**Weston Colville Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th January 2022 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room.**

Present: Ray Vidler (Chairman), Bridget Durham (Vice Chair), Ian Ashbridge, John Garrod, Faye Parker, Constantine Pagonis

In Attendance: County Councillor Henry Batchelor, District Councillor Geoff Harvey, and one Parishioner in part.

1. **Chairman’s Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

1. **To accept apologies and reasons for absence**

Apologies were accepted forCllr Hubbard due to work commitments. P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Parker, All in favour. The Parish Clerk was unable to attend due to illness.

1. **To make any declarations of interest –**

Cllr Garrod and Cllr Pagonis declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda item 11.1

1. **Public Participation Session –**

The chairman welcome Lt Col J Kaye DL, who addressed the meeting on the formal preparations for the celebration of HM the Queen’s platinum jubilee in June and advised on how the Lord Lieutenant’s office was encouraging communities to mark the occasion. Col Kaye also spoke on the matter of Cambridgeshire County Day, taking place on 23 June 2022 at the July racecourse, Newmarket, and part of the year-long Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The day would include horseracing, and fundraising for the Cambridgeshire Children’s Hospital; there would be a garden party to recognise volunteers for outstanding service and nominations were required for this.

1. **To approve minutes-** For the meeting of Weston Colville Parish Council on 1st November 2021. **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Parker, All in fav.**
2. **District and County Council reports and items of interest**

Cllr Batchelor delivered a verbal report on behalf of the County Council. He commented on new or extended funding available – the Innovate & Cultivate funds were open to grant applications for services the county council had a remit to meet; a Household Support Fund had been launched for low-income households. Cllr Batchelor commented on the worsening COVID-19 situation and that Cambridgeshire’s “enhanced response” status had been increased.

Cllr Garrod posed a question about highways issues in general and response times from the county council. Cllr Batchelor advised that the local highways officer had moved on and this post remained vacant, with other council officials providing limited cover. He added that the next combined parishes meeting, at which Highways issues might be raised, was 25th January at 7pm at Balsham Pavilion.

Cllr Harvey spoke briefly to confirm that the Community Chest fund had re-opened for applications and another round of the Zero Carbon Communities fund was expected to open this year. There was brief discussion but councillors noted Weston Colville Parish Council had little land and no buildings and would therefore struggle to benefit from these funds.

1. **Planning**

The meeting noted the following:

**SCDC Decisions:**

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| **Planning reference** | **Address** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| **21/02431/LBC**  **21/02430/HFUL** | Coven Wood Cottage Mill Hill Weston Colville CB21 5NY | Restore lower section of thatched roof to pan tiling | Approved |
| **21/03520/HFUL** | Hill Crofts House Church End Weston Colville CB21 5PE | Erection of a mobile timber structure | Withdrawn |
| **21/04267/FUL** | Unit 3 Weston Woods Farm Common Road | Change of use to allow the parking of vehicles. | Withdrawn |

1. **Matters In hand / Arising since last meeting**
   1. **Flooding**

Cllr Vidler noted that the council had received some emails from a parishioner concerned over flooding issues around her property. Councillors noted her concern but after some discussion it was determined that the matter essentially concerned private property rights and responsibilities between two parties and, since the matter did not involve the Parish Council, it was not appropriate to offer any advice.

Cllr Garrod updated the council on Highways work to drainage systems within the village. He noted that the work carried out to the south side of Mill Hill was distinctly different to the works now completed at Church End. Cllr Garrod confirmed he had written to Dennis Vacher at Highways with Henry Batchelor’s help to emphasise the need for action.

Cllr Batchelor confirmed a work order had been raised to address drainage issues on the south side of Mill Hill; drains would be emptied and jetted as far as the Reading Room but the council had offered no date for the works to start.

It was noted that the works to Mill Hill remained incomplete. There had also been a complaint from a resident about the changes to surface drainage.

Cutting grips into banks/verges to divert flood water into ditches had seen some progress. Cllr Garrod noted that Mr Vacher had been in contact and was happy to meet on site to discuss the issues further.

* 1. **SID and LHI** – To receive a report.

Cllr Ashbridge provided a brief report and had circulated a draft questionnaire which may be used to gauge parishioners’ opinion on speeding or traffic calming measures which may be adopted.

Cllr Pagonis commented that the survey needed further work to avoid “predictive questions” eliciting faulty or biased data; he proposed a series of four of five statements or positions on which parishioners could state their level of agreement or disagreement. Cllr Ashbridge commented that he was happy to work on this further with Cllr Pagonis’ input, to better refine the questionnaire.

Cllr Pagonis commented on the recent installation of “speed cables” on the road surfaces in the village and the purpose of them. Councillor Ashbridge confirmed they had no connection with the community speedwatch project or the community Speed Indicator Device. There was some discussion and a general conclusion that the action had been taken by the County Council Highways department. Cllr Parker asked whether a Freedom Of Information request could be submitted on the basis that the cables may yield useful data.

* 1. **Footpaths**

Cllr Durham advised there was nothing of note to report.

* 1. **ZCC 6 Free Trees from SCDC –** To receive an update. It was noted that the six sapling trees had been received.
  2. **Platinum Jubilee event**

Cllr Durham commented that requests for ideas/interest/participation in the Challenge magazine had met with few responses but various parishioners had verbally indicated their willingness to participate in something. It was proposed that the Parish Council could insure activities and provide commemorative mugs; Cllr Durham reminded the meeting that c.£300 remained in the Parish Council’s funds from the 2012 jubilee celebrations and this could be deployed to good effect. Cllr Ashbridge commented that there were various groups/cohorts in the village that could be part of a co-ordinated approach to the village celebrations. It was agreed that Cllr Ashbridge would invite parishioners to an informal “kick-off” meeting, but not under the auspices of the parish council. There was general support for this.

1. **Risk Assessment/Health and Safety –** To note any concerns.

Councillors noted the matter of defibrillator maintenance and road safety remained issues concerning health and safety.

1. **Playground –**

It was determined that David Bracey should carry out the playground inspection in April 2022 for £135+VAT**. P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Durham, All in fav.**

1. **Finance –** 
   1. **To Approve cheques –**

As per the schedule below it was agreed the following payments would be made. It was agreed that T. J. Potter’s invoice would be paid, when received to ensure it was paid before the year end. **P: Cllr Ashbridge, S; Cllr Vidler, two abstentions (Cllr Garrod & Cllr Pagonis), 4 in fav.**

* 1. **VAT submission made - £437.61.** The meeting noted the submission had been made.
  2. **Budget –** To determine the budget for 2022/23

There was general discussion on the budget and the detail of contingencies made; the chair considered that, without the clerk in attendance, there was little point in further discussion and it was agreed that the budget approval would be a matter for the next meeting.

* 1. **Precept** – To determine the precept for 2022/23.

It was determined that the precept should remain unchanged for the 2022/2023 year at £12,500. **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Ashbridge, All in fav**

The precept would give a Band D equivalent for 2022/23 of £61.76.

This was a decrease of £0.03 or 0.05% to the Band D equivalent charge in 2021/22.

The tax base had increased from 202.3 to 202.4 this resulted in a decrease to the Band D equivalent cost.

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| **Credit Received** |  |
| **Wages s/o** | £211.19 |
| **Balance at Lloyds Bank on 4th January 2022** | £18,556.15 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque number** | **Detail and Date** |  | **Amount** | **VAT** |
| D/D | Street lighting |  | £15.16 |  |
| 804 | Cllr Garrod Expenses grit bin and padlocks for flooding supplies |  | £183.94 | £27.99 |
| 805 | T.J. Potter grass cutting |  | £1,350 | £225 |
| 806 | iTransact quarterly email charge |  | £13.68 | £2.28 |
| **Total** |  |  | £1,547.80 | £255.27 |
|  | **Total of Outstanding Cheques** |  |  |  |
|  | **After above Cheques** |  | **£17,008.35** |  |

1. **Matters for next Agenda: Jubilee.**

**Date of Next Meeting: 7th March**

**Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2022 are: 7th March, 4th April (planning), 11th May AGM/APM, 6th June (planning), 4th July, 1st August (planning), 5th September, 3rd October (planning), 7th November, 5th December (planning).**