**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6th March at 7.30pm in the Reading Room.**

**Present: Ray Vidler (Chairman), Bridget Durham (Vice Chair), John Garrod, Constantine Pagonis, and Jessica Ashbridge (Clerk).**

**In Attendance: County Councillor Henry Batchelor and District Councillor Geoff Harvey in part**

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.
4. **Public Participation Session –** None.
5. **To approve minutes-** For the meeting of Weston Colville Parish Council on 11th January 2023, changes suggested by Cllr Garrod had not been made, they would be amended and approved at the next meeting.
6. **Resignation of Cllrs –** There had been no interest following the articles in the Challenge in December and February. Three seats were available. It was determined to drop a flyer through every door, printed on coloured paper. The Clerk would print the flyers.
7. **District and County Council reports and items of interest** – Report appended. Cllr Harvey advised that South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) had been in discussion with Anglia Water to tackle the water deficit in the county. SCDC felt that it could not condone further housing developments until the water requirements could be met. The CEO of SCDC had also been in talks with UK Power Networks to discuss the levels of electricity that would be required. There was better infrastructure for power, so changes could be faster, but the Burwell substation was at capacity until 2032. Cllr Batchelor advised that the works on the A1307 to add a roundabout at the Bartlow junction would commence later in the month, there had been one public meeting in Linton, and another was planned. He also advised that applications for 20mph speed limits were open, the policy had changed, and applications would now be assessed on a case by case basis. Cllr Garrod reported that the Mill Hill road sign was on the ground, it was established that this was a matter for SCDC not Highways. Cllr Garrod showed Cllr Harvey where the sign was.
8. **Planning – 8.1**

**8.2 SCDC Decisions:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Planning reference** | **Address** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| **21/03551/HFUL** | 5 The Green Weston Colville | Dropped kerb | **Refused** |
| **23/00382/CL2PD**  **Comments could be made through the Planning Portal. It was determined to repeat the comments objecting to the previous application.** | 62 The Green | Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for a proposed single storey outbuilding in the rear garden to be used incidental to a dwellinghouse as a store and workshop | **Awaiting Decision** |

**9.1 Flooding** – None.

**9.2 Highways –** The Clerk reported that there had been problems with some of the other users of the shared Speed Indicator Device (SID), due to the software being outdated. It was determined that Cllr Pagonis would take on looking after the SID, the Clerk would introduce him to the group of other Cllrs, once the new email addresses were in place. Cllr Pagonis would liaise with Mr. Hubbard.

**9.3 Footpaths –** None.

**9.4 Emails –** Cllr Pagonis reported that to get email accounts through the Microsoft program for charities, Microsoft required letter headed paper from the Briggs Gift. It was proposed that Cllr Pagonis could sign the letter Microsoft on behalf of the Trustees **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Vidler, All in fav.** It was determined that the email format would be [cllr.intialsurname@westoncolville.org.uk](mailto:cllr.intialsurname@westoncolville.org.uk) and there would be a 2 factor authenticator.

**9.5 Coronation –** To note the Coronation of King Charles III will take place on 6th May 2023. There had been no communication from the Reading Room Trust, it was determined that a village picnic would be held on Sunday 7th May, with the Reading Room providing a bar in the Cricket Pavillion, and parishioners providing their own food/ seating etc. It was proposed that the Parish Council would pay to provide a bouncy castle and music for the event, on the proviso that no fee would be paid if the event was cancelled due to inclement weather. **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Pagonis, All in fav.** The Clerk would contact the bouncy castle provider and Cllr Durham would speak to a representative of the Reading Room.

**10 Risk Assessment/Health and Safety –** The defibrillator was rescue ready on 5th March, Circuit had advised that the defib may have been taken for an emergency, but it had been returned unused.

**11 Playground –** It was determined that Cllr Pagonis would accompany David Bracey for the playground inspection.

**12 Finance –**

**12.1 To Approve cheques –** It was proposed that Mr. T. Potter’s cheque for grass cutting would be paid as soon as the invoice was received. Cllr Garrod would chase him up. **P: Cllr Pagonis, S: Cllr Vidler, All in fav.** £250 would be paid for Age UK from the Briggs Gift for 2022-23 **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Durham, All in fav.**

**12.2 Online Banking –** Forms were signed by the three signatories.

**12.3 Quarterly Accounts –** The accounts were received.

**12.4 Bank Signatory –** To remove Cllr Ashbridge as a signatory.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Credit Received** |  |
| **Wages s/o** | £235.17 |
| **Balance at Lloyds Bank on 27th February 2023** | £18,841.49 |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque number** | **Detail and Date** |  | **Amount** | **VAT** |
| D/D | Street lighting | £ | £23.89 | £ |
| 840 | SLCC Membership |  | £44.25 |  |
| 841 | T Potter Grass Cutting |  | TBC |  |
| DD | Public Works Loan Body 31st March |  | £1,143 |  |
| **Total** |  |  | £44.25 |  |
|  | **Total of Outstanding Cheques** |  |  |  |
|  | **After above Cheques** |  | **£17,654.24** |  |

1. **Matters for next Agenda –** APM – Warm Hub review, AGAR, playground, West Wratting Memorial Fund Investment.

**Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2023 are:** 3rd April (planning), May AGM/APM TBC, 5th June (planning), 3rd July, 7th August (planning), 4th September, 2nd October (planning), 6th November, 4th December (planning).

**District and County Councillors’ Report – March 2023**

**A1307 Update**

The upgrades to the A1307 are moving forward at some pace now. The Greater Cambridge

Partnership (the body implementing these schemes) are now in the final phases of making the

changes to ‘our’ section of the road, between Haverhill and the A11. The next phases that are being constructed are:

1. Completing the improved footpath between Pilgrims (previously Dalehead Foods) and

Hildersham. This work includes the removal of the eastbound layby as that is needed to

accommodate the widened path. This work has started now and will take a few months to

complete.

2. The installation of a new roundabout at the Bartlow Road, Linton junction of the A1307. This

is a relatively major piece of infrastructure and will take at least 9 months to complete.

There will be minimal disruption whilst the work is happening as the plan is to construct a

temporary carriageway around the construction site so that the A1307 will very rarely need

to fully close. There will be some other road closures as a part of the works, so there may be

some slight disruption to residential streets.

**20mph schemes**

The County Council have now implemented a new 20mph speed reduction scheme. This is where parishes can apply for specific roads to be considered for a reduction in speed down to 20mph, which may not have always been in line with policy, previously.

Full details and application - https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-

parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/20mph-funding

**Acorn Bioenergy Proposal - Suffolk**

For those wondering what all of the ‘Muck Off’ (great slogan) signs are relating to in and around Haverhill, these are referring to a proposal by a bio energy company to build a new plant just on the Suffolk side of the border, on the outskirts of Haverhill. The company is called Acorn Bioenergy and their website is here - <https://www.acornbioenergy.com/> - there is a lot of interest in this site, particularly from the Suffolk side of the border, as there are concerns about the environmental impact of the surrounding area, specifically smell, noise, traffic etc.

A planning application is suspected to be submitted this year, which will be decided by Suffolk

County Council. It’s an interesting scheme that will have an effect on our area, especially those in the vicinity of the site, so do keep your ear to the ground and feel free to comment on the planning application, when it is submitted and in the public domain.

**Cambridge City Car Parks**

There was a news release last month saying that the cost of the car parks in Cambridge (Grand Arcade etc) will be increasing this year, by around 20p per hour.

**Weston Colville Warm Hub**

Cambridgeshire ACRE and South Cambs District Council are working with communities all across the district to open Warm Hubs to help people struggling with fuel cost or just wanting an opportunity to get together. There are now 20 up and running with another 7 on the way. Weston Colville has opened its first Warm Hub, which is open:

 Reading Room – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday - 11am – 4pm

**Electric Vehicle Charging**

The District Council has introduced a grant of up to £5,000 per application for electric vehicle

charging points on community/public buildings within the district. It’s a great opportunity for us to expand our electric charging network and make our area more accessible for those wanting to travel here via electric vehicle.

https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/grants-funding-and-community-

support/electric-vehicle-charge-point-grant/

**Asylum Seekers**

The government has announced that they are going to use the hotel at Bar Hill as temporary

accommodation for asylum seekers. This will be for families and single woman. The local authorities do not have any role in this arrangement, we do assist refugees such as those from Ukraine, Afghanistan and Syria but asylum seekers who do not have permission to stay are the responsibility of government agencies. Local schools and health facilities in Bar Hill will be supporting the people that come.