

**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 13th November 2024 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall, Westoning**

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

Cllr N McLoughlin, Cllr Y Omishore, Cllr E Russell, Cllr A Rayment,

CBC Cllr J Jamieson

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

8 members of the public were present and Reverend Mark Edwards

Agenda published on the noticeboard and on the website

**8064 Apologies for absence** – Cllr C Luff, Cllr P Kelly

**Absent** (no apologies given) – None

**8065 Resignation**

The Chairman reported that Cllr Bhasin had resigned with immediate effect. The Parish Council were saddened to hear this and expressed their thanks to Cllr Bhasin for all her hard work and dedication during her time with the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed for flowers to be given to Cllr Bhasin. The Clerk to inform CBC of the vacancy. (**Action Clerk**)

**8066 Election of Vice Chairman**

The Chairman proposed, seconded by Cllr Russell that Cllr Rogerson take up the position of Vice Chairman, agreed by all present. Cllr Rogerson accepted the position.

**8067 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2024 were approved. Cllr Rogerson proposed, seconded by Cllr Russell the approval of the minutes as a true record. All agreed by those present and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**8068 Declaration of interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**8069 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**8070 Public Participation**

Two Trustees from the Village Hall Committee attended the meeting. The Committee are concerned about the recent rainfall and the effect that this has had on the Village Hall floor. The Village Hall was completely surrounded by flood water and the water entered through the air bricks and under the floor. This has caused the wooden floorboards to bow. The Committee are looking at what can be done to mitigate this happening again and are looking at drawing up a Community Flood Plan and asked the Parish Council if they would be involved. The drains around the hall are blocked and CBC have now included Westoning as a ‘high risk’ area. CBC Cllr Jamieson said that the drains were not able to cope with such a large amount of water and asked the Trustees to let him know the details of the damage so that he can speak to CBC.

Residents in attendance expressed their concern about a burger van outside the Recreation Club. The van has been there for several weeks and is a fire hazard as it is near to residential properties. There is also a problem with food smells coming from the van. Concern was expressed over whether a licence is required and whether consent has been sought from the Parish Council. See Point 8074.2.

A resident expressed their concern about difficulty with vision along the road when pulling out of Sampshill Road due to vehicles parked in the layby.

Reverend Mark Edwards attended the meeting and said that he has now been in the village for 6 months and looks forward to becoming more involved in village life.

**8071 Reports and representations**

CBC Cllr Jamieson gave a report:

Flooding - CBC Cllr Jamieson to find out when the drains around the Village Hall were last cleared and what is the current programme of cleaning.

Road closure – the new housing development on Flitwick Road needs to be connected to the sewars and this will involve a significant road closure between Westoning and Flitwick. This is due to take place either during half term in the new year or at Easter.

CBC budget – the budget is in disarray and significant savings will need to be made.

**8072 Finance**

8072.1 Bank balances and finance report:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Account** | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 74,616.02 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 68,360.63 |
| **TOTAL** | 142,976.65 |

8072.2 Cllr Russell proposed, seconded by Cllr Rayment the approval of the following payments, agreed by all Cllrs present:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment Method** | **Payee** | **£** |
| Transfer | Clerk – salary Nov | 560.23 |
| Transfer | Clerk – expenses Nov | 43.30 |
| Chq | HMRC – Clerk tax | 16.60 |
| Transfer | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – Inv 025450 village grass | 571.20 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – Inv 025499 village grass | 571.20 |
| Transfer | J Dennis Garden Maint - cut Rec Ground – Inv 8 | 390.00 |
| Transfer | Westoning Village Hall – hire Nov | 19.50 |
| Transfer | Anglian Water – water bill | 89.58 |
| Transfer | Panel Warehouse – noticeboard | 490.80 |
| Transfer | E Bhasin – reimburse for printing | 78.17 |
| Transfer | T Frith – planters etc | 315.39 |
| Transfer | Anglian Water – water bill cemetery | 20.45 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **3,441.42** |

8072.3 Other finance matters:

8072.3.1 Budget/Precept 2025/26

A finance meeting to be held on Thursday 5th December at 10am in the Chequers meeting room for those that can attend. The Clerk to draw up a budget and circulate prior to the meeting. (**Action Clerk**)

**8073 Highways**

8073.1 Footpaths/Highways Issues

* Layby on A5120 – the Clerk said that she has had some feedback from a resident. Although there have been frequent dangers with the junction of the High Street and Sampshill Road, removing the layby should not be necessary and in their opinion the solution would be to restrict the layby to cars only and the installation of ANPR. The Parish Council agreed that this would be difficult to monitor and costly if an ANPR camera was to be installed. For further discussion.

**8074 Recreation Ground**

8074.1 Recreation Club Licence

The Clerk to look through old minutes around 2010 to 2012 to ascertain if there was anything minuted with regard to a one year rolling lease. The Chairman to speak to the Recreation Club Chairman, Derek Geraghty to see if he has any paperwork relating to the agreement. (**Action Chairman/Clerk**)

8074.2 Food Van

Cllr Rayment said that it is not thought that the Recreation Club are in contravention of their lease. The Chairman said that she understood that this is only used for special occasions and she will ask the Recreation Club to move it to a more appropriate area. The Clerk was asked to contact CBC to check whether a licence is required by the Recreation Club and a food hygiene certificate. (**Action Clerk**)

8074.3 Recreation Ground Grass Cutting

The Clerk reported that the Football Club has requested that the 20 annual cuts of the grass be spread across the year rather than be allocated to specific months. The Parish Council agreed to this change. The Parish Council also agreed that an additional cut can be done during November if required.

**8075 Village Matters**

8075.1 Burial Ground

Nothing to report.

* 1. Defibrillator training

Cllr McLoughlin said that 2 training sessions have been delivered so far.

* 1. New noticeboard

The Chairman reported that the new noticeboard has been delivered and is now in place and looks very smart. Cllr Rayment agreed to look at the old noticeboard to see if a new door can be fitted. (**Action Cllr Rayment**)

8075.4 Allotments

Cllr Ellis said that there are still 12 vacant plots but there are 2 interested parties. The available plots need rotavating and consideration could be given to giving these plots free of charge for a year.

8075.5 Christmas Event  
Cllr McLoughlin said that Dycol will be delivering the Christmas tree on 15th November and she will ask if they can help to put the tree up. The preparations are going well.

8075.6 Flagpole

Nothing to report.

8075.7 Youth events

Nothing to report.

8075.8 Brick Wall damage

The Parish Council noted that the wall near to the school had been knocked down and as it was dangerous, a repair had been arranged at a cost of £850 which includes labour, materials and waste removal. The Parish Council resolved to accept the cost.

The Parish Council agreed to be more mindful of potentially hazardous areas when carrying out the annual village walk.

**8076** **Play Area**

The Clerk was asked to remind the grass cutting Contractor if they could make sure the play area

gates behind the goal posts are closed after cutting the grass as they have been left open.

(**Action Clerk**)

**8077 Planning**

8077.1 Planning applications:

8077.1.1 CB/24/02589/FULL - 11 Manor Gardens - Single storey side/rear and first floor rear extensions. Erection of new front porch extension. The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

8077.1.2 CB/24/02825/FULL - Land Clayhill Farm, Greenfield Road - Proposed development of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) including ancillary works.

CB/24/02938/FULL - Land North Of Clayhill Farm, Greenfield Road - Installation and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with associated ancillary infrastructure, access, landscaping and a 2.4m palisade fence boundary treatment.

The Parish Council has no objection to the application but comment that the fence should be in an appropriate and sympathetic colour to blend in with the surroundings.

8077.1.3 CB/24/03137/FULL - Tithe House, Tyburn Lane - Demolition of existing garage and outbuilding. Erection of a two storey side and rear extension and single storey rear extension. Front dormer and rear rooflights.

The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

8077.1.4 13/2024 – Tree Preservation Order – Land in front of 43 Church House, Church Road. Noted by the Parish Council.

8077.2 Other Planning Matters:

8077.2.1 Solar Farm

Nothing to report.

8077.2.2 Land Off Flitwick Road

Nothing to report.

8077.2.3 West View Farm, Park Road

Nothing to report.

**8078 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives/Reports**

Nothing to report.

**8079 General correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

**8080 Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

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