**Minutes of the Weston Colville Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 4th January 2021 via Zoom.**

**In attendance: Ray Vidler (Chairman), Bridget Durham, John Garrod, Ian Ashbridge, James Hubbard, Constantine Pagonis, Faye Parker, and Jessica Ashbridge (Clerk),**

**also, in attendance District Cllr Geoff Harvey, County Cllr Henry Batchelor and three Parishioners.**

1. **Chairman’s Welcome -** The Chairman welcomed those present.
2. **To accept apologies and reasons for absence –** None.
3. **To make any declarations of interest –** None declared.
4. **Co-option of a new Parish Councillor –** An application letter had been received. It was determined that Faye Parker was voted on to the Council via co-option. **P: Cllr Ashbridge, S: Cllr Durham, All in fav.**
5. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office to be signed by co-opted Councillor**
6. **Register of Member Interests:** General Notice of Registerable Interests to be completed and signed by co-opted Councillor. The co-opted Councillor was invited to join the meeting for discussion but was unable to vote because her papers and declarations have yet to be acknowledged by SCDC.
7. **Public Participation Session –** Three Parishioners joined the meeting to discuss the recent flooding on Chapel Road. The discussion on flooding was brought forwards (see section 11.3 below).
8. **To approve minutes-** The minutes were approved for the meetings of Weston Colville Parish Council on 2nd November and 7th December 2020. **P: Cllr Garrod, S: Cllr Pagonis, 6 in fav.**
9. **District and County Council reports and items of interest** – Reports were received.
10. **Planning**

**To be discussed:** None.

**SCDC Decisions:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Planning reference** | **Address** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| **20/02593/OUT** | Garage Plot to North of 14 Horseshoes Lane Weston Colville | Outline planning for the development of 1 No. detached dwelling house with all matters reserved. | Awaiting Decision |
| **20/03135/FUL** | Three Horseshoes Farm Horseshoes Lane Weston Colville | New cartlodge | Awaiting Decision |
| **20/04597/FUL** | Weston Woods Farm Common Road Weston Colville | Additional Grain Store, Handling Facilities and Silos. | Awaiting decision |

1. **Matters In hand / Arising since last meeting**
   1. **SID and LHI** – At the time of the meeting the SID was near the pond, approaching Weston Green. It was agreed that Cllrs Hubbard and Ashbridge would form a working party to work on the LHI application with the aim if being able to for discuss it at the May meeting, followed by a public consultation on possible actions in the early summer.
   2. **Footpaths –** Cllr Durham reported that the bridge at the junction of Footpath 18 (Weston Colville Parish) and Footpath 15 (Carlton Parish) had still not been repaired and had queried that a new bridge had been placed on a path that was not a footpath. She would continue to chase the footpath officer, and cc Cllr Batchelor in on the correspondence.
   3. **Flooding and Road Drainage –** Two reports were received, following a discussion it was determined that a working party was set up consisting of Cllrs Garrod, Durham and Parker, to carry out a village wide flooding survey. It was also determined that property owners would be approached on Chapel Road to highlight their riparian responsibility to keeping the ditches bordering their properties clear. An article would be placed in the Challenge explaining the situation. Cllr Batchelor suggested that the County Council could draft a letter for residents, but the tone would be firmer than the PC would use.
   4. **Clerk Training –** The Clerk received training in making Excel documents accessible via the SLCC. The cost of the training was £30+ VAT. The Clerk’s other Council paid for the training, but have requested a contribution towards it. The Clerk suggested that WCPC paid the full amount, as there have been no other Clerk training costs due to a bursary being provided by ECC (including the cost of CiLCA training – due for completion at the end of February). It was determined that WCPC would pay the full amount (less VAT). **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Pagonis, 6in fav.**
2. **Playground –** To note that the grant acceptance form was submitted in December. The contractor would commence work on the playground fence the week after the meeting and had requested signs to be made stating that the play equipment would be closed while the work was completed. A request was made that a risk assessment and method statement be provided by the contractor, and the plaque that was on the fence was retained and replaced. Cllr Hubbard volunteered to contact the contractor.
3. **Finance –** 
   1. **To Approve cheques – P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Garrod, 6 in fav.**
   2. **Draft Budget** – The draft budget was received, and costs were determined. **P: Cllr Garrod, S: Cllr Hubbard, 6 in fav.**
   3. **Precept** – It was determined that the precept for 2021/2022 would remain at £12,500. **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Vidler, 6 in fav.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Credit Received** |  |
| **Wages s/o** | £203.58 |
| **Balance at Lloyds Bank on 1st January 2021** | £15,849.37 |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque number** | **Detail and Date** |  | **Amount** | **VAT** |
| D/D | Street lighting December |  | £39.88 | £1.86 |
| 775 | T. J. Potter – Grass cutting verges 2020 | £1,040 | £1,248 | £208 |
| 776 | Clavering Parish Council |  | £30 |  |
|  | **Total of Outstanding Cheques** | 773  774 | £240.00  £10.00 |  |
|  | **After above Cheques** |  | **£14,531.49** | **£209.86** |

1. **Matters for next Agenda –** Flooding, village sign – Cllr Ashbridge will clean it with a soft brush, village survey – for May’s meeting.
2. **Grass Cutting Tenders:** Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and in accordance with 3d pursuant to Standing Order 11 and 18, it is resolved that the Public are excluded from any discussion on this item as it concerns tenders**. P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Durham 6 in fav.**

It was determined that T.J. Potter would cut the verges, 1m cut 3-4 times a year, and once in the three-year period cut the full width of the verge, and spray the Reading Room Car Park. **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Pagonis, 5 in fav, against: 1.**

It was determined that Simon Ratford would cut the play areas, war memorial, **P: Cllr Pagonis, S: Cllr Vidler 6 in favour**

**Date of Next Meeting: 1st March 2021**

**Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2021 are: 1st February (planning), 1st March, 5th April (planning), Wednesday 5th May (APM/AGM), 7th June (planning), 5th July, 2nd August (planning), 6th September, 4th October (planning), 1st November, 6th December (planning).**

**District and County Councillor’s Report – January 2021**

**Happy New Year**

Happy new year from your local councillors, Henry and Geoff. With a prolonged episode of lockdown and social restrictions looking to carry on well into 2021, if either of us can be of assistance at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Henrybatchelor89@gmail.com & geoff.harvey@gmail.com

**Local Authority Covid Support**

At time of writing, we are about to enter the New Year in ‘Tier 4’, which has its own set of restrictions as laid out by government, which can be seen here - https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home

This will of course have some impact on people and local business. There is a small support grant for business that is forced to close due to Covid, available from the District Council - https://www.scambs.gov.uk/businessgrant

There is also financial support for ‘wet pubs’ from the District Council, this is to support pubs, and other businesses, whose income is more than 50% from drinks alone - https://www.scambs.gov.uk/financial-support-for-south-cambridgeshire-s-pubs-now-available/

Also available from SCDC is a ‘Covid Co-Ordinator’ who can assist with most things Covid related, including advice and directing to these various grants. Her name is Vicky Hoover – Vicky.hoover@scambs.gov.uk

There is also support available from the County Council, via their ‘Hub’ which can be contacted through their website - https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/covid-19-coordination-hub-your-community-needs-you

**Local Directory**

South Cambs have set up a local business directory to help promote local business during this time of difficulty, which looks set to continue. Businesses can register themselves on the website and be seen publicly - https://www.scambs.gov.uk/local-business-directory

**Local Plan**

The joint Local Plan, being drawn up between South Cambs and the City councils, is still moving forward. The latest update is that the findings from the consultation last year have now been collated and published. The councils will take this information on board whilst formulating their preferred options, which will likely be published next autumn. If you’d like to see any of the documents, including the proposed locations of developments, you can see all the information here - https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/document-library/

**Resurfacing**

As previously reported, the County Council are resurfacing some roads in our area, this is due to occur in the first few months of the year.

**Vaccine Transport Volunteers**

The County Council are looking for volunteers to help transport elderly people, who aren’t able to drive, to their Covid vaccination appointments. If you can assist please register here - https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/appeal-for-volunteers-to-transport-people-to-vaccination-appointments

**Uttlesford and West Suffolk Local Plans**

Some of you may remember that last year Uttlesford District Council (directly to the south of us, North Essex) submitted plans to a government inspector to allocate 5,000 houses near Gt Chesterford as part of their Local Plan. The inspector told them to go away and start again, which they are now doing and are asking for public engagement in this process. Uttlesford still need to allocate these houses somewhere and there is still a risk of them trying to do so on/near to the South Cambridgeshire border, which will directly affect our infrastructure etc etc.

West Suffolk are also going through the same process and need to allocate more housing somewhere in their area, with the likeliest locations being Haverhill and Newmarket.

Geoff and Henry will keep you as up to date as possible from the local authority angle but do keep your ears to the ground!

**A1307 Update**

There isn’t an update from last month’s report, which was - The upgrades, managed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), to the A1307 continue with the next steps being installation of average speed cameras between Haverhill and Linton, a new roundabout at the end of Bartlow Road in Linton and remodelling of the Dean Road junction. The signalised pedestrian crossing at Hildersham is attempting to move ahead but are having difficulty securing the land required. The GCP are trying all avenues, including compulsory purchase, which will increase the project time as this isn’t a quick process.

**Sunnica Solar Farm Consultation**

Not strictly in our area, or District for that matter, but there are proposals for an enormous solar farm based in East Cambridgeshire, across 4 sites. The company is currently consulting on these proposals and anybody can comment here - https://sunnica.co.uk/proposals/