**Weston Colville Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1st May 2024 at 7.50pm in the Reading Room, 46 Chapel Rd, Weston Colville, Weston Green, Cambridge CB21 5NX.**

**Present: Ray Vidler, Bridget Durham, Constantine Pagonis, John Garrod, Emma Rayner, Rachel Jennings, and Jess Ashbridge (Clerk). Also present: District Cllr Geoff Harvey, and two Parishioners.**

[**http://www.westoncolville.org.uk**](http://www.westoncolville.org.uk)

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

1. **Election of Officers**
   1. **Chairman –** Cllr Vidler was elected unopposed **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Garrod** Acceptance of office by Chairman was signed.
   2. **Vice Chair –** Cllr Durham was elected unopposed **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Pagonis** 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 –** Cllrs Garrod and Durham, Faye Parker, Allister Douglas, Peter White
   6. **Playgrounds –** Cllrs Pagonis and Rayner, Clerk
   7. **MVAS –** James Hubbard
3. **Chairman’s Welcome –** Cllr Vidler welcomed those present.
4. **To accept apologies and reasons for absence –** None.
5. **To make any declarations of interest –** Cllr Pagonis declared a pecuniary interest in 16.1, as the recipient of a payment.
6. **Co-option of a new Parish Councillor –** An application letter had been received from Matt Russell. It was proposed that Mr Russell would be co-opted on to the Council. **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Garrod, All in fav.**
7. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by the co-opted Councillor.**
8. **Register of Member Interests:** General Notice of Registerable Interests were 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. **To approve minutes-** The minutes for the meeting of Weston Colville Parish Council on 4th March 2024 were approved. **P:Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Pagonis, Abstain: 1, 5 in fav.**
10. **Public Participation Session –** None.
11. **District and County Council reports and items of interest** – Report appended.
12. **1 Planning – Decisions from SCDC – Comments made under delegation to the Clerk**

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| **Planning reference** | **Address** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| **24/01012/FUL** | Land To The Rear Of Yew Tree Cottage 59 The Green Weston Colville | [Planning Details](https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/monthlyListResults.do?action=firstPage)  **No objections, stressed the importance of parking being provided on site, and traffic management in place** | **Awaiting decision** |
| **24/00236/HFUL** | Naika Mill Hill Weston Colville | [Planning Details](https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/monthlyListResults.do?action=firstPage)  **No Comments** | **Approved** |
| **24/00192/FUL** | Mines Park Chapel Road Weston Colville | [Planning Details](https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage) | **Awaiting decision** |
| **24/00271/S73** | 44 Mill Hill Weston Colville | [Planning Details](https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage)  **No Comments** | **Awaiting Decision** |

**12.2 Planning –** The lack of communication received by residents regarding 24/01012/FUL from SCDC was discussed. Cllr Harvey was asked to find out why this had happened.

* 1. **Flooding** – Brian Heffernan had written to riparian owners, reminding them of their responsibilities. He would be visiting the village with a member of Highways to determine actions that could be taken. It was advised that the owner of the small holding at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane should be contacted to clear overgrowth from the bank alongside the byway. It was suggested that Highways would be responsible for clearing the ditch along the byway from the ford. Cllr Garrod had been informed that the drains on Mill Hill had been cleared on 11th December 2023 – this had not occurred. He has asked Bradley Southwell to visit the village. The contractors that would be clearing the ditch by the Reading Room car park would carry the works out in May. The ditch running along the recreation ground would be cleared by contractors hired by the Reading Room. Cllr Durham had reported that the grips on Common Road needed clearing. Cllr Harvey was asked to chase up the clearing of the stream behind the houses on The Green.
  2. **Footpaths –** Report and map appended.
  3. **MVAS -** It was reported that the MVAS devices would soon be put up. It was requested by a Parishioner, that a device was placed up at the top of Church End, leading to Brinkley.
  4. **RAF Wratting Common War Memorial Maintenance –** Cllr Vidler had been contacted by volunteers that were concerned by ongoing maintenance. Cllr Durham had inspected the site, and weeded the gravel, she felt no action needed to be taken for the Memorial.

1. **Risk Assessment/Health and Safety –** The defibrillator was rescue ready on 1st May.
2. **Playground –** The Playgrounds had been inspected by David Bracey, on 30th April. It was determined that a savings account should be set up, to hold the grant funding when it came in.
3. **Finance –** 
   1. **To Approve payments –** It was noted that the Public Works Loan Body loan had been paid off. The payments listed would be paid online. **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Jennings, Abstain: 1, 5 in fav.**
   2. **Year End Accounts –** The Year End accounts were received. Cllr Garrod had examined the accounts, and found several minor items that needed correction before the Internal Audit that was scheduled to take place on 8th May.
   3. **Annual Return 2023-24 –** The Certificate of Exemption was approved **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Durham, All in fav.**
   4. **Annual Return 2023-24 –** The Annual Governance Statement was approved **P: Cllr Garrod, S: Cllr Pagonis, All in fav.**
   5. **Annual return 2023-24 ­–** The Annual Accounting Statement was approved **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Durham, All in fav.**
   6. **Public Rights –** It was noted that the Exercise of Public Rights to inspect the accounts would run from 1st July to 9th August.
   7. **Online Banking Update and mandate change –** Cllrs Pagonis and Durham were set up to use online banking. A new mandate needed to be completed to add Cllr Vidler, and the Clerk, and remove Ian Ashbridge and Alan Scott as signatories.

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| **Credit Received – precept 19th April** | £12,500 |
| **Wages s/o** | £235.17 |
| **Balance at Lloyds Bank on 31st March 2024** | £20,975.09 |
| **Briggs Gift Account Balance** | £ |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque number** | **Detail and Date** |  | **Amount** | **VAT** |
| D/D | Street lighting |  |  |  |
| D/D | PWLB (£0 remaining) |  | £1143.39 |  |
|  | iTransact – outstanding balance |  | £109.79 |  |
|  | SLCC Annual Membership – split 3 ways |  | £54.90 |  |
|  | CAPALC – Annual Membership |  | £268.83 |  |
|  | Zurich Insurance |  | £704.61 |  |
|  | CAPALC Annual Subscription |  | £283.53 |  |
| **Total** |  |  | £2,565.05 |  |
|  | **Total of Outstanding Cheques** |  | £ |  |
|  | **After above Cheques** |  | **£18,410.04**  **(Before Precept as not reconcilled)** |  |

1. **Matters for next Agenda: Playground Inspection report, Playground Funding.**

**Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2024 are: 1st July, 2nd September, 4th November**

**District and County Councillor’s Report – May 2024**

**Zero Carbon Communities Grant**

The popular Zero Carbon Communities grant from South Cambs District Council is now open again - <https://southcambsweb.azurewebsites.net/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant> - community groups, as well as parish councils, can apply for funding for green and sustainable energy projects. The deadline for applications is June 2nd, so don’t hang around.

**Rural Prosperity Fund**

There is a new fund from central government, facilitated by the District Council, that is aimed at supporting rural communities with the aim to help support local businesses and communities. Worth taking a look at if you are a looking for funding for a project or you’re a local business looking to expand and progress - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/rural-england-prosperity-fund/>

- applications opened on Monday April 8th and when the money is gone, it’s gone!

**Local Elections**

You’ll be pleased to hear there is only 1 local election this year, for the Police and Crime Commissioner of Cambridgeshire. This doesn’t get a huge amount of media coverage but is nevertheless an important role, so please do take the time to research the candidates and, if you can, vote. At some point this year there will also be a general election, with much more media coverage!

**Solar Farm Proposal**

Kingsway Solar, the company proposing the new solar farm between the A11 and West Wratting/Balsham, have now given an informal presentation to local residents. The plans were lacking in some of the detail that people would have wanted to see at this stage but, as the applicants said at the meeting, the plans may change before a formal planning application is submitted. Other than the information that was presented at the meeting in March, there is still nothing tangible to link you to, other than West Wratting Parish Council own write up of the event - <https://westwratting.org.uk/parish_council-planning-applications/solar-farm/>

**Civil Parking Enforcement**

The County Council now have traffic wardens patrolling South Cambridgeshire. They have a list of problem areas in each of our villages, supplied by Henry with support from your Parish Councils, but if anyone feels that there are specific areas where illegal parking really is an issue, do let him know directly.

**Cambridge 2040/2050**

In the Spring Statement we heard that the Government are pressing ahead with their plans to make Cambridge an economic development hub for the science and tech sector. The catch to attracting companies to move to our area is to build circa 150,000 houses around Cambridge to make this proposal more sustainable. The current idea is to set up a development corporation to manage this, which, currently, local authorities won’t be a part of. The local authorities in the affected area, South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City and the County Council are still fighting to stay ‘at the table’, if this does progress.

**Stagecoach Timetable Changes**

Stagecoach made some timetable changes to the 13/X13 service between Haverhill and Cambridge recently. The main changes affect the routes in Haverhill itself but one knock-on effect is that one of the early morning buses that used to stop in Linton no longer does, meaning people that want to catch the bus at that time need to walk to the Police Houses on the A1307. If you are affected by the changes, please do write to Stagecoach directly - <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/help-and-contact/faqs/im-not-happy-how-do-i-make-a-complaint#> as well as this, do contact the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, who have ultimate responsibility for public transport in the county - <https://transport.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/contact-us/>

**Anaerobic Digestion Plant Proposals**

The two planning applications for biodigesters in our area, Acorn in Haverhill and Streetly End Farm in West Wickham, are edging closer to a decision. If you’d still like to comment upon either, email the planning officers directly: 1. Acorn, Haverhill – [andrew.rutter@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.rutter@suffolk.gov.uk) <http://suffolk.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display?applicationNumber=SCC%2F0045%2F23SE&fbclid=IwAR0aj4d4JMd9Yr3cP-Etp9rxdR4kKDwvzX0wMyHkfOomG45fCq0khXRbyrE>

2. Streetly Hall Farm, Streetly End, West Wickham - [helen.wass@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:helen.wass@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) <https://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S0BB1JDYKNQ00>

**Footpaths Report and Map – Cllr Durham 1st May**

**Footpath 18** – Towards Carlton. Reported as needing reinstatement following crop growth. CCC investigating.

**Footpath 18** – Bridge between 14 The Green, and 62a – request that the bridge is raised following flooding earlier in the year.

**Footpath 16** – back of the old Council houses – CCC have confirmed it has been cleared.

**Footpath 14** – 3 Horseshoe Lane towards Lower Wood – and permissive path. No action, as current CCC officer had rejected the plans to reroute the bridleway, and have it coincident with the permissive path.

Hannah Thyne (nee Edge) land owner.

Tom Ruszala is a definitive map officer. He has said that the existing route (between points 6 and 7 on the map – below) aren’t suitable and I believe this is purely on the basis of width as required by CCC’s policy. He has said ‘The Rights of Way Officer has received reports about the narrow width of the path where it is difficult for users to pass each other when the hedges are in full growth during the summer months’. Although I’m at a loss to understand how reverting to the definitive map would be preferable as it would be much narrower than the current path as it only required 2m width, where the bridleway goes across the field.

The proposed 2 options he has proposed are:

1. Remove the eastern hedge and create a gap of 7.5m between the roots of the two hedges (to allow 4m bridleway then 1.5m in addition to the roots of the existing established hedge, and then another 2m for a newly laid hedge). This will require planning permission to remove the hedge and replanting of 500m new hedge, as well as the additional lost farming land.
2. Instead put the bridleway on the east side of the eastern hedge. This will require a loss of a 5.5m strip of farming land (as opposed to 2m that the currently definitive map placement would require) which would equate to about an acre of lost farming land.

Whilst we understand CCC have their own policy that they would like to, and should in normal circumstances, adhere to, this is a straight forward new diversion request, so I think there can be some argument for a pragmatic deviation from the policy and reasonable amount of compromise on all sides – I don’t think that is where we are currently.

