**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th September at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, 46 Chapel Rd, Weston Colville, Weston Green, Cambridge CB21 5NX.**

**Present: Ray Vidler (Chairman), Bridget Durham (Vice Chair), John Garrod, 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 –** Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Pagonis and Rayner **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Garrod, All in fav.**
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 3rd July **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Garrod, All in fav**.
6. **District and County Council reports and items of interest** – Report appended. The grass cutting regime was questioned, as some of the verges had become very overgrown prior to their recent cut – it was advised that Chapel Road had been narrowed due to the verges, and there were safety concerns due to vehicles travelling in the middle of the road around the bends. It was advised that there had been reductions in cutting due to No Mow May, which continued to the end of August, encouraging ecological diversity, and cutting costs. The junctions had been cut for safety, although it was felt that the visibility had still not been good at the junction of Chapel Road/Common Road. Cllr Harvey was asked to find out the name of the Emergency Planning Coordinator. Although not within the Parish Boundary, the County Councillor was reminded of the poor state of the road from the junction of Chapel Road and the Common going west into West Wratting. There are some nasty pot holes and the whole stretch of road was in a poor condition. Many residents of Weston Colville regularly used this stretch of road. The County Councillor agreed to investigate the matter which had also been highlighted by West Wratting PC.

**7.1 Planning Applications – None**

**7.2 Decisions from SCDC**

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| **Planning Appeal** | **Address** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| **23/00025/REFUSL PP-11094816** | College Farm House Common Road Weston Colville CB21 5NS | Change of use of agricultural land to residential and the retrospective replacement of an existing shed and construction of a cartlodge. | **Awaiting Decision** |

* 1. **Flooding** – Cllr Garrod had cleared the drain grills where he was able to, and had reported two completely blocked drains, and asked if the other Cllrs/Clerk could do the same. He would be attending the Flood Action Conference. The Clerk was asked to contact West Wratting Estate about clearing the ditch adjacent to the cricket pitch.
  2. **Footpaths –** Footpath 21 had been reported to Peter Gaskin (CCC Footpaths Officer) as the footpath needed to be reinstated. A question of ownership had been raised for Footpath 16, Cllr Durham had asked Peter Gaskin to investigate, as the route was impassible.
  3. **SID/MVAS –** Deferred to November, the Clerk was asked to chase CCC for details about purchasing a MVAS.
  4. **Policies –** To review the Disciplinary policy, and Grievance policy, and defer to November.
  5. **Emergency Plan –** There had been a personnel change at SCDC, Cllr Durham was trying to update the Emergency Plan. There was a request to seek a Trained First Aider in the village, the Clerk would place a note in the Challenge, and also establish who the Age UK Community Warden was.
  6. **Grass Cutting Tender –** It was determined to defer this until November.
  7. **Training –** Cllr Rayner would complete Cllr training on 30th September. It was proposed that the Clerk would attend the CAPALC Conference on 15th September – cost to be split between the three Councils. **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Durham, All in fav.**
  8. **Handyman –** The Clerk had sought quotes from Handymen – she would be meeting 2/3 following the meeting – it was proposed to approve a budget for the works to restore the benches, remove the fence from the carpark, and clean/remove ivy from the bus shelters, for up to £1,000. The Clerk would send quotes for approval via email, in between the meetings. It was advised that the contractors must have public liability insurance. **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Vidler, All in fav.**

1. **Risk Assessment/Health and Safety –** The defibrillator was rescue ready on 4th September.
2. **Playground –** Cllrs Rayner and Pagonis, with the Clerk had made the start on producing a leaflet and survey to seek the views of Parishioners in the village. Cllr Rayner had approached the Reading Room, who had offered more space for equipment at the bottom of the recreation ground, and had suggested that the area could potentially be fenced, although this would impact the footpath, requiring very costly kissing gates, so it was felt that the fenced area should remain with other equipment left unfenced. The Clerk would arrange a meeting of the Playground Working Party. Two more parishioners had come forwards offering to help.
3. **Finance –** 
   1. **To Approve cheques – 851, 852, 853** agreed between meetings, as all had prior approval. The other cheques were approved **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Durham, All in fav.**
   2. The quarterly accounts were received.
   3. **Online Banking Update and mandate change –** Two former Cllrs were removed from the banking mandate. **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Garrod, All in fav.**
   4. **Pensions Regulator –** It was noted that the Clerk had been declared exempt from the pension scheme.

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| **Credit Received – CCC Grass cutting** | £456.75 |
| **Wages s/o** | £235.17 |
| **Balance at Lloyds Bank on 31st July 2023** | £20,010.77 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque number** | **Detail and Date** |  | **Amount** | **VAT** |
| D/D | Street lighting |  | 16.19 |  |
| 851 | CAPALC – Cllr Rayner Training |  | £75 |  |
| 852 | Simon Ratford |  | £375 |  |
| 853 | iTransact – domain, and outstanding invoices |  | £109.07 |  |
| 854 | CAPALC – Conference - Clerk attending |  | £75 |  |
| 855 | ICO Registration |  | £40 |  |
| **Total** |  |  | £690.26 |  |
|  | **Total of Outstanding Cheques** |  |  |  |
|  | **After above Cheques** |  | **£19,320.51** |  |

1. **Matters for next Agenda**

**Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2023 are: `2nd October (planning), 6th November, 4th December (planning).**

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.44pm.**

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

**New bin collection days**

As of September 19th, we will be getting a new bin collection day – which, for most in our area, will be changing from Monday to Wednesday each week.

The reason for this is that the District Council hasn’t optimised its collection routes in some years, meaning that the routs aren’t likely the most efficient. This change reflects the new route optimisation work that has taken place.

The second reason is that the Council is extending its 4-day working week trail to the waste collection service. The only change that we will see is the new collection day, the level of service will remain the same – a collection every week.

The bins will still be collected on Monday up until September 19th, when the new rota will come in. It’s important to know that everyone that will be affected by a change will be written to directly. If you don’t receive a letter from the Council, nothing is changing for you. New collection days can also be checked here - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins/bin-collection-changes-from-september>

**Greater Cambridge Partnership STZ update**

The proposal by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) that we had put to us last year, which offered vast improvements to our public transport network being implemented now, with the caveat that it would eventually need to be self-funded. This was proposed to come in the form of road-charging in Cambridge City, coming into force in 2-3 years’ time after the bus improvements. There was a, very lengthy, public consultation undertaken at the back end of last year and the results of which have formed an updated proposal, which was published at the end of August.

This can be seen here - <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/news/making-connections-revised-proposals-to-keep-cambridge-moving>

The next steps are that the GCP Assembly and then Board need to make a decision on whether to take these new proposals forward to the next stage of the process. This will be decided on September 28th.

**A1307 Works**

The works to the A1307 continue and the work on the new roundabout at the Bartlow Road, Linton junction are proceeding. To complete these works there will have to be another weekend closure of the A1307, with the end of September/beginning of October being mooted as a possible date. Once this work has been completed then the roundabout will be able to open and there won’t need to be any further road closures.

For more up to date information go to the Greater Cambridge Partnership website - <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/sustainable-transport-programme/public-transport-schemes/cambridge-south-east-transport/cambridge-south-east-transport-phase-1-background/cambridge-south-east-transport-phase-1-current-schemes>

**Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund**

The County Council have updated and rebranded the Communities Capital Fund that they ran a few years ago. The fund is designed to support local communities in projects that enable them to upgrade community buildings and assets. There is up to £40,000 available in each bid. The Council are currently asking for an ‘expression of interest’ from those community groups/parish councils that are thinking of applying. Full information, plus an application, can be found on the website - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/cambridgeshire-priorities-capital-fund>

**Community Gritting Scheme**

Each year the County Council offers communities the chance to volunteer to assist with gritting the roads in our area. The scheme allows people the chance to identify specific roads/paths in their parishes that might benefit from some gritting, which currently aren’t. Full detail of the scheme can be found at - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/gritting-roads-cycleways-and-paths/help-with-gritting-and-clearing-snow>