

Weedon Parish Council

Clerk to the Council Mrs Ruth Millard

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Weedon Parish Council held in The Old Schoolroom on Wednesday 20th May 2015 at 8.00pm

Open Forum Adjournment

Stephen Sidebotham said that his wife Peggy sent her apologies as she had been held up and would be late. He thanked the Parish Council for replacing the stiles with gates. He asked about the number of cuts BCC were doing to the verges in the village. He queried that they seemed to be strimming with no clear up procedure afterwards. He was concerned about the effect this could have on the Best Kept Village competition in June.

Cllr JR replied that BCC would do 6 urban cuts and only 2 rural cuts this year.

Ralph Followell gave his support to the Parish Council but noted that the ditches at the bottom of Cooks Hill are in a dreadful state.

Cllr JR said that the Parish Council would report it to the local area technician.

District and County Cllrs Reports

Cllr Netta Glover said she was impressed by the very positive reports, at the Annual Parish Meeting, given by the various groups and associations in the village. She reported that AVDC had won the Council of the Year award. She gave her report, please see attached at Appendix 1.

30/15 Attendance and apologies

Apologies: Cllr Tom Jameson-Evans, District Cllr Ashley Bond

Present Cllr Joanna Rose, Cllr Wendy Kett, Cllr Justin Sellers, Cllr Mark Talbott, Cllr Nigel Winnett, Cllr Stephen Gradley, **Clerk** Ruth Millard. **County Cllr** Netta Glover,

Public: 9

31/15 Members' Interests; Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Weedon Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

Cllr Wendy Kett declared a DPI to 45/15 as the planning application was for her home.

32/15 Councillors to fill in Declarations of Acceptance of Office. The six Councillors attending filled in their acceptance of Office.

Resolved; that Cllr Tom Jameson-Evans be given leave to complete his declaration at the next meeting.

33/15 Election of the Chairman; Cllr WK proposed Cllr JR, Cllr JS seconded the proposal.

Resolved; that Cllr Joanna Rose is elected Chairman.

34/15 Election of the Vice Chairman; Cllr NW proposed Cllr JS, Cllr MT seconded the proposal

Resolved; that Cllr Justin Sellers is elected Vice Chairman.

35/15 Approval of Minutes; To agree the minutes from the General Meeting held on 18th March 2015.

Resolved; the minutes of the General meeting held on 18th March 2015 are approved and are signed as a true record of the meeting.

36/15 To arrange a meeting to review and adopt Financial Regulations 2014 and Risk Assessment 2015.

Resolved; to hold a meeting on the 2nd June 2015 to discuss and adopt the Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment.

37/15 Review and adoption of **standing orders** 2014

Resolved; that Standing Orders 2014 is up to date and relevant.

38/15 Review of **inventory of land and assets** including buildings and office equipment.

Resolved; that the inventory of land and assets is up to date with the addition, this year, of the picnic benches and the defibrillator.

39/15 Insurance cover in respect of all insured risks. The Parish Council had received quotes from Aon/Maven for £1252.92 and Zurich for £675.73 reducing to £622.73 for a 3 year Long Term Agreement.

Resolved; to accept the quote from Zurich for a 3 year long term agreement and to obtain a quote for adding the War Memorial

40/15 Review of the council's **complaints procedure**

Resolved; that the Council's complaint procedure is up to date and relevant.

41/15 Review of the council's procedures for handling requests made under the **Freedom of Information Act 2000** and the **Data Protection Act 1998**;

Resolved; that the procedure for handling Freedom of Information requests is up to date and relevant.

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- 42/15** Determining the **time and place of ordinary meetings** of the full council up to and including the next annual meeting of full council.
Resolved; that regular meetings should be held at 8.00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of odd months. May, July and September in the Chapel and November, January and March in the Old Schoolroom.
- 43/15** **Annual Return;** Section 1 – Accounting statements 2014/15. The Parish Council considered the documents for the Annual Return.
Resolved; to sign off section 1 of the Annual Return
- 44/15** **Annual Return;** Section 2 – Annual governance statement 2014/15. Cllr JR read through each statement on section 2
Resolved; to sign off section 2 of the Annual Return.
- 45/15** **Planning;**
a) **15/01472/APP** – 34 East End Weedon Bucks HP22 4NJ Single storey side and rear extension and front porch
Cllr WK removed herself from the meeting, to the floor of the meeting room. The Parish Council discussed the application and **Resolved;** No Objection.
- 46/15** **Environment.**
a **Footpaths, Footways and Highways,**
i. **Stiles to Kissing Gates.** 9 gates have replaced stiles; 3 on John Chapman's field on Aston Abbotts Rd, 2 on Manor Fields, 2 on Stockaway, 1 Footpath 12 and 1 on Kirby's Field. The gate at the other end of Kirby's Field had been renewed. Cllr WK confirmed that Bucks CC had carried out the work at their cost.
Resolved; that Cllr WK will contact John Woodfield and John Chapman regarding additional changes of stiles to gates on their land.
ii. **Speed Control** in Weedon. Cllr MT reported that the 2 MVAS have been delivered along with the posts and other incidentals. The Council is waiting for the ground screws to be fitted and notice of when the training will take place. The Parish Council still has to agree a Risk Assessment and positioning rota for the MVAS.
- b **Street Lighting;** to ratify changing the electricity supplier and pay by direct debit.
E.on had informed the Parish Council of an increase in its charges. Quotes had been circulated from 2 other suppliers, Opus and Green Energy On the walkabout with the local area technician it had been noted that some of the telegraph poles and lighting poles in the village were becoming very overgrown with ivy. A quote to convert the SON lamps to LED lights was being sought.
Resolved; Cllr JR would take photographs of the poles and forward to the Clerk to use to ascertain whose responsibility it was to clear the poles of the ivy.
Resolved; to ratify the decision made between meetings to accept the Opus quote and pay by direct debit.
- c **Play Area:** Green Thumb had sent the option to pay their invoices by direct debit; in return the costs would stay at the 2014 prices.
Resolved; to pay Green Thumb by Direct Debit.
- d To ratify the refurbishment of the metal seat outside the Old Schoolroom;
Resolved; to ratify the Parish Council's decision to refurbish the metal seat outside the Old Schoolroom.
- e **Pond, Grass, Hedges and Verges.** With regards to the Pond, when Cllr TJ-E showed Steve Richards the quotes to refurbish the pond, Steve wanted to use hardwood/chestnut. Cllr TJ-E requested an amended quote for hardwood. Cllr T J-E still needed to show Steve the duck houses that the Parish Council had chosen for his confirmation.
Resolved; To await re-quote from Ed Davis, show it and the duck house designs to Steve Richards, clarifying his contribution to the costs, and re-submit to the Council
- f **Chapel graveyard.** Cllr JR reported that the 99 year lease had been signed so that its continued use as a graveyard was guaranteed for that period with the Parish Council responsible for maintenance.
- g **Best Kept Village** competition. Cllr JR reported that the PC's application had been sent in. She has had offers of help from residents to wash gates & mow around the gates etc.
- 47/15** **Correspondence and other communications including reports on Local Area Forum and training courses.** Nothing to report.

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48/15 Communications

- a Website. All is working well.
- b Parish magazine article for July
Resolved: to put in a notice about the July meeting date.
- c Parish Council newsletter. Cllr JR produced a draft of an A4 newsletter she had been working on. She would forward the draft electronically to the Councillors for their input.
- d Update the contact details
Resolved: to have email address & phone numbers on the noticeboard as before but only to have telephone numbers on the website.

49/15 Finance & Accounts

- a To draw cheques and ratify cheques drawn since the last meeting.

Resolved: to ratify payments made in March, April & May 2015 and pay the invoices received for May.

Payee	Power	Cheque	Amount
Parish Online	LGA 1972, s111	1269	33.60
Lynch Garden Services	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19	1270	95.00
Best Kept Village Competition 2015	LGA 1972, s137	1271	15.00
Hardwick Parochial Church Council	LGA 1972, s137	1272	200.00
Community Impact Bucks	LGA 1972, s137	1273	50.00
Green Thumb, Spring Treatment	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19	1274	48.00
BMKALC, 2014/15 Subscription	LGA 1972, s143	1275	66.60
Lynch Garden Services	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19	1276	225.00
Joanna Rose, Duck food	LGA 1972, s137	1277	52.69
Mike Moore, Duck food	LGA 1972, s137	1278	52.69
ER Millard, April 2015 Remunerations	LGA 1972, s112	1279	CONFIDENTIAL
Sign Wizzard – Pond & Duck warning	Highways Act 1980, s130	1280	54.00

Payee	Power	Cheque	Amount
E.on, invoice 1 st April 2015	LGA 1972 s14 para 27	DD	68.73
E.on, invoice 1 st May 2015	LGA 1972 s14 para 27	DD	66.52
Lynch Garden Services	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19	1281	100.00
Winslow Community Bus	LGA 1972, s137	1282	100.00
Ben Tripkovic, painting the metal bench	Parish Councils Act 1957, s1	1283	77.99
GJ Millard, 2 x Notice boards	LGA 1982, s142	1284	290.99
Sign Wizzard, Road Calming	LG&Rating Act 1997 s26	1285	31.92

- b Complete the Bank Mandate; this item would be deferred until the next meeting.
- c **Resolved** to ratify the decision to accept the proposal to increase Mr Chapman's rent from £50 to £85
- d Review provisional 2015/16 budget in light of final accounts. The balance carried forward is £27,060
Resolved: to ring-fence;
 - £5000 towards converting the street lamps to LED lighting.
 - £2000 toward refurbishing the Pond.
 - £300 for new notice boards.
 - £300 towards the new footpath gates.
 - £3500 towards 2 MVAS.
 - £2000 towards set up cost for the Chapel graveyard.
 - The remainder is General Reserves.

The meeting closed at 10.40 pm.

Chairman's Signature Date.....

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Appendix 1.

Netta Glover May Report

Council of the Year Award won by Aylesbury Vale District Council AVDC was a clear winner.

200 applicants regularly enter this competition. It has been running for a number of years with standards getting higher every time. The aim is to improve services and reduce costs – it is about transformation and trying new ways of delivering services. Lessons are being learned from AVDC by other councils in an attempt to help them transform their own services. We get regular thanks and appreciation from those councils who consult us.

University Campus Aylesbury Vale

<http://www.ucav.ac.uk/newsletter-sign-up/> Might be worth looking at. You can sign up for newsletters for school and careers advisers. Some of Aston Abbots parents might be interested.

Old County Hall: As part of the strategy of working with AVDC to revitalise the centre of Aylesbury BCC have been refurbishing Old County Hall. It will provide both attractive Function Rooms plus a Spa in the old cells!. At night Old County Hall will be floodlit to make the town centre a more attractive place to visit for eating and entertainment.

Roads: Yesterday afternoon Bucks County Council leader announced that he is allocating £3 million for road patching most of which will be directed towards the rural areas. A lot of money has been spent in recent years something like 70 million with the majority of it going to the urban areas. However don't get too excited programming the order in which the roads will be done will take some time to organise and it'll probably be next spring or early summer before we know which roads will be done.

Planning Controls: Early indications from government are that they are likely to relax planning controls and a course this will bring in a lot more applications. Developers are hoovering up our planning officers so is going to be very difficult to keep up with all the extra work if we lose any more officers.

Foster parents: we have 430 looked after children in Buckinghamshire who need a foster parent. There are many wonderful caring residents in our midst who would be perfect foster carers and if you think that you would like to take on this role there is good training and a good allowance. Website:

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/social-care/children-and-families/fostering/becoming-a-foster-carer/>

Children's services: you may remember that we got an inadequate adequate report. After a great deal of work and reorganisation the Department for education say that Buckinghamshire's children's services do not need any further government intervention and that the county council is capable of leading its own improvement programme. An independent person is to be appointed to replace the chief executive as chair of the children's

TRI County Initiative: The County Council continues to work with colleagues in Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire to explore the opportunities and potential benefits of a co-ordinated approach to the strategic planning and delivery. Discussions, are taking place to look at how to develop an integrated approach to the planning and delivery of strategic investment in transport infrastructure, digital infrastructure, economic development and skills development. The aim is to explore a way to secure genuine devolution of powers, funding and accountability from Whitehall in the way that is being considered for Greater Manchester. Working together the three counties will form a unit as large as Greater Manchester which is expected to gain large devolved powers from Westminster. Set against this the fact that the three counties contribute more to the national economy than Greater Manchester. We should stand a good

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chance of success in this initiative. Discussion will continue with whoever is in power after the election. I stress that we are not talking about forming a unitary authority.

Trading Company: At a recent council meeting members approved the establishment of a wholly owned company to sell consultancy services to non-public bodies. The initial focus would concentrate on selling energy and sustainability services to the private sector but there is potential, in the future, to extend to other services. There is potential to generate income in the energy management market following recent law changes. All businesses with a turnover of more than £39 million or employing more than 250 staff now have to comply with the Energy Savings Opportunities Scheme (ESOS), which involves an audit every four years of energy and transport issues, or face a fine of up to £50,000. Thank you Europoe!!!

Nearly 170 businesses in Buckinghamshire will require ESOS certification. The council is well placed to offer independent specialist advice to these businesses following its successful efforts in reducing its own carbon emissions and having a fully qualified member of staff to carry out the certification process. The new company is part of a wider strategy to tackle central government cuts. AVDC, like other local authorities across the country, has faced unprecedented funding reductions over the past five years, which have created significant pressures on budgets and services. Since 2010, AV DC has saved more than £10.5 million through a number of measures and efficiencies