**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd May 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 in part**

**The Meeting started at 7.50pm**

**Annual General Meeting of Weston Colville Parish Council**

1. **Election of Officers**
   1. **Chairman –** Cllr Vidler was proposed to remain in the post as Chairman. **P: Cllr Pagonis, S: Cllr Durham, All in fav.** The Acceptance of Office by Chairman was signed.
   2. **Vice Chair –** Cllr Durham was proposed to remain in position as Vice Chairman. **P: Cllr Garrod, S: Cllr Pagonis, All in fav.** The Acceptance of Office by Vice Chairman was signed.
2. **Determination of Representatives/Responsibilities**
   1. **Financial Overseer –** Cllr Garrod
   2. **Combined Parishes Meeting Representative –** Cllr Vidler
   3. **Footpaths –** Cllr Durham
   4. **Tree Warden –** Cllr Garrod
   5. **Flood Wardens** – Cllr Garrod, Cllr Durham, Alistair Douglas, Peter White, and Faye Parker.
   6. **Playgrounds –** Cllrs Pagonis and Cllr Rayner.
3. **Chairman’s Welcome –** The Chairman welcomed those present.
4. **To accept apologies and reasons for absence –** None.
5. **To make any declarations of interest –** Cllr Vidler declared an interest in 12.1 23/00370/HFUL, as a consultee. Cllr Pagonis declared a pecuniary interest in 17.1 as the beneficiary of a cheque.
6. **Co-option of a new Parish Councillor –** An application letter had been received from Emma Rayner. It was proposed that Mrs Rayner was accepted to join the Council by co-option. **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Garrod, All in fav.**
7. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by co-opted Councillor.**
8. **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 the papers and declarations had yet to be acknowledged by SCDC.
9. **Public Participation Session –** A Parishioner spoke about 23/00370/HFUL, 62 The Green. She advised the Council that both neighbours had made neutral comments about this application to extend the property. She advised that there were still concerns that building would take place on the other side of the stream, and that a new substantial bridge had been constructed.
10. **To approve minutes-** For the meeting of Weston Colville Parish Council on 11th January and on 6th March 2023. **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Durham, All in fav.**
11. **District and County Council reports and items of interest** – Reports were received, appended. Cllr Batchelor expressed his thanks to the Parish Council for all they did to support the village. He was asked if there was any progress on potholes, he advised that the Clerk should email with any that were causing particular problems. He was also asked about LHI scheme, and applying for MVAS following discussions at the APM. The LHI was only now awarded annually in January, Cllr Batchelor advised that Councils could also apply directly to purchase MVAS from the County Council, at a discounted rate.
12. **1 Planning –** Cllr Vidler left the room for the discussion of 23/00370/HFUL.

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| **Planning reference** | **Address** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| **23/00370/HFUL**  **No comments** | 62 The Green Weston Colville | Front, side and rear single and two storey extensions. | **Awaiting decision** |
| **23/01291/HFUL**  **No comments** | Naika Mill Hill Weston Colville | Erection of a front porch; two storey rear extension; increase roof pitch in  conjunction with a loft conversion; amendments to elevation materials and  fenestration | **Awaiting decision** |
| **23/01436/HFUL** | The Hay Mill Hill Weston Colville | Demolition of existing stable building; erection of detached single storey annexe.  **No comments bar requesting the condition that the property is not sold as a separate dwelling.** | **Awaiting decision** |

**12.2 Decisions from SCDC**

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| **Planning reference** | **Address** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| **23/00382/CL2PD** | 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 | **Certificate not granted** |

1. **Matters In hand / Arising since last meeting.**
   1. **Flooding** – Concerns were raised about the ditch between the Recreation Ground and the neighbouring paddock. The Clerk was requested to contact the farm manager at West Wratting Estate to add it to the list for clearing.
   2. **Footpaths –** None.
   3. **Coronation event** – There had been a decision made by the Reading Room not to host a Coronation event on the Recreation Ground due to changes in their insurance policy. There would be a celebratory Church Service on 7th May, followed by refreshments, and the bells would be chimed by children from the village (first time in more than 25 years).
   4. **Asset Register –** Cllr Durham and the Clerk would assess the assets in June.
   5. **Bus Shelter Vandalism –** It was determined that the bus shelter outside the Reading Room did not belong to the Parish Council. It was requested that the Clerk establish ownership with the Reading Room. The bus timetable had been removed. The Clerk would contact the bus companies to get it reinstated.
2. **Risk Assessment/Health and Safety –** The defibrillator was rescue ready, but required new batteries, that would be ordered from Community Heartbeat.
3. **Playground –** The Play Equipment Safety report from David Bracey was received, it was determined that Cllrs Pagonis and Rayner would work through it – brackets were required for the basket swing at Church End. It was believed that these had already been purchased by a former Cllr. Cllr Pagonis would check. It was suggested that a working party could be established to rejuvenate the play area at the Recreation Ground. The Clerk would place an advert in the Challenge asking for volunteers.
4. **Finance –** 
   1. **To Approve cheques – P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Durham, Abstain: 1, 3 in fav.**
   2. **Year End Accounts –** The year end accounts were received.
   3. **Annual Return 2021-22 –** The Certificate of Exemption was approved **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Pagonis, All in fav.**
   4. **Annual Return 2021-22 –** The Annual Governance Statement was approved **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Pagonis, All in fav.**
   5. **Annual return 2021-22 ­–** The Annual Accounting Statement was approved **P: Cllr Garrod, S: Cllr Pagonis, All in fav.**
   6. **Online Banking Update and mandate change –** The form had been rejected. Cllr Pagonis would chase the reasons behind this, and resubmit the form.
   7. **West Wratting Memorial Fund Investment –** This was postponed until September, as the return had increased.

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| **Credit Received – precept 19th April** | £6,250 |
| **Wages s/o** | £235.17 |
| **Balance at Lloyds Bank on 31st March 2023** | £17,448.54 |
| **Briggs Gift Account Balance 28th February 2023** | £615.35 |

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| **Cheque number** | **Detail and Date** |  | **Amount** | **VAT** |
| D/D | Street lighting |  |  |  |
| D/D | PWLB (£2,209 remaining) |  | £1143.39 |  |
| 842 | iTransact – quarterly charges | £13.50 | £16.20 | £2.70 |
| 843 | David Bracey – Playground inspections 2023 | £135 | £162 | £27 |
| 844 | CAPALC – Annual Membership |  | £268.83 |  |
| **Total** |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total of Outstanding Cheques** | 841 | £1,122 |  |
|  | **After above Cheques** |  | **£16,148.34** |  |

1. **Matters for next Agenda –** Playground working party, SID/MVAS purchase/LHI

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

**District and County Councillor’s Report – May 2023**

**A1307 Works**

Work continues on the upgrades to the road and the next scheme to be implemented is the roundabout at the Bartlow Road, Linton crossing, which is scheduled to start early May and go on for about 40 weeks. For more up to date information go to the Greater Cambridge Partnership website: [www.greatercambridge.org.uk](http://www.greatercambridge.org.uk) and look for the Cambridge South-East project.

**Zero Carbon Communities Grant**

The popular ZCC grant from South Cambs is open again for bids until June 2nd. There is a pot of £125,000 available for community groups and parish councils to bid for up to £15,000 for a project that will help with the reduction of carbon emissions in the district. Full detail and application form can be seen here - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/zerocarbongrant>

**Four Day Week Trail**

You may recall the, as of January, South Cambs DC has been running a four-day week trial for office-based staff, the results of the which are now available.

All local authorities across the country are facing huge problems in recruiting and retaining staff. It is impossible to compete with the private sector especially for planning and environmental officers and so councils have to offer something other than money. The cost of having to use agency staff to fill unfilled posts is currently running at £2m per year - which is a lot of money for a District Council like South Cambs. For these reasons South Cambs District Council has had to think laterally and hence the Four Day Week trial. Officers have had to work differently and more intensely in order to do 100% of the work in 80% of the time to receive 100% of the pay. The results have been enormously encouraging: performance (which has been independently assessed) has been maintained and in some instances improved and staff who were thinking of leaving are now likely to stay. Officer feedback was 88% positive; and satisfaction feedback from residents was not impacted. The recommendation is to extend the trail for a further year.

Councillors are also to be asked to include the refuse collection services in the 4 Day Week trail as

of this summer. Many councils already do not collect bins on a Monday because of all the disruption

caused by bank holidays so this is being looked at as a way of extending the benefits to more colleagues.

**Winter Gritting/Maintenance**

This Winter season has just concluded and from a Highways Gritting perspective it has been

generally, a mild one, but this hasn’t meant the gritters stayed parked up! The team carried out 51 full runs and 6 part runs across the County. A total distance of 111,286 km or 69,000 miles or two and a half times round the world! We used nearly 9,000 tonnes of salt. Which brings us to….

**Potholes**

This winter has seen a rise in the number of potholes and surface defects across the road network. Whilst the demand has been increasing, the County Council has been recording and fixing potholes as fast as they can. They have put in additional repair gangs and currently have 8 patching Gangs and 2 Dragon Patchers working full time. They are aiming to fix most permanently first time. However, they are having to do temporary repairs where the road is very poor condition and when they are fixing in rain and wet weather. These temporary fixes are recorded, and they will be going back to do a permanent repair.

Hopefully there will be a fall in pothole numbers over the coming months as the roads dry out and

The Council repairs all those they know about. Their normal additional proactive Dragon Patcher is now with us for the summer and will be working across the County. £3.6million additional funding for road defect repairs from Government will be used to bring in additional dragon patchers to work proactively on a find, record and fix regime.

**No Mow May**

Cambridgeshire County Council is promoting biodiversity this spring as part of No Mow May as our

Highways maintenance team pause grass cutting on road verges so habitats for wildlife, plant

species and pollinators can thrive. ‘No Mow May’ is run by Plantlife who say more than 700 species of wildflowers grow on road verges in the UK - this is almost 45% of the total wildflower species found across the country. The County Council committed to a greener Cambridgeshire but of course road safety remains a priority so they will still cut grass where needed to ensure visibility at junctions and bends.