

Minutes of the Weston Colville Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 2nd March 2020 in The Reading Room, Weston Colville

In attendance: Ray Vidler (Chairman), Bridget Durham, Matt Jackson, James Hubbard, John Garrod, Constantine Pagonis, and Jessica Ashbridge (Clerk)

Also in attendance: 15 Parishioners, County Cllr Henry Batchelor, District Cllr Geoff Harvey.

1. **Chairman's Welcome** – The Chairman welcomed those present.
2. **To accept apologies and reasons for absence** – Apologies were accepted from Cllr Ashbridge **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Garrod, All in fav.**
3. **To make any declarations of interest** – None.
4. **Public Participation Session** –
 - 4.1 A presentation was made by the architect, about the proposed Ivy House Development. The proposal (although no planning application yet) was that a 3 bedroom house would be built at the front to replace Ivy House, and then 4 further modest 2/3 bedroom properties would be built behind it replacing the existing outbuildings. Off street parking would be provided. Concern was raised by some parishioners about the boundary treatment, as currently many of the properties have a building against them, it was advised that it was likely that walls would be built instead of fencing panels, to retain the feel of what is there currently. Bat surveys have been done and the bats will have habitation boxes. The planning application will be submitted soon. Cllr Vidler thanked the Architect and parishioners for their time.
The Parishioners left the meeting.
5. **To approve minutes**- The minutes for the Weston Colville Parish Council Meeting on 6th January 2020 were approved. **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Jackson, All in fav.**
6. **District and County Council reports and items of interest** – Reports were received, it was noted that LHI bidding is occurring earlier than previous years. Bids for 2021 open in April and need to be submitted by the end of May. Report appended.
- 9.5 **Flooding** – This section was brought forward to discuss with Cllr Batchelor. Cllr Durham shared photos of severe flooding that occurred at the Common Road end of the village on 29th February. There was debris in the Whiting's Grove Culvert, and the concrete sill had come loose on the other side of the road, so the pipes were not supported. The photos have been emailed to Cllr Batchelor to circulate to the Flood Officer. As yet there is no response as to who owns the land at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane. The drainage work was completed at Church End on 14th February, however the road drain has been moved 6", and a slight tarmac lip has been added. It was expected that more would have been done. The drains further up Mill Hill have water standing in them. A survey of the drains had taken place a couple of years ago, Cllr Batchelor will endeavour to find it.
Cllrs Batchelor and Harvey left the meeting.
7. **Planning**
 - 7.1 **To be discussed:** None.
 - 7.2 **SCDC Decisions** – None.
8. **Matters for the Council to discuss / vote on**
 - 8.1 **Grass Cutting Tender** – There had been some confusion about the Tender duration, as the Contractor that tends the grass cutting of the recreation areas was on a two year contract, therefore an assumption had been made that the Contractor cutting the verges was also on a 2 year contract. He was not aware of this. It was determined to instruct the Contractor to cut the verges within the 30mph signs, four cuts a year, with the final cut, cutting the whole width of the verge, plus flailing the playground hedges, manually trimming the entrance to the Church End play area, and spraying the weeds in the Reading Room car park twice. During the meeting, the Clerk could not locate the quote for the works. Cllr Vidler proposed that if the quote was the same as the 2019 to accept it and instruct the Contractor, on the basis that for 2021 tenders would be invited on a three year term. **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Hubbard, Against: 1, 5 in fav.** To note that the quote for the verge cutting was £1 more per cut.
 - 8.2 **Village Sign** – The Village Sign needs refurbishing. Cllr Durham has cleaned it in the past, but there was a concern that a non-specialist clean would strip all the paint of it. The Clerk was instructed to look in to grants, asking CAPALC for assistance.
 - 8.3 **Annual Parish Meeting** – It was expected that the Ivy House Development planning application would be discussed at the May meeting, and thus attracting parishioners. It was determined not to invite outside speakers, but to launch the website.

8.4 Training – It was determined that Cllr Vidler would attend Health and Safety in the Modern Workplace CAPALC training on 7th April (£50), and Transparency and Audit CAPALC training on 5th March (£45), the Joint Community Safety and Resilience Event was cancelled, so Cllr Vidler decided not to attend the Zero Carbon Communities Workshop on 7th March hosted by South Cambs District Council (free). **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Jackson, Abstain: 1 5 in fav.**

8.5 Policies – The Safeguarding Policy, and Equality Policy were adopted. **P: Cllr Jackson, S: Cllr Garrod, All in fav.**

8.6 Three Free Trees – Following a discussion it was determined to apply for the voucher for three free trees from SCDC, with a value of £60, but to buy one larger silver birch tree, to be planted by the pond, with a dedication for Alan Scott. The Clerk was instructed to apply as soon as possible, as the deadline for applying was 14th March, with the tree collected and planted by 31st March, and a photo sent to SCDC. **P: Cllr Jackson, S: Cllr Pagonis All in fav.**

8.7 Donation – It was proposed that the Parish Council donates £100 to the Village Seniors Group, funded by the Briggs Gift this year, and that the money should be paid directly to the Reading Room to cover 5 months rent. **P: Cllr Jackson S: Cllr Pagonis All in fav.**

9. Matters In hand / Arising since last meeting

9.1 Website – Cllr Pagonis met with Cllr Vidler and the Clerk to go through the new website and how to update it. Log-ins have been sent out. The website will start on staging platform before it goes live. The registered domain name is <http://westoncolville.org.uk> and the Clerk's new email address is clerk@westoncolville.org.uk. The Clerk will start uploading files to the website, the Cllrs to provide a list of their responsibilities if they have any and a photo.

Permission to continue beyond 9.30 granted.

9.2 Hedges – Cllr Garrod had met with the other owner of the hedges on Mill Hill. The hedges will be trimmed back over the verges between September and March.

9.3 SID and LHI – The application was not successful, Cllr Batchelor stated that the criteria the panel look for are: value for money, improvement to safety, how much the Council contributes, and community improvements. It also depends on whether large applications have been submitted and accepted, the following year more smaller applications may be accepted. It was determined to resubmit the application as it is , with updated SID data. **P: Cllr Pagonis, S: Cllr Hubbard All in fav.**

9.4 Footpaths – No update.

10. Playground – The grant application from the Wadlow Wind Farm was submitted. Quotes were received for the fencing work at the Recreation Ground, to wait until the outcome of the panel is decided before instructing the contractor.

11. Risk Assessment – Road sign on the junction of Bull Lane and Six Mile Bottom Road was reported to Highways.

12. Finance.

12.1 To approve cheques – Following a discussion it was determined not to pay the additional £50 for a Data Protection Officer through CAPALC (double last year's figure). Cllr Pagonis informed the Council that he is DPO for 2 companies, and could aid the Council if necessary. The Clerk was instructed to enquire with other local Parish Councils to find out the actions they take. To note that the Council in Essex that the Clerk looks after is not bound to sign up to a DPO scheme through EALC due to their size. Cheques were approved. **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Garrod. All in fav.**

12.2 VAT return – Claim submitted on 11th February for £547.89.

12.3 Cheques approved since last meeting.

Date	Chq no	Payee & Description	Total Amount	VAT
14.01.2020	753	Cambridgeshire County Council - Street Lighting Oct 18- Oct 19	£384.97	
31.01.2020	754	Trevor Potter - Grass Cutting	£1,232.40	£205.40
Total			£1,616.37	

		Total	VAT
16.01.2020	Income received – Overpayment to Adams Harrison, Car Park Transfer	£21	

20.02.2020	DD: Clerk's Wages	£182.88	
18.02.2020	DD: Street Lighting	£42.42	£2.01
20.01.2020	Account Balance	£11,921.68	

For Approval

Date	Chq no	Payee	Total Amount	VAT
02.03.2020	755	CAPALC - Training (see above)	£95	
02.03.2020	756	Clavering Parish Council -Contribution to SLCC membership	£14	
02.03.2020	757	CAPALC - Membership	£248.15	
Total			£357.15	
Un-presented Chqs		Unable to check, as bank statement not received.		
Account Balance		Assuming Cheques have cleared.	£9,722.86	

13. Matters for next Agenda

Village Sign
Playground Grant Application
LHI Application
Transparency Report

Meeting closed at 10.10pm

Date of Next Meeting: Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council, and Annual Parish Meeting 4th May 2020

Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2020 are: 6th April (planning), 4th May AGM and APM, 1st June (planning), 6th July, 3rd August (planning), 7th September, 5th October (planning), 2nd November, 7th December (planning).

District and County Councils' Report for Parish Councils – March 2020

A1307

As everyone will have seen, the upgrades to the road are moving forward. The eastbound bus lane and speed limit changes outside of Linton are now implemented, along with the upgraded foot/cycle path next to the road. The work on the installation of traffic lights at the Linton High Street/A1307 junction are underway (with some issues around the temporary traffic lights!) and are due to complete in March.

On a related topic, for those who keep their ear to the ground, you may well have read in local media that the Mayor of the Combined Authority has made a 'power grab' for the Greater Cambridge Partnership money and work (A1307 upgrades included). 'Our' stretch of the A1307, Haverhill to Abington, is safe and isn't changing, but the future of the rest of the project is now up in the air. This is namely a new park & ride site and a high speed bus route. More to follow.

Autonomous Metro Consultation

The Combined Authority is currently running a consultation on the plans to construct an autonomous metro system in Cambridge city and then surrounding towns/villages. The ultimate proposal will run up to

Haverhill and beyond, so please do take some interest and engage in this - <https://cam.consultationonline.co.uk/>

Police and Crime Commissioner

Following the resignation of the Police & Crime Commissioner last year, the deputy has been filling in the duties of the role. In May this year we will have (yet another) election for a permanent replacement. Political parties are selecting candidates as we speak, so do keep an eye on this, as policing affects us all in our daily lives, even in rural communities.

VE Day Celebrations

South Cambs is offering up to £1,000, via the community chest grant, for applications for commemorative plaques, books etc to celebrate this landmark. The deadline for applications to receive the money before May 8th is 15th March. More information is here - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/communitychest>

Health & Wellbeing Strategy

The County Council is looking for comment on its draft joint Health & Wellbeing strategy with Peterborough. It's relatively arduous but still an important document. If there is any interest, the link is here - <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/health-and-wellbeing-strategy-consultation>

Complaint and Compliments

South Cambs has launched a new portal, which allows customers to raise complaints and track them through to completion. There is now also the facility to upload supporting documentation - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/feedback/compliments-complaints-and-suggestions/>

New Electric Buses

Stagecoach have purchased 2 electric buses to run in Cambridge using £400,000 of funding from the Greater Cambridge Partnership which South Cambs and the County Council are partners in. They can travel 160 miles on one charge and will be running the Citi 6 route. We are anticipating that this will be the beginning of a much larger electric fleet serving South Cambridgeshire in the near future.

South Cambridgeshire District Council Budget

£5 million has been pledged in South Cambridgeshire to tackle the global climate emergency. The money will go towards improvements linked to the District Council's 'green to the core' priorities. This includes improving the Council's offices to cut carbon emissions and energy bills, providing communities with grants for projects that cut carbon emissions in their areas, making Council houses more energy efficient and helping people cut the amount of food they waste.