

WEOBLEY PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Weobley Parish Council Meeting held at Hopelands Village Hall, Weobley, HR4 8SN on Tuesday 28th November 2023 commencing at 7:00pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors L Anderson (Chair), C Breen, S Coleman, C Mills, H Saunders, H Quinlan, J Simons, I Wilkinson and F Fitzsimmons.

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk to the Council – Romily Giddens, Rev. Philip Harvey, Parish Tree Warden – Emma Jordan and 4 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Apps.

2. CO-OPTION

Council **NOTED** that there was one vacancy on the Council. One application had been circulated prior to the meeting of the Council to fill the one casual vacancy within Weobley Parish Council and was **NOTED** and **RECEIVED** by the Council. The candidate, Frank Fitzsimmons, was duly proposed and seconded and unanimously **RESOLVED** to be co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WRITTEN REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

No declarations of interest or written requests for dispensation were received.

4. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council Meeting held 24th October 2023 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

5. OPEN SESSION

5.1 Police Report – The Police were not present, but the following report was received in advance and **NOTED** by the Council:

05/11/2023 – Report of a vehicle that was driven into a parked car in Burton Wood – there was a suspicion of alcohol involvement and an arrest was made in relation to this. The investigation is ongoing at this stage.

06/11/2023 – Report of a storage facility on the outskirts of the village had been broken into and tools taken. The investigation is still ongoing at this stage.

15/11/2023 – Report received from a resident in the village who says they were contacted by someone claiming to be a police officer. The caller told the resident that there was a problem with his bank card – the resident got suspicious and then alerted us, which was the right course of action as this is a well-known scam.

23/11/2023 – Report received from a resident who was calling on behalf of others, reporting anti-social behaviour in the area of Burton Wood. The informant told us that there were youths / young adults walking around with an air weapon and in general being a nuisance to residents in the area. The Police are aware of those likely involved and action is being taken to curb this behaviour. If anyone else has experienced anti-social behaviour please do contact the Police on 101 to report it. The more reports received, the more evidence they have to take action.

5.2 Ward Councillor Report – The following verbal report was received by Ward Cllr Mason and **NOTED** by the Council:

Time has been spent reanalysing the Capital Budget, following requests for more scrutiny from other councillors. More money is to go towards improving road conditions, local community hubs and the movement of the library to the Shire Hall.

Cabinet doesn't hold majority, which has meant sensible conversations and negotiations are needed with the opposition.

The deficit is expected to grow to £13.8m, with £11.8m resulting from children's services.

There are more children currently care in Herefordshire, which costs the Council £6,000 per week per child.

Council tax is expected to rise by 5% to fund projects and hopefully recruit more social workers into working in 'an improving department'.

5.3 Local residents – The following issues were raised and **NOTED** by the Council:

- Rev. Phillip Harvey updated the Council regarding legislation relating to Parish Council's ability to help with upkeep and maintenance of Parish Churchyards. Council **RESOLVED** to forward the report to HALC for comment and would feedback once received.
- Concerns were raised by a local resident regarding planning application P233151/P233152.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Payment schedule –

Council **RATIFIED** the following payments (including VAT) relating November 2023 as outlined below:

PAYEE	SERVICE	CHEQUE	TOTAL
West Mercia Energy	Rose Garden and Library Electricity	DD	£128.03
West Mercia Energy	Back Lane Toilets Electricity	DD	£30.36
			£158.39

Council **APPROVED** the payment of accounts (including VAT) relating to November 2023 as outlined below:

PAYEE	SERVICE	CHEQUE	TOTAL
Romily Giddens	Clerk Salary November 2023	Cheque 1848	£366.35
Romily Giddens	Clerk's Expenses November 2023*	Cheque 1848	£9.99
Herefordshire Council	May Election Recharges	Cheque 1849	£181.17
Geosphere Ltd	Parish Online Subscription	FPO	£108.00
Visual Works	PA Interpretation Board	Cheque 1850	£900.00
A Apps (instantprint)	3 x A frame Backing Posters	FPO	£34.14
Weobley Village Hall	Hall Hire x 2	Cheque 1844	£15.00
Microshade VSM	Small Council Hosting Fee	Cheque 1852	£462.42
The Stone Workshop	Stone Table Final Payment	Cheque 1853	£975.00
Mike Williams (MCBS)	Kissing Gate Springs	Cheque 1854	£19.43
C Breen (Amazon)	Hooks for Xmas Lights	Cheque 1855	£7.99
C Breen (Screwfix)	PA Maintenance Tools	Cheque 1855	£371.07
C Breen (The Metal House)	Edging for PA Interpretation Board	Cheque 1855	£15.24
C Breen (Amazon)	Replacement 1 st Aid Box Contents	Cheque 1855	£54.54
			£3,520.34

6.2 2024-25 Draft Budget –

The Council **NOTED** the draft budget for 2024-25 as presented by the Budget Working Group and **RESOLVED** to set the budget following Cllr Anderson's meeting with the Locality Steward to discuss the Lengthsman budget further.

6.3 2024-25 Precept –

The Council **RESOLVED** to postpone confirming until January's meeting.

The Council **NOTED** that they had received the Clerk's formal resignation, with their last working day being the 31st January 2024. Council **RESOLVED** that HALC would be contacted to help find a replacement.

6.5 Parish Clerk Vacancy –

The Council **NOTED** that HALC had quoted £220 + VAT for their assistance in recruiting a new clerk. Council **RESOLVED** to proceed with this quote.

6.5 Reserves –

The Council **NOTED** the following reserves and set the following changes:

- Library to remain at £4,171.20
- Toilets to remain at £2,500.00
- NDP to remain at £3,000.00
- Cobbles to remain at £1,000.00
- Elections to remain at £2,900.00
- Open Spaces/BMX to be renamed to Play Area/Skatepark and to remain at £4,000.00

The Council **RESOLVED** to create an Environmental Operative reserve totalling £5,000.00 with any remaining budget funds from 2023-24.

7. PARISH MAINTENANCE

7.1 Lengthsman

- Council **NOTED** that Cllr Anderson was due to meet with the Locality Steward to discuss routine maintenance.
- Council **NOTED** that the loose kerbing at Unicorn Court had still not been repair and **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to report this again.
- Council **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to write to the owners of the Abattoir regarding the hedge needing cutting and to cc in the Locality Steward.

7.2 Highways

- Council **RESOLVED** to request a sweeper for the whole village and for Balfour Beatty to notify residents in advance so vehicles can be moved.

7.3 Footpaths and P.R.O.W

- Council **RESOLVED** to chase Balfour Beatty regarding the repairs to the town ditch quote.

7.4 Parish Tree Warden

- Council **NOTED** the following report from the Parish Tree Warden:
 - Apologies for lack of presence in meetings – now gone back to full-time work.
 - Would be happy to hand over role if anyone was interested.
 - Meeting set for the 5th December @ 5pm to discuss options regarding tree planting as per previous proposals.

8. PLANNING

Planning applications - It was **RESOLVED** to make the following comments made on applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council:

APPLICATION: P233151/233152 – Planning Permission/Listed Building Consent

SITE: Jules Restaurant At Portland House Portland Street Weobley Hereford Herefordshire HR4 8SB

DESCRIPTION: Retrospective application to retain unauthorised works consisting of a lean-to pergola extension and a kitchen extraction ventilation system. Replace four uPVC windows with purpose made timber windows.

COMMENT: The Council would request that windows are replaced like for like i.e. sash windows and regret the need to comment on retrospective applications compared with planning applications received in advance of work being completed.

APPLICATION: P233053 – Full Householder

SITE: 2 Portland Close Weobley Hereford Herefordshire HR4 8SQ

DESCRIPTION: Proposed 75mm external insulation and a layer of treated timber feather-edge boarding to north gable elevation.

COMMENT: No objections.

9. ROSE GARDEN

Council **NOTED** that ‘The Stone Workshop’ and Andrew James were liaising regarding the installation of the new table top.

Council **NOTED** Anna Spreckley would put forward a quote to continue to maintain the Rose Garden.

Council **NOTED** that the Christmas Tree was arriving tomorrow and crib to be installed without drilling into slabs.

10. LIBRARY/MUSEUM

Council **NOTED** a request for a carpet cleaner following recent flooding. Council **RESOLVED** to investigate the cost.

Council **RESOLVED** for Cllr J Simons to forward Turnwater’s report to Welsh Water and to contact Whittle Warehouses regarding maintenance of the yard.

11. PLAY AREA

Council **NOTED** P.A.T meeting minutes from the 14th November had been circulated. Council **NOTED** the following:

- Council **NOTED** that the scramble net has arrived and will be mended in the next week or two.
- Council **NOTED** risk assessment documents had been circulated to volunteers.
- Council **RESOLVED** to add the new shipping container to the asset register and insurance schedule.

12. INFORMATION SHEET

Council **NOTED** that the following correspondence had been received:

- Herefordshire Locality Steward update – November 2023.
- PSPO Renewal – November 2023. Play Area to be added.
- Talk Community updates – November 2023.
- Road Closure Notices – November 2023.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13.1 Council **NOTED** that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 23rd January 2023 at 7.00pm in Hopelands Village Hall, Weobley, HR4 8SN.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.03 pm.

CHAIR:

DATE: