicants (see 86/24a below) have finally submitted the ecological assessment reports called for by the planning officers. A further consultation period had been initiated by the planners. Bucks Council is awaiting guidance for their next year's budget and council tax directives from national government. Cllr AB commented on the increase in Social Care and Children's Care costs across Bucks. The Community Board grants pot closes on 31 January 2025, so any non-Highways applications for items within the Parish would be welcomed.

Councillors asked for advice as to whom to contact about a water leak in the ditches on Aston Abbots Road and ditch blockages. Cllr WK will follow up with RFM at Thames Water to discuss options for action.

RB updated on plans for additional trees at Turpins Orchard Field. A PC working party will make a site visit. RB offered to treat the View bench with a wood preserver, but advice from the supplier is that this is not required.

85/24 Approval of Minutes

Members agreed the minutes from the Parish Council Planning Meeting of 1 October 2024 as an accurate account. The Chair signed the minutes.

86/24 Planning

a. Updated planning applications for further consultation

Members considered new Ecological Assessment documents for 24/01053/APP The Old Stables Cooks Hill High Street Weedon Change of use of land to residential for one Gypsy Traveller family. Members agreed to submit a revised objection letter, taking account of this, and strengthening other objections, particularly Heritage.

Cllr JR will circulate an email to the village informing them of the further round of consultation.

b. Updates

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

SG reported that legal agreements were on track to be completed by the end of the year, including the revisions to tree planting, which would be incorporated following a site visit.

ii. Ongoing planning applications

Members noted the Appeal against planning application refusal for Rectory Farm. As the PC had not objected to the application, no further action required. Northcroft extension had been approved but unsure when works might commence.

87/24 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 to end October 2024.
- c. **2025/26 Budget and Precept** Cllr JR tabled her projection that the carried forward amount for the year end would probably be around £8,000. Members had no immediate proposals for next-year exceptional items.

BANK BALANCES			
30 Sept 2024	Business Reserve Account	16,974.93	17,974.93
	Treasurer's (Current) Account	1,000.00	
31 Oct 2024	Business Reserve Account	15,428.27	16,428.27
	Treasurer's (Current) Account	1,000.00	

INCOME			
Business Reserve Account	Interest Oct	9 Sept 2024	13.82
Treasurer's (Current) Account	Chapman Rent	26 Sept 2024	46.32

DIRECT DEBITS			
SSE Energy Supply re September	LGA 1972, Sched. 14 para	1 Oct 24	47.49
SSE Energy Supply re October	LGA 1972, Sched. 14 para	31 Oct 24	45.93

ONLINE PAYMENT INVOICES			
OCTOBER 2024			
ER Millard – October 2024 Salary	LGA 1972, s112	BP 503	421.77
HMRC – October 2024 Income Tax	LGA 1972, s112	BP 504	39.60
Buckland Landscapes Ltd, invoice re Sept	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19 & LGA 1972, s214	BP 505	442.69
Weedon Old Schoolroom invoice	LGA 1972, s133	BP 506	20.00
Sarah Gibbs Repayment of bereavement flowers	LGA 1972, s137	BP 507	43.00
J Batchelor Park Works	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19 & LGA 1972, s214	BP 508	500.00
NOVEMBER 2024			
MRA Garden Services invoice			925.00
Weedon Old Schoolroom invoice re Oct	LGA 1972, s133		8.00
Buckland Landscapes Ltd, invoice re Oct	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19 & LGA 1972, s214		442.69
Parish Online invoice			45.00

88/24 Environment

- a. **Footpaths, Footways and Highways**
- i. Speed Control.* MVAS, including install of new ElanCity unit. Agreed for Mark to proceed with Joanna's proposal for the MVAS with the inclusion of the ElanCity unit and extension pole in position 6. If position 6 doesn't work then move to position 5.
- ii. Footpaths.* No issues
- iii. Dog & Litter bins.* No issues
- iv. Bucks Highways.* Discussion regarding the New Road junction on the A413. Cllr JR will request further information on reasons for recent accidents from Bucks Council.
- v. Devolved services.* Agreed to write back to Bucks Council to confirm continuing with the devolved services.

b. Street lighting

- i. *Electricity contract renewal.* Unmetered supply fixed contract ended September 2024. Awaiting guidance and quotes for future supply from SSE, due to industry-wide change away from unmetered supplies. It appears that the electricity is being billed at the previous rate anyway. **Action:** JR to follow up on any communication or change in rates.
- ii. *Following one or two comments from residents, it was agreed to monitor the brightness of lights and discuss at next meeting if they need cleaning.* **Action:** All to review.

c. Park and Play Area

- i. *Inspections.* Work completed satisfactorily.
- ii. *Horticultural.* No issues.
- iii. *Festive Decoration.* Agreed to purchase a Christmas Tree as last year and aiming to have in place for 1st December. **Action:** JR to arrange tree, lights and volunteers.

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.*

- 8 New Road had agreed to cut back new growth in ditches.
- SG will contact Chapmans about cutting cycle for hedges along the wildflower verges on Aston Abbots Road.
- At 95 Aston Abbots Road, the hedge appears to be blocking the ditch and causing water to build up in ditches further back. J Chapman had dug out the far end of the water drain in the field beyond no. 95, but this had not resolved the problem, which does appear to be the over-large hedge. **Action:** SG will draft letter to residents of no. 95.

ii. *WWG Pond information board.* Comments had been made by councillors and members of Weedon Wildlife Group. **Action:** To finalise, a printout needs to be done at full A1 size for review (WK). An application to the Community Board for a grant was recommended to WWG, who are financing the board.

iii. *Willow trees at the Pond.* The two willow trees on the PC land at the pond have become overgrown. Two quotes had been sought for cutting back and Members agreed to go with Complete Tree Care. CTC would submit a Conservation Area tree application. **Action:** Clerk to place order.

e. Management of Weedon Graveyard

- i. *Horticultural.* No specific issues, but it was noted that the works this year at the graveyard had not been quite up to standard and reminders and rectifications had had to be made.
- ii. *Applications for burials, memorials and EROBs.* None.
- iii. *Graveyard works.*

- Cllr WK has brought M Jones' attention to the leaning gravestone on his wife's grave and given him details of the stonemason installing the gravestone for G Fincher, so that they can inspect while on site.
- It was agreed to leave the Kent bench set to the side during the winter, and re-install in place in Spring, when the grass at the rear had fully taken.
- Cllr SG will ask HS2 for free native trees for the rear hedge for planting in spring by the community service team.
- Cllr TJE will investigate options for compost bins.

f. Other capital projects

i. *Update on new seat at the View.* The seat had been delivered and was being kept safe at RB's house. The foundation will be finalised by the local builder as soon as practicable, and the seat installed.

89/24 Correspondence and Communications

To include website, Community Board, annual PC newsletter

- i. *Email from resident about additional defibrillators and epipens.* Further investigation will be undertaken.
- ii. *Annual PC newsletter.* The PC newsletter would be delayed until January.
- iii. *Councillor vacancy.* The vacancy election notice has been prepared and displayed on 19th November. If no election is called for by 10th December, co-option can take place. There was interest from two residents and the vacancy will be further advertised in the December parish magazine.

90/24 Date of next meeting Tuesday 21 January 2024 for a General Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chair Signature

Date.....