*01-2023*

**WEOBLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

# PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Weobley Parish Council Meeting held at Hopelands Village Hall, Weobley, HR4 8SN on Tuesday 7th February 2022 commencing at 7:00pm.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors L Anderson (Chair), J Simons (Vice Chairs), A Apps, C Breen, S Coleman, P Lloyd, C Saunders, H Saunders and H Quinlan.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Clerk to the Council – Romily Giddens, Ward Cllr M Jones and one member of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Mills.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WRITTEN REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION**

Cllr P Lloyd declared an interest in work to trees.

1. **MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council Meeting held 22nd November 2022 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

1. **OPEN SESSION**
	1. **Police Report** – The Police were not present and no written report was received in advance. The Council **NOTED** the following events which had occurred recently:
* Damage to Back Lane Toilets; Ladies toilet had whole toilet rolls place down inside and basin area had been stood on. Disabled toilet support bar and toilet roll holders ripped off of the wall.
* Theft of ‘Welcome to Weobley’ sign near The Ley turning. Council **RESOLVED** to investigate replacing current bolts of other signs with anti-tamper bolts.

**4.2 Ward Councillor Report** – The following written report was received from Ward Cllr Jones and **NOTED** by the Council:

* Eleanor Brazil, who was appointed by the secretary of state to look into Hereford Council Children’s services and produce a report, which was due by the 15th of December, has delayed its publishing until around the end of January. It is likely that she will recommend that the service is transferred out of the Hereford Council to an independent body. Children in care numbers have dropped in the last few months and caseloads have dropped for social workers to around 18 per social worker. Interim agency social workers still make up 2/3 of staff with a 1/3 permanent.
* Hereford City Masterplan is open for consultation. You could enter onto the council website and make comments up to the 3rd February.
* Please report any pot holes and highway defects through the council website so they can be properly recorded and tracked through the system. In urgent cases tel 01432 261800 to report the problem and also you can work with Locality Steward, Philip Pankhurst, who is now back at work.
* The winter resilience plan for the county revealed that there are 16 gritters spreading over the roads of Herefordshire. Each run over the county costs £8,000 in grit and a total of £20,000 with all the other costs involved. Depending on the severity of the winter this can be a considerable cost to the council.
* Bus journey fares will be capped at £2.00 over the next twelve months. Bus companies have signed up to the scheme to encourage more use of buses. So, for example if you wanted to take a bus to Ross from Hereford and the normal cost was £5.00 you would only pay £2.00
* At the Full council meeting on the 9th December 3 motions were unanimously passed on

- A multi- storey car park with one level for Hospital staff be built on the bus station site once it has been relocated to the train station.

- Writing to our MPs about the cost of living crisis and that future funding be maintained from central government to Hereford Council.

- The third motion was on Proportional Representation used for voting in election.

* At the next Council Elections in May, to be able to vote you will have to bring proof of identification to the polling station. Failure to do this will mean you are not eligible to vote.
* The next full council meeting is on the 10th February. The main debate will be on the proposed budget for the next financial year and the possible increase in Council Tax of 4.99%.
	1. **Local residents** – The following issues were raised:
* Council **NOTED** an enquiry into the progress of Back Lane traffic calming measures.
* Council **NOTED** a request for the Police/Traffic Wardens to randomly attend school pick up to monitor parking and road safety. Council **RESOLVED** to contact the school regarding a road safety presentation for pupils and highlighting use of the village hall car park to parents.
* Request for agreement to improved Museum signage and installation of visitor bench.
1. **FINANCE**
	1. **Payment schedule** –

Council **RATIFIED** the following payments (including VAT) relating December 2022 and January 2023 as outlined below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PAYEE** | **SERVICE** | **CHEQUE** | **TOTAL** |
| West Mercia Energy | Rose Garden Electricity  | DD | £16.02 |
| Welsh Water | Library Water | DD | £53.32 |
| West Mercia Energy | Back Lane Toilets Electricity  | DD | £19.17 |
| West Mercia Energy | Rose Garden Electricity  | DD | £16.56 |
| West Mercia Energy | Library Electricity  | DD | £90.65 |
| A Apps (thesignbuilder) | WPC Banner x 3 | Cheque 1788 | £210.83 |
| Anderson Electrical Services | Rose Garden S106 Works | Cheque 1789 | £768.14 |
| Anderson Electrical Services | Outlet to RG meter cabinet and new phone box light | Cheque 1790 | £110.00 |
| Welsh Water | Back Lane Toilets Water | FPO | £183.38 |
| West Mercia Energy | Back Lane Toilets Electricity  | DD | £18.45 |
| West Mercia Energy | Rose Garden Electricity  | DD | £16.21 |
| West Mercia Energy | Library Electricity  | DD | £126.84 |
| Ian Wilkinson | Repairs to Back Lane Toilets | Cheque 1791 | £52.00 |
|  |  |  | **£1,681.57** |

Council **APPROVED** the payment of accounts (including VAT) relating to November 2022 as outlined below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PAYEE** | **SERVICE** | **CHEQUE** | **TOTAL** |
| Romily Giddens | Clerk Salary Backdated Pay (April – November) 2022  | Cheque 1792 | £221.93 |
| Romily Giddens | Clerk’s Expenses December 2022 & January 2023\* | Cheque 1792 | £31.38 |
| Autela  | Payroll Services October – December 2022 | FPO | £53.80 |
| PFK Littlejohn | External Audit 2021-22 | FPO | £360.00 |
| Mary Kenny (Screwfix) | Mop Bucket Back Lane Toilets | Cheque 1793 | £15.00 |
| Mary Kenny (Aldi) | Toilet Rolls Back Lane Toilets | Cheque 1793 | £11.94 |
| G L Jones | PA Swing Chains and Accessories | Cheque 1794 | £302.89 |
| Weobley Village Hall | Hall Hire November 2022 | Cheque 1795 | £18.75 |
| Broxap | Rose Garden Supplies and Furnishing S106 | FPO | £1,358.22 |
| Gareth Higgs  | Fell Dead Elms PA | Cheque 1796 | £600.00 |
| Carpenter Goodwin Ltd | Mower Service PA | Cheque 1797 | £405.05 |
| A Apps (create.net) | [www.weobleyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.weobleyparishcouncil.org.uk) Website Subscription | FPO | £101.88 |
| HALC | 2023/24 HALC/NALC Subs | FPO | £1002.70 |
| Caple Forge Ltd | Rose Garden S106 Benches | Cheque 1798 | £3,164.40 |
| C Breen (Amazon) | Xmas Lights Tension Clips | Cheque 1799 | £6.59 |
| C Breen (TLC) | Xmas Lights + Timers | Cheque 1799 | £42.23 |
| C Breen (B&Q) | Xmas Lights Storage Box | Cheque 1799 | £6.50 |
| C Breen (Amazon) | Xmas Lights Hooks | Cheque 1799 | £3.46 |
| C Breen (Amazon | Cup Washers for Fixing Website Signage PA | Cheque 1799 | £12.88 |
|  |  |  | **£7,719.60** |

Council **RESOLVED** the following Christmas Lights (LED) electricity reimbursement:

* Bob Metcalfe - £10
* Mark Hurds Butchers - £15
* Salutation Inn - £10
* The Unicorn - £10
	1. **Bank Reconciliation April 2022 – January 2023 -** The Council **RESOLVED** to postpone to the next Parish Council meeting.
	2. **Budget Monitoring April 2022 – January 2023** – The Council **RESOLVED** to postpone to the next Parish Council meeting.
	3. **Risk Register** – The Council **NOTED** the register was last reviewed in October 2021. Council **RESOLVED** to reduce risks relating to COVID-19 to Low from Medium.
	4. **Financial Regulations** - The Council **NOTED** the Council’s current financial regulations and **RESOLVED** to continue without change and review after the May 2023 elections.
1. **PARISH MAINTENANCE**
	1. **Appointment of Lengthsman**
* Council **RESOLVED** to appoint DC Gardening as Weobley’s Parish Lengthsman.
	1. **Lengthsman**
* Council **NOTED** a quote from DC Gardening for ditch and drain clearance on Hereford Road for £761.50 + VAT. Council **RESOLVED** to proceed with this quote.
	1. **Highways**
* Council **RESOLVED** to report the need for line markings to be repainted near to the school.
* Council **NOTED** that reports had been made to Herefordshire Council regarding the displaced Kerbing at Unicorn Court.
* Council **RESOLVED** to formally appoint Mike Williams and Steve Dartnell as the Parish Footpath Officers after Mike Ware’s retirement from the post.
* Council **NOTED** the following quote for the installation of 3 x kissing gates and the repair of the steps coming down from a stile to the road 100 metres to the south west of Chamberwell Cottage:

*Estimated cost of materials -*

*Kissing Gates 3 @ £375 - £1,125*

*Postcrete for fixing kissing gates. 9 bags @ £10 - £90*

*Aggregate for steps repair 1 tonne bag @ £50 - £50*

*Cement 3 bags @ £7 - £21*

*Total cost £1,286*

Council **RESOLVED** to proceed with this quote.

* Council **NOTED** a meeting by the Chair with Tree Warden Emma Jordan and the Locality Steward to discuss proposals for tree planting in the parish.
1. **PLANNING**
	1. **Planning applications -** It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the following comments made on applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council:

**APPLICATION: P224801 – Planning Permission**

SITE: Moss Field Back Lane Weobley Hereford HR4 8SG

DESCRIPTION: Construction of new 4 bedroom dwelling & garage.

COMMENT: The Parish Council have viewed the most recent application for this site and have no objections to this current proposal. We are pleased to see that that issues raised in response to previous applications have been addressed and that the proposed dwelling will be less dominant in relation to the site and neighbouring dwellings. We trust that management of foul and surface water drainage will be in accordance with Welsh Water requirements.

**APPLICATION: P224220 – Works to Trees in a Conservation Area**

SITE: 9 Bearcroft Weobley Hereford Herefordshire HR4 8TA

DESCRIPTION: To remove an existing truncated bush of combined Cypress and Laurel approx 3m high. The bush stands tightly into the corner of the front garden of 9 Bearcroft and is extremely difficult to maintain due to its location. It is also pushing out the fencing panel between no.9 and no.10. It is also obstructing access to a gate in the front fence line. There is little that can be done with it as the cypress is old and thick at the base so it needs taking out and new hedging replanting. It is intended to use an experienced landscape gardener to remove it.

COMMENT: Awaiting tree warden’s comment.

**APPLICATION: P230038 – Works to Trees in a Conservation Area**

SITE: Folly Cottage Bell Square Weobley Hereford Herefordshire HR4 8SE

DESCRIPTION: Cedar in back garden, has been declining for 3 or 4 years. Canopy sparse, weeping figures in bark possible 'phytopthora'. Request permission to fell.

COMMENT: Awaiting tree warden’s comment.

1. **ALLOTMENTS**

Council **NOTED** that the draft lease agreement had been forward to T.A.Matthews Solicitors for review and a review had been received by the Council. The Council **RESOLVED** to set up a working group meeting on the 21st February at 7pm to review the comments. The Allotments working group would consist of Cllr L Anderson, Cllr J Simons, Cllr S Coleman and the Clerk.

1. **WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER**

Council **NOTED** newsletter was awaiting the Chairman’s contribution. Cllr Apps requested more items for the website.

1. **ROSE GARDEN**

Council **NOTED** that work began on the Rose Garden on the 9th January and work was now nearly complete. Roses and stone table to be installed soon. Council thanked Cllr P Lloyd for her dedication to the project. Thanks were also passed onto Anna Spreckley, who would continue to maintain the Rose Garden for the next year, contractor Andrew James and all who had contributed to project design and installation.

1. **PLAY AREA**

Council **NOTED** P.A.T meeting minutes from January had been circulated. Council **NOTED** a report from Howard Giddens at GLDM had been circulated regarding the required works to the Play Area Field drainage. The Tree Warden would be consulted regarding replacement of the recently felled elm trees.

1. **INFORMATION SHEET**
	1. **Correspondence**

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

* Herefordshire Locality Steward update – December 2022 and January 2023.
* Talk Community updates – December 2022 and January 2023.
* Road Closure Notices - December 2022 and January 2023.
1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
	1. Council **NOTED** that the next meeting of the Council would be held on **Tuesday 28th February 2023** at 7.00pm in Hopelands Village Hall, Weobley, HR4 8SN.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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**CHAIR: DATE:**