

**P A R I S H O F W E S T O N I N G**

**MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of**

**Westoning Parish Council**

**held on Thursday 6th May 2021 at 7.30pm**

**by Zoom video conferencing**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs A Rayment (Chairman), E Bhasin, R Botterell, P Ellis, P Kelly, E Leftly,

J Nethersole, B Rogerson, E Russell

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs K Barker (Clerk), 3 members of the public were present

Agenda published on the noticeboard and on the website

**7450 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Election of Chairman – Cllr Nethersole proposed Cllr Rayment be elected as Chairman. Cllr Bhasin seconded the motion. There being no other nominations and Cllr Rayment being willing to accept, he was duly appointed as Chairman of Westoning Parish Council. Cllr Rayment to sign the acceptance of office at the next meeting in person.

Election of Vice-Chairman – Cllr Rogerson proposed Cllr Nethersole be elected as Vice-Chairman. Cllr Leftly seconded the motion. There being no other nominations and Cllr Nethersole being willing to accept, she was duly appointed as Vice-Chairman of Westoning Parish Council.

**7451 Apologies for absence** – Cllr C Luff

**7452 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2021 were approved. Cllr Rogerson proposed, seconded by Cllr Ellis the approval of the minutes as a true record. All agreed by those present and to be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting in person.

**7453 Declaration of interests**

Cllr Leftly finance Point 7458.2

**7454 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**7455 Chairman’s actions**

There were no Chairman’s actions during the month.

**7456 Reports and representations**

CBC Cllr Jamieson was not present.

**7457 Public Participation**

A member of the public spoke of their concern about drug dealing in the village. They said that the Police have been undertaking surveillance and have visited the village on a regular basis but they have now closed the matter. See Point 7461.9

A member of the public asked if there was any feedback regarding the C107 speedwatch and they suggested that the road should be a 40mph speed limit. Cllr Nethersole said that a speedwatch session cannot be undertaken on an unrestricted road and the Police do not have the manpower to check the road regularly, however, they will patrol the road when they can.

**7458 Finance**

7458.1 Bank balances and finance report:

The Clerk said that the new finance report will be available at the next meeting.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 34,043.87 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 66,434.84 |
| **TOTAL** | 100,478.71 |

7458.2 Cllr Botterell proposed, seconded by Cllr Bhasin the approval of the following payments, agreed by all:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque Number** | **Payee** | **£** |
| 000458 | Clerk – salary | 492.93 |
| 000458 | Clerk – expenses | 34.65 |
| 000459 | HMRC – Clerk tax April and May | 4.20 |
| 000460 | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| 000461 | D J Granger – Inv 021367 village grass | 604.54 |
| 000461 | D J Granger – Inv 021399 playing field | 189.60 |
| 000462 | Zurich – insurance renewal | 1,434.49 |
| 000463 | Anglian Water – inv 8796349 | 7.48 |
| 000464 | E.on – electricity bill | 63.05 |
| 000465 | Brookmill Construction – play area matting | 430.00 |
|  | **TOTAL** | 3,535.94 |

7458.3 Other finance matters:

7458.3.1 VAT

Nothing to report. The Clerk said that she will be sending another copy to HMRC as the reclaim has not been received. (**Action Clerk**)

7458.3.2 Annual Audit of Accounts

Cllr Nethersole proposed, seconded by Cllr Kelly the approval of the Governance Statement and this was agreed by all present. The Chairman to sign the Annual Governance Statement to confirm approval by the Council.

Accounting Statement

Cllr Nethersole proposed, seconded by Cllr Kelly the approval of the Accounting Statement and this was agreed by all present. The Chairman to sign the Accounting Statement to confirm approval by the Council.

The Clerk to send the Annual Return to the External Auditor and place the finance documents on the website. (**Action Clerk**)

The internal audit will be held remotely on 24th May.

7458.3.3 Precept – first half £21,426.00 received

Noted by the Parish Council.

7458.3.4 Insurance renewal

The Parish Council resolved to renew the insurance with Zurich and the payment of the premium was approved.

7458.3.5 Review of 2021/22 budget

For review at the next meeting.

7458.3.6 TSB Bank Account

The Chairman said that he, Cllr Ellis and Cllr Rogerson are now registered for online banking. He has received a debit card to be used for small items only which have been approved by the Parish Council.

**7459 Highways**

7459.1 Potholes and other faults/problems.

Cllr Rogerson reported that the surround to a metal road plate needs repairing and she will forward the details to the Clerk to be reported to Highways. (**Action Cllr Rogerson**)

The Chairman said that he has received an email regarding the bad state of the Festival of Britain sign. He said that he will contact ‘Signs of the Times’ in Tebworth to obtain a quote for it to be refurbished. The Clerk to respond to the resident. (**Action Chairman/Clerk**)

7459.2 Village Walk

A walk to be held early July.

7459.3 Traffic Management/Parking Control

To be reviewed during the village walk.

7459.4 Traffic calming measures – top of Church Road

The Clerk read out an email from a resident regarding the issue of speeding traffic at the top of Church Road, particularly in the area outside The Old Rectory and the Church. This has worsened considerably and the number of delivery lorries in particular has increased. There has been at least two occasions this year when a serious accident has been narrowly avoided because of poor vision splay and the speed of passing lorries. Could the plan to put in a 20mph limit from God’s Acre be resurrected and preferably, effective speed bumps, a raised platform or an island be introduced where the road widens outside the Church and which lorries invariably accelerate into. These road calming measures would be quite costly and the resident would be prepared to make a contribution.

Another measure that has been discussed by the Parish Council is the double yellow lines outside The Old Rectory and Hambledon House. This is the narrowest part of Church Road and emergency vehicles cannot pass when cars are parked there (small delivery lorries struggle). It also means the inadequate vision splays outside The Old Rectory and Hambledon House become even more compromised. Please can this plan also be resurrected.

The Chairman said that these issues will be included for review during the village walk. The Clerk to respond to the resident. (**Action Clerk**)

7459.5 Dogs on Recreation Ground

The Chairman said that he spoke to CBC about the issue. A ‘Public Space Protection Order’ is the only way to stop people walking their dogs on the Recreation Ground and this would have to be applied for by CBC. The Parish Council would have to demonstrate they have tried other measures to stop people taking their dogs on the Recreation Ground before any application is made. People seem to come from outside the village to walk their dogs. Members of the Recreation Club have been verbally abused when they have advised it is a ‘no dogs’ area. CBC have suggested that the Parish Council engage the services of the dog warden to attend and advise people and the Chairman said that he will make contact but the problem is that the dog walking occurs first thing in the morning or evening when the dog warden will not be there. The Chairman said that it is an offence for a dog owner to allow their dog to defecate on a marked sports pitch and do nothing to remove it. CBC can prosecute someone if evidence is provided.

The Chairman said that the Parish Council must do all they can and as required in order to obtain the ‘Public Space Protection Order’. Cllr Ellis agreed to obtain some bigger ‘no dogs’ signs. An article to be put in the next edition of Westoning on Sunday.

(**Action Chairman/Cllr Ellis**)

**7460 Recreation Ground**

7460.1 Litter and rubbish on recreation ground - possible mitigation measures

The Chairman said that he has not yet spoken to Derek Geraghty about sharing the commercial waste bin as this may not be required due to the relocation of another litter bin.

7460.2 Storage compound for Westoning Football Club

A proposal is awaited from the football club.

7460.3 Cutting back/weed killing under new fence/area adjacent to the School fence

The Chairman said that Neil Gates has quoted £340 to undertake the work. It was resolved by the Parish Council to accept the quote and also ask Neil Gates to take down the Christmas Tree and remove the litter bin and store it until it is relocated.

**7461 Village Matters**

7461.1 Flower Planters

The Chairman said that the planters will be delivered towards the end of June. Two sponsors have come forward so far. The type of plants needs to be decided and the plan is to get some planters planted up in July. Watering of the plants is a major consideration.

7461.2 Rock Snake

Cllr Bhasin said that she will approach the school to see if they could locate the stones in the school grounds. (**Action Cllr Bhasin**)

7461.3 COVID-19 updates from Westoning Cares

Westoning Cares is still in operation and undertaking pharmacy and shopping runs.

7461.4 Village Fete

Nothing to report.

7461.5 Re-planting of trees

Cllr Bhasin said that she did raise this with the school and is awaiting a response.

7461.6 Litter Pick

Cllr Botterell said that the litter pick banner will be displayed shortly. Refreshments will be provided at the Chequers at 8.30am.

7461.7 Littercam

Nothing to report.

7461.8 Litter and dog bin - Sampshill

The Clerk said that she has submitted the request.

7461.9 Environmental Issues

Cllr Nethersole said that she is expecting to meet the Police Inspector in the village shortly to have a general look around. The Police are aware that the issue is escalating, not only in Westoning but in other areas as well.

**7462 Play Area**

7462.1 Play Area Inspection Report

Cllr Ellis said that there is nothing of high priority in the report. He said that he has purchased a spring to put on the lock on the gate of the hard surface area so that it closes more efficiently.

**7463 Planning**

7463.1 Planning Applications:

7463.1.1 CB/21/01607/FULL - 41 Church Road - two storey side extension to form annexe, loft conversion with x 3 rear dormers x 3 velux windows to front.

The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

7463.1.2 CB/21/01446/FULL - 48 Spensley Road - single storey side and front extensions. The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

7463.2 Other Planning Matters:

7463.2.1 Solar Farm proposal

Nothing to report.

**7464 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives - Reports**

No reports were given.

**7465 General correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

**7466 Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 9th June 2021 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 9.26pm

Approved: ………………………………………………. Date: ……………………………………………………….