

**P A R I S H O F W E S T O N I N G**

**MINUTES of the Meeting of**

**Westoning Parish Council**

**held on Wednesday 9th April 2025 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall, Westoning**

**PRESENT:** Cllr J Nethersole (Chairman), Cllr P Ellis, Cllr B Rogerson,

Cllr E Russell, Cllr C Luff, Cllr Y Omishore

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs K Barker – Clerk

0 members of the public were present

Agenda published on the noticeboard and on the website

**8148 Apologies for absence** – Cllr A Rayment, Cllr P Kelly, CBC Cllr J Jamieson

**Absent** (no apologies given) – Cllr N McLoughlin

**8149 Cllr vacancy**

The Clerk reported that she has not received any applications.

**8150 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2025 were approved. Cllr Luff proposed, seconded by Cllr Ellis the approval of the minutes as a true record. All agreed by those present and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**8151 Declaration of interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**8152 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**8153 Public Participation**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**8154 Reports and representations**

An update was read out from CBC Cllr Jamieson:

* As previously mentioned the main road closure on the road to Toddington is still planned for August, continuing to liaise with traffic management to minimise the impact, and David Taylor will be asked to attend the Parish Council meeting in June/July to update.
* The issue of the dry grass turf beside the new development has been raised
* There is a new consultation on school transport, yet again the Independent Group is looking to have school transport to the nearest school only which is frustrating as this has already been discussed many times and will have a significant negative impact for Westoning children going to middle school (and also in Flitton/Greenfield/Pulloxhill/Silsoe etc). Opposition to this will continue, particularly as it is believed that there is insufficient school place availability for Westoning children at Woodlands.
* The school strategy for the Harlington pyramid has also been delayed to beyond 2030 and by then Redbourne and Harlington are likely to be the only pyramids still in a 3 tier system and there will be impacts from secondary schools being built in the developments north of Houghton Regis and Luton. Will be seeking for this to be reviewed more urgently.
* 106 monies due from the new development - will check with planning and leisure and get an update.
* Will also be pushing for the cycle path, now that it has been agreed CBC should pursue it.

**8155 Finance**

8155.1 Bank balances and finance report:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Account** | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 69,251.73 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 68,782.39 |
| **TOTAL** | 138,034.12 |

8155.2 Cllr Rogerson proposed, seconded by Cllr Luff the approval of the following payments, agreed by all Cllrs present:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment Method** | **Payee** | **£** |
| Transfer | Clerk – salary April | 560.23 |
| Transfer | Clerk – expenses April | 40.09 |
| Chq | HMRC – Clerk tax | 16.60 |
| Transfer | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| Transfer | Westoning Village Hall – hire April | 19.50 |
| Transfer | D J Granger Ground Maint – Inv 025805 | 606.96 |
| Transfer | D J Granger Ground Maint – Inv 025840 | 599.76 |
| Transfer | J Dennis – Rec Ground Inv 1 | 390.00 |
| Transfer | Andy Muskett Ltd – 4th quarter maint | 130.20 |
| Transfer | P Kelly – flagpole | 298.80 |
| Transfer | Zurich – insurance | TBC |
|  | **TOTAL** | **2,937.14** |

8155.3 Other finance matters:

8155.3.1 Rec Ground Maintenance – request for funding

Following on from the request received from the Football Club last month for a contribution towards the cost of alleviating the waterlogged pitch, the Chairman said that she and Cllr Rayment attended a meeting with the Football Club and Recreation Club to discuss the Recreation Ground. Due to the current state of the ground, 3 or the regular teams have gone elsewhere to play which has had a great impact on the revenue of the Recreation Club. The Football Club do not have enough money to put in a proper drainage system which would be a huge cost. The Chairman said that CBC Cllr Jamieson will be looking at what S106 funding can be achieved. The Football Club have suggested the purchase of 100 tons of sand at a cost of £5,000 and they will be able to raise half the cost and have asked if the Parish Council can cover the rest of the cost. The Chairman said that she will find out what the benefit will be to the ground by undertaking this work before the Parish Council commit to the funding. The Clerk said that the 2025/26 budget has included a Recreation Ground maintenance cost so this could be used towards the funding.

(**Action Chairman**)

8155.3.2 Insurance – 3 year agreement

The Clerk said that she had received a quote of £1,852.33 for 1 years insurance but is awaiting a quote for a 3 year agreement as this cost will be lower. The Parish Council agreed that the cost of insurance had not significantly increased and they resolved that they were happy to continue the insurance with Zurich Municipal based on a 3 year agreement. The Clerk to confirm the quote to the Chairman and Vice Chairman and renew the insurance and confirm the cost at the next meeting. (**Action Clerk**)

8155.3.3 Annual audit of accounts

The Clerk said that she will be completing the year end accounts over the coming weeks which will need to be approved by the Parish Council in May/June. The Internal Audit is booked for May, remotely.

**8156 Highways**

8156.1 Footpaths/Highways Issues

There were no issues to report.

**8157 Recreation Ground**

8157.1 Recreation Club Licence

Nothing to report.

8157.2 Recreation Club Un-Audited Accounts

The Parish Council confirmed receipt of the accounts and queried why the accounts do not show income of the payment that the Parish Council makes towards the bins emptying. The Chairman to ask the Recreation Club to clarify this and ask that the Accounts be audited. (**Action Chairman**)

**8158 Village Matters**

8158.1 Burial Ground

Nothing to report.

8158.2 Allotments

Nothing to report.

8158.3 Village Events  
Cllr Russell said that she has had some replies for the VE Day Afternoon Tea. It was agreed to offer sandwiches, cake, scones and prosecco/soft drinks, tea and coffee and there will be entertainment. The Parish Council discussed the purchase of plaques as a possible option to commemorate the day.

8158.4 Flagpole

This has been delivered and will be put up shortly.

8158.5 Youth events

Nothing to report.

8158.6 Land adjacent - Home Farm Way

The Clerk said that a letter was sent to a resident in Home Farm Way regarding the cutting of the small grass area owned by the Parish Council. The Clerk read out an email from the resident querying whether the land was owned by the Parish Council. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to respond that the land in question was left as a piece of amenity land by the original builders and the Parish Council are in possession of a letter and map. The Clerk was asked to contact the grass cutting Contractor and ask him to continue cutting the area.

(**Action Clerk**)

8158.7 Litter Pick

The litter pick was agreed to take place on Saturday 26th April at 9.30am. Details to be put on the website. (**Action Clerk**)

8158.8 May Annual PC Meeting/Annual Parish Meeting – 14th May

The Annual Parish Council meeting to take place at 7pm and the Annual Parish Meeting to take place at 8pm on the 14th May. The Clerk said that invitations have been sent to the Annual Parish Meeting to village organisations.

**8159** **Play Area**

Nothing to report.

**8160 Planning**

8160.1 Planning Applications

8160.1.1 CB/25/00840/EB - Land on the South Side of 49 Park Road - Electricity Board Notification: Diversion of existing high voltage overhead line network by placing it underground and adding two new terminal poles and stays in, at the same height as other poles in the line. The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

8160.1.2 CB/25/00869/FULL - 1 Campion Road - Single storey front/side extension. The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

8160.1.3 CB/25/00690/FULL - Chestnuts Caravan Park, Steppingley Road - Part Retrospective change of use of agricultural land to provide one additional residential Gypsy and Traveller pitch to include the siting of a static caravan, touring caravan and amenity block, including associated groundworks and landscaping. The Parish Council have no comment but the Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Rayment for his feedback. (**Action Clerk**)

8160.2 Other Planning Matters:

8160.2.1 Solar Farm

Nothing to report.

8160.2.2 Land Off Flitwick Road

Nothing to report.

8160.2.3 West View Farm, Park Road

Nothing to report.

**8161 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives/Reports**

Village Hall – work will start on insulating and the roof repairs of the 2 cupboards in the hall.

**8162 General correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

**8163 Date of next meeting: Annual Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 14th May at 7.00pm**

**In the Village Hall**

**Annual Meeting of the Parish**

**Wednesday 14th May at 8.00pm**

**In the Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Approved: ………………………………………………. Date: ……………………………………………………….