**Weston Colville Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 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: District Councillor Geoff Harvey in part**

1. **Chairman’s Welcome –** The Chairman welcomed those present.
2. **To accept apologies and reasons for absence –** Apologies were received from Cllr Henry Batchelor.
3. **To make any declarations of interest –** Cllr Pagonis expressed a pecuniary interest in 12.1.
4. **Public Participation Session –** A representative of the Reading Room Trust came to discuss the Warm Hub and request funding from the Parish Council. He advised the Hub was running 4 days a week, following the trial, 2 quiet days for working, and 2 more social days, with soup being offered for lunch on Wednesdays. They had also shortened the length of the sessions. He was asked about the attendance rates, the figures varied, and were on a par with other Warm Hubs, some people would come for the day to work, some would come for an hour for lunch. He thanked the volunteers and the Parish Council for their initial donation, and requested that the PC consider funding the £328 shortfall in funding which would cover the Warm Hub until the end of March.
5. **To approve minutes-** For the meeting of Weston Colville Parish Council on 7th November **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Pagonis, All in fav**.
6. **Resignation of Cllrs –** It was noted that the resignation of Ian Ashbridge had been received. Mr. Ashbridge was thanked for all the work he had done for the Parish Council. Following publication of the resignation, an election had not been called. Three seats were available. The article placed in the Challenge for December had not yielded any results. It was determined to place another article in the Challenge.
7. **District and County Council reports and items of interest** – Reports were received - appended. Cllr Harvey agreed to report the potholes in the village to Cllr Batchelor. It was noted that the potholes on Chapel Road towards the junction with Common Road were particularly bad, although others were noted in the village. The potholes on Chapel Road had been reported by the Clerk on the Cambridgeshire County Council website through the Highways Portal. Parishioners were urged to also report potholes, more reports would lead to swifter action.
8. **Planning – 8.1 None**

**8.2 SCDC Decisions:** It was requested that the Clerk contact the Planning department and enquire why a decision had still not been made on 21/03551/HFUL

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Planning reference** | **Address** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| **21/03551/HFUL** | 5 The Green Weston Colville | Dropped kerb | **Awaiting Decision** |
| **22/02643/HFUL** | 62 The Green Weston Colville |  | **Refused** |
| **22/04090/HFUL** | Street Farm Common Road |  | **Approved** |

**9.1 Flooding** – A Parishioner had contacted the Clerk about flooding on Chapel Road during the heavy rain on 23rd December, and assumed it was due to ditches not being well managed on the West Wratting Estate. The Clerk advised that it was more likely due to the properties further down the road, as the drains ran well into the ditches further up the road. The Parishioner had sent photos, the Clerk would pass these to the Cllrs on the Flood Working Party. Most drains had been cleared on Mill Hill, bar three, as the team could not lift the drain covers. The drainage works at 71/72 Common Road were still outstanding due to the electricity cable under the surface of the verge. Grips had been cut through the village.

**9.2 Highways –** All works have been completed bar the works on Common Road.

**9.3 Meeting with Highways Officer** – It was determined not to hold a meeting.

**9.4 Footpaths –** None.

**9.5 Emails –** Following Internal Audit report, costs of dedicated Cllr email addresses were discussed. iTransact were working on getting a charity rate for the emails, which would be no cost. The Clerk was asked to phone HMRC to get information to facilitate this.

**9.6 Car in Reading Room Car Park –** Had been moved.

**9.7 Coronation –** It was noted that the Coronation of King Charles III would take place on 6th May 2023. A post would be added to the Village Whatsapp group to gauge interest, of holding an event on Sunday 7th May. Cllr Harvey would look into whether the Street Trader License was relevant for the PC.

**9.8 Reading Room Warm Hub –** Following discussion it was determined to fund the shortfall in funding of £328. **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Garrod, All in fav.**

**9.9 Consultation – Joint Planning Compliance Policy -**The Policy was received, it was determined not to comment on the consultation.

**10 Risk Assessment/Health and Safety –** The defibrillator was rescue ready on 11th January.

**11 Playground –** David Bracey had proposed carrying out the safety inspection in April for the same rate of £135, it was determined to instruct David to carry out the inspection. **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Vidler, All in fav.**

**12 Finance –**

**12.1 To Approve cheques – P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Vidler, Abstain: 1, 3 in fav.**

**12.2 Online Banking –** It was determined to move to online banking for WCPC. **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Garrod, All in fav.**

**12.3 Quarterly Accounts –** The accounts were received **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Durham, All in fav**.

**12.4 Budget –** The budget was determined. **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Pagonis, All in fav**

**12.5 Precept –** The precept for 2023/24 was set to remain at £12,500. **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Garrod, All in fav.**

**12.6 Bank Signatory –** It was determined to remove Cllr Ashbridge as a signatory, and add Cllr Durham.

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| --- | --- |
| **Credit Received** |  |
| **Wages s/o** | £235.17 |
| **Balance at Lloyds Bank on 31st December 2022** | £19,954.89 |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque number** | **Detail and Date** |  | **Amount** | **VAT** |
| D/D | Street lighting | £ | £24.43 | £ |
| 834 | CAPALC Training Cllr Vidler |  | £30 |  |
| 835 | CAPALC Audit 4.5hrs plus travel (split) |  | £147.60 |  |
| 836 | iTransact quarterly charges | £13.50 | £16.20 | £2.70 |
| 837 | Reading Room Committee Warm Hub |  | £328 |  |
| DD | ICO Data Protection Fee |  | £35 |  |
| 838 | Horseheath PC Local Council Administration book share |  | £44 |  |
| 839 | iTransact replacement for ch 819 |  | £27.36 |  |
| **Total** |  |  | £652.59 |  |
|  | **Total of Outstanding Cheques** | 819 | £27.36 |  |
|  | **After above Cheques** |  | **£19,302.30** |  |

1. **Matters for next Agenda**

**Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2023 are:** 6th February (planning), 6th March, 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 – January 2023**

**‘Making Connections’ Consultation**

Thank you to all those that fed their views into the Greater Cambridge Partnership’s public

consultation on their proposals to improve public transport in our area with the introduction of a ‘sustainable travel zone’ which would be funded via a congestion charge. There were record numbers of responses to this, as hoped, as it is, in our opinion, one of the most important consultations that we’ll be asked to respond to. There was in the region of 24,000 responses, which equates to around 15% of the entire population of South Cambridgeshire (this doesn’t sound like a lot, but it is!).

**Local Plan**

The Local Plan (the District Council’s process of identifying sustainable locations for housing and economic development within South Cambridgeshire &amp; Cambridge City for the next 30 years) is moving forward. The latest update is that due to the very fast economic growth in the area (the predicted job growth has already been achieved halfway through the current Local Plan) the government-set formula for calculating housing need has had to be reassessed. Using the calculation there is now a need to find a place for a further 8000 houses on top of what has already been allocated. This is likely to mean either another new town in the District, or lots of small-medium sized developments on the edge of existing settlements/villages as well as in the Green Belt. Another complication is that the Environment Agency is now taking quite a hard-line on water supply. They are saying that the area currently doesn’t have enough water supply to fulfil the current Local Plan, let along the emerging one. There is a plan in place to use Grafham Water’s supply but this isn’t currently planned to come online until 2027.

So not a straightforward predicament but do keep watching this space as the situation develops.

**Cost of Living support &amp; Community Chest**

SCDC’s Community Chest fund provides grants to voluntary and community sector groups, charities and public sector bodies wishing to further improve quality of life locally. Criteria have been expanded to allow bids that include contributions for any project that has a positive impact for communities related to the cost-of-living crisis. Parish Councils of any size can also now place grant bids. A ringfenced total sum of £20,000 has been made available for these new Community Chest grant applications, provided by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System, to ensure support is co-ordinated effectively and directed at those in need locally this winter -

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/grants/community-chest-grants/>

South Cambs District Council also have a cost of living ‘Go Fund Me’ page that are taking donations that they will use to purchase items needed to assist those that need support over the winter months -

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/emergency-go-fund-me-page-will-help-residents-struggling-in-the-cost-of-living-crisis/>

**POPs in WUDS**

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are found in various Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS) such as sofas and upholstered dining chairs. Such materials should not be landfilled. The law against landfilling of POPs was introduced in 2007, but the Environment Agency recently announced it would become more rigorous in its enforcement. The Environment Agency announced in August 2022 that it would soon expect councils to cease landfilling upholstered seating, and instead to incinerate it. It published its Final Regulatory Position Statements on this matter on Monday 19 December 2022, with implementation starting on Sunday 1 January 2023. The short notice over Christmas has provided little time to organise incineration capacity, and the County Council is therefore seeking an extension of at least a month while it works through options and liaises with its waste contractor Thalia (formerly Amey) and with the district councils who collect Cambridgeshire’s waste. This does however mean that from 1 January the Council will not be able to dispose of soft furnishings until a method of disposal acceptable to the Environment Agency has been identified and put in place.

**20mph schemes**

The Highways &amp; Transport Committee at the County Council approved the changes to the Council’s policy on 20MPH speed limits outlined in previous reports. The proposed timetable for applications for funding for new 20MPH speed limits is as follows.

• Go ‘live’ with application process on-line for new schemes (February 2023)

• Application period (February to April 2023)

• Prioritisation (May to June 2023)

• Committee report for approval (July 2023)

• Programming and delivery of schemes (August 2023 onwards)

**King Charles III Coronation Street Parties**

The Council has published guidance for local groups seeking to organise street parties and highways events to mark the coronation of King Charles III in May 2023. All street party applications must be received by the County Council at least eight weeks in advance (Friday 10 March 2023) via the Council’s website. Highway Events applications must be submitted at least twelve weeks in advance (Friday 10 February 2023). More information about the process can be found at

https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-

pathways/highway-events/coronation-events

**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

**Ukraine – new hosts for guests needed**. Cambridge City and South Cambs have between them about 500 hosts for Ukraine guests. With the war in Ukraine continuing, the six-month hosting arrangements have needed to be renewed, though not all hosts are in a position to do so. Anyone who might be able to provide a spare room for a guest from Ukraine is asked to get in touch with SCDC. We need new homes for about 200 people. For this reason the councils have launched the GOT A SPARE ROOM campaign. If you are interested all you have to do is text ROOM to 88802.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/support-for-ukraine-it-all-starts-with-a-spare-room/>

**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/

**Signed………………………………………………………………………………………3rd May 2023 Cllr R Vidler**