Weedon Parish Council Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 18 March 2025 7.30pm

Minutes of a General Meeting of Weedon Parish Council held in The Old Schoolroom
Tuesday 18 March 2025 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Rose (Chair), J Hopper, W Kett, S Gibbs

Clerk: R Millard

Members of the Public: G Fincher, G Smith (planning applicant), C Rodnight

21/25 Apologies and Members' Interests

To receive and accept any apologies for absence.

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 Weedon Cllrs T Jameson-Evans, D Atkins and Bucks councillors P Cooper, D Blamires, A Bond.

22/25 Open Forum

No items raised.

23/25 Approval of Minutes

Members agreed the minutes from the Parish Council general meeting 21 January 2025 and the extra meeting 4 March 2025. The Chair signed the minutes.

24/25 Planning

a. New plans 25/00470/APP 19 High Street Weedon Buckinghamshire HP22 4NW Householder application for proposed construction of first floor rear extension.

JR closed the meeting for an open discussion about the planning application. The applicant explained that it was a small first-floor bathroom extension differing from previous applications as it didn't have any windows overlooking neighbouring properties. It has a small velux window and an improved roof treatment to minimise the impact of the extension. He had spoken to immediate neighbours and not had any adverse comments. A neighbour attending the meeting confirmed this.

Members all agreed No Objection and No Comments to the application.

b. Updates

i. Legal agreements for gap land (Turpins Orchard Field and The View) at 50 Aston Abbotts Road. SG confirmed that she has been chasing for a conclusion, as the other party's solicitor has all the plans, drawings and proposed documents.

ii. Ongoing planning applications – Rectory Farm Mews land. Following refusal of planning permission for a dwelling confirmed on appeal, neighbours had noted a potential planning breach with land appearing to be in commercial use. They would report to Planning Enforcement.

iii. Bucks Council Planning Forum. Members noted with concern the significantly increased requirements from central government for Bucks new housing. A new call for sites is out now. Weedon PC reiterated that it still did not see a case for the village to produce a neighbourhood plan. It was noted that the Bucks Council public access planning website is likely to be unavailable for 6 weeks in the summer, as it is being migrated to a unified system of all the former Bucks districts.

25/25 Finance and Accounts

a. Payments Members reviewed the invoices and payments made from the last meeting.

b. Accounts Members agreed the statement of accounts and bank reconciliations to end February 2025.

BANK BALANCES			Total
30 Jan 2025	Business Reserve Account	11811.26	12811.26
	Treasurer's (Current) Account	1,000.00	
31 Feb 2025	Business Reserve Account	10411.21	11411.21
	Treasurer's (Current) Account	1,000.00	

INCOME			
Community Instant Access	Interest Jan	9 January 2025	10.20
Community Account	SSE Energy Supply	8 January 2025	134.04
	CE Moran	20 January 2025	300.00
	HMRC VAT return	23 January 2025	1813.16
Community Instant Access	Interest Feb	10 February 2025	10.07

DIRECT DEBITS			
SSE Energy Supply re Nov 24, Dec 24, Jan 25	LGA 1972, Sched. 14 para	24 Feb 25	191.52

ONLINE PAYMENT INVOICES			
JANUARY 2025			
Buckinghamshire Council, Land Charges	LGA 1972, s111	BP 524	29.71
Race Computing Solutions, invoice WPC016	LGA 1972, s111	BP 525	433.00
Buckland Landscapes Ltd, invoice 53848	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19 & LGA 1972, s214	BP 526	442.69
Sarah Gibbs, reimbursement Land Registry	LGA 1972, s111	BP 527	22.00
Street Solutions UK Ltd, Post & Post Cap	Highways Act 1980, s130	BP 528	173.96
ER Millard, January 2025 Salary	LGA 1972, s112	BP 529	330.17
HMRC, January 2025 Income Tax	LGA 1972, s112	BP 530	131.20
Grant Granbough Scouts, Christmas Tree removal	LGA 1972, s137	BP 531	15.00
Grant to PCC of Hardwick & Weedon	LGA 1972, s214	BP 532	200.00
FEBRUARY 2025			
Buckland Landscapes Ltd, invoice 54180	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19 & LGA 1972, s214	BP 533	442.69
Weedon Schoolroom, invoice 7193	LGA 1972, s133	BP 534	35.00
ER Millard, February 2025 Salary	LGA 1972, s112	BP 535	330.17
HMRC, February 2025 Income Tax	LGA 1972, s112	BP 536	131.20
WelMedical, invoice 1283745 Defib Battery	LGA 1972, s137	BP 537	279.54

c. Clerk Annual Review. JR updated members on the Clerk's Annual Review, which had been carried out by Cllrs JR and SG on 5 February. Members agreed that Clerk should stay on SCP Level 18. The 24-25 National Salary awards would be implemented and backdated to April 2024 – for SCP level 18, rate per hour increased to £15.84, 7 hours per week. Clerk's March pay would include 12 months backdated increase (£229.32) on top of the old pay rate of £461.37 = £690.69. From April 2025 the new rates will be in place at £480.48 per month.

26/25 Environment

a. Footpaths, Footways and Highways

i. Speed Control. MVAS. The extension pole for the Elan City unit is with the contractor, who will install the unit at approved Position 6 on the Aston Abbotts Road.

Counting Strip. Members discussed applying for a counting strip and funding for it. JH commented that he had noticed Cublington had one when he went through the village. **Action.** JR will speak to the LAT to see if Bucks Council has anything to offer. Also noted that Elan City has one for sale, she will request a quote.

Speed Watch. SG will contact PC Turnham to request a view of the letters that are being sent out to the vehicle owners that are caught speeding by the Speedwatch scheme and update the Weedon scheme if felt worthwhile.

ii. *Footpaths, gates, signs*. WK had noted that the kissing gate off High Street had dropped and was difficult to open. **Action.** Resident GF offered to look at it.

iii. *Dog & Litter bins*. Despite the new bin on Aston Abbotts Road, GF reported that there was still an issue with dog fouling towards the bottom (East End) of his field. **Action.** Monitor situation and consider additional signage.

iv. Bucks Highways. Cllr D Blamires is following up on the traffic/accident review at the New Road/A413 junction.

v. Devolved services. Members noted 25/26 contract from Bucks Council and agreed signing at 5% increase to £1,349.78. MRA Landscapes had been awarded the contract to cut the Highways verges.

vi. Best Kept Village. Members agreed entry in 2025, noting we are in Tindall Cup category as '24 winners.

b. Street lighting

Members ratified the decision to enter a 3-year fixed contract with Ecotricity for electricity supply from 1st April 25, following quotes supplied by broker Utility Aid.

c. Park and Play Area

i. Inspections and Works. No works required currently. *ii. Horticultural.* Buckland Landscapes had been awarded the contract to cut the grass and hedges in 2025-26.

d. Pond, Grass, Hedges and Verges. *Update.*

To include wildflower verges, village tidiness/litter, overhanging hedges/trees, horticultural works.

i. Pond information board – £1000 grant has been secured from the Community Board by Weedon Wildlife Group. They will proceed to finalise.

ii. Overhanging issues –

- *8 New Road hedge, ditch and verge.* SG would write again to the family to pursue cutback of the re-sprouting tree growth in hedge, ditch and verge.
- *95 Aston Abbotts Road hedge and ditch.* SG, JR and WK met on site with a representative of Fairhive, the housing trust which owns the neighbouring properties. **Action.** Fairhive will be corresponding with the owners of 95 Aston Abbotts Road to pursue action on cutting back the hedge and digging out the ditch.

iii. The pond willow trees have been pollarded.

e. Management of Weedon Graveyard

i. Admin. Members reviewed graveyard charges from April 25 and agreed not to adjust the fees.

ii. Applications for burials, memorials and EROBs. None.

ii. Horticultural and Works. Hedge review – SG confirmed that the hedge will need 250 whips in a double row. These are not usually available until the autumn. **Action**. SG will investigate making an application to the Woodland Trust or similar. The Community Service team could be involved in planting.

SG confirmed that she had donated her brown bin to the graveyard for disposal of dead flowers and similar small items. It would not be contracted for paid-for collection and would be cleared periodically by volunteers.

f. Other capital projects. Members noted the installation of concrete plinth and new WVA seat at The View. RB had agreed to remove the old bench.

27/25 Correspondence and Communications To include website, Community Board, annual PC newsletter

Members noted Bucks Council and Parish Council elections on Thursday 1 May and actions required. The Clerk had requested hard copies of nomination packs and they had been delivered.

28/25 Date of next meeting. To agree date of Annual Parish Council Meeting 20 May 2025 and to set date of Annual Parish Meeting 27 May 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chair Signature …… Date…….