

Weedon Parish Council Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 15 November 2022 7.30pm

Minutes of a General Meeting of Weedon Parish Council held in The Old Schoolroom Tuesday 15 November 2022 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Rose (Chair), W Kett, D Atkins, S Gibbs, T Jameson-Evans

Clerk: Ruth Millard

Members of the Public: Buckinghamshire Cllrs P Cooper, D Blamires, A Bond

68/22 Apologies and Members' Interests

Members received and accepted apologies for absence from Cllrs G Delaney and P Gupta.

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 SG declared an interest in 74/22 (i).

69/22 Open Forum

Reports were received from the Buckinghamshire Councillors. Cllr JR thanked them for attending.

70/22 Approval of Minutes

Members agreed the minutes from the Interim Meeting 27 October 2022. Cllr JR signed the minutes.

71/22 Finance and Accounts

a. Payments. Noted for this meeting and those made between meetings. Councillors initialled the invoices.

OCTOBER			
Sarah Gibbs, Reimbursement expenses for BKV lunch	LGA 1972, s137	BP 347	35.14
ER Millard, 01.04.22-30.09.22 Allowances & Mileage	LGA 1972, s111	BP 348	316.85
Graham Delaney, expenses for refreshments for Volunteers painting Gates	Local Gov. & Rating Act 1997, s26	BP 349	21.00
Wendy Kett, Reimbursement expenses for BKV lunch	LGA 1972, s137	BP 350	12.58
Buckland Landscapes Ltd, inv, 45786	LG(misc Prov)A 1976, s19	BP 351	757.20
The Old Schoolrooms, Sept invoice 6951	LG(misc Prov)A 1976, s19	BP 352	29.25
Joanna Rose, ancillary expenses regarding the Pond	LG(misc Prov)A 1976, s19	BP 353	99.00
Parish Online, invoice 11UB096-0007	LGA 1972, s111	BP 354	45.00
Steven Richards, Duck Food, invoice SI-26753	LGA 1972, s137	BP 355	86.43
Greenbarnes Ltd, invoice 17047	LGA 1982, s142	BP 356	360.00
ER Millard, October Salary	LGA 1972, s112	BP 357	336.70
NOVEMBER			
Buckland Landscapes Ltd, invoice 46072	LG(misc Prov)A 1976, s19	BP 358	757.20
The Old Schoolroom, invoice 6964		BP 359	4.00
G Millard, To examine the bucket seat, repair & paint metal seat o/s Schoolroom & wooden seat o/s Park	LG(misc Prov)A 1976, s19	BP 360	209.99

b. Accounts. The members agreed statement of accounts and bank reconciliation for end October 2022.

c. Pre Budget discussion on spending in 2023 for capital items. Bike rack provision – further work will be done on a feasibility study.

d. Clerk Annual Review. Cllr JR gave a summary of the Annual Review of the Clerk's working practice, carried out early in November. Amendments to update the job description and role requirements have been made to the appendix attached to her Contract of Employment and this document would be circulated to all councillors. Members noted the additional annual leave adjustment of one day on NJC contracts from April 2023 taking the total number of statutory leave days from 22 to 23 days, with an additional three days for those with five years' service (pro-rated according to days/hours worked).

e. 2022-23 National Salary award. To note, backdated to April 2022. The Clerk left the room. Members RESOLVED that in addition to the Salary award backdated to April, the Clerk would be put up to SCP level 18 (currently SCP17) from November 2022.

f. Scribe Accounts package. Members discussed the package and RESOLVED to purchase it.

72/22 Governance and Accountability

To consider the merit of adopting the model Councillor-Officer Protocol following new NALC templates. The members RESOLVED not to adopt the model protocol, as they considered the already adopted Code of Conduct was sufficient currently. Whether to adopt this in future would be considered at the Annual Meeting, along with the other statutory policies and procedures.

73/22 Planning

No new applications. Members discussed 21/02489/APP, which has been granted at appeal, and agreed that a meeting should be arranged with the applicants to discuss arrangements for the provision of the wildlife amenity space and public park bench.

74/22 Environment

a. Footpaths, Footways and Highways, including

i. Speed Control. MVAS, SpeedWatch. Update. The Members considered having a feasibility study on Aston Abbotts Road to get vehicle speed compliance statistics. Cllr JR will ascertain if the Community Board would support the Parish Council with a grant. The MVAS data should be made available for the January general meeting. The Members considered and RESOLVED a payment of £100 p.a. for equipment storage in the Chapel. To be reviewed each year.

ii. Footpaths inc gates, signs. Update re conversion of footpath stiles. The Members agreed to leave Fields Farm one and convert 2 others on Chapman land. Cllr WK had contacted rRIPPLE to confirm the cost of 2 metal kissing gates (£500 each) and Members RESOLVED to go ahead if the landowners agreed.

iii. Dog bins. Update on new bin for Aston Abbotts Road. The officers at Street Scene have given the month of December to do the fitting.

iv. Transport for Bucks. Update. The owners of Hinton House have acknowledged responsibility for the poplar tree on their property boundary and its removal will be at the owners' cost.

Cllr JR would summarise any outstanding TfB works that had been previously discussed with the Local Area Technician and send them over to him, copying Bucks Cllr Peter Cooper.

v. Devolved services. Members noted that Buckinghamshire was proposing a 1-year extension and RESOLVED to continue the contract.

b. Street lighting. Nothing to report.

c. Park and Play Area

i. Inspections. Members discussed the quote of £200, received from RPM Ltd, to strip down, remove chain covers and check shackles and bushes for wear, and RESOLVED to accept it.

Update on gatepost repair. Cllr JR reported that the PC was still waiting for additional quotes, as the appointed contractor had been unresponsive after having been awarded the work. Action: Clerk to send contact details of a contractor Adstock PC have used.

ii. Horticultural. Update. The contractor has promised to finish the outstanding items on the contract next week.

iii. Parish Noticeboard. Update on repair. The new section of board had been delivered and the contractor has said that the work would be done on Monday 21st November.

d. Pond, Grass, Hedges and Verges inc wildflower verges, village tidiness/litter, overhanging hedges/trees, horticultural works, WWG board

i. Pond. Metallised post protector wrap has been purchased to be used as needed. New hardwood posts are being sourced for future replacement of existing posts when they become rotten. Noted that the pond was filling up well after the dredging.

ii. Overhanging hedges/trees. Update on 8 New Road. Some flailing has been done by the residents but not to a satisfactory finish. Members agreed to show the residents the quote that the PC had obtained and request that the residents follow it up, to get a more efficient conclusion. Various other overhanging trees and hedges in the village seem to have all been cut back sufficiently.

iii. Verges. To review the season and note any amendments to specification for 23-24 contract. ACTION: Cllr JR will produce the 23-24 contract and circulate for comment.

e. Management of Weedon Graveyard

i. *Horticultural.* Discussion of how to cope with the spoil from a dug grave. The Graveyard Regulations have been amended so that it is the responsibility of the owner of the EROB to pay for the removal of the spoil, when a grave is dug. Funeral directors would be notified of this changed requirement when applying to carry out an interment.

ii. *Administration.* Consideration of Risk Assessment for the Graveyard. *Defer until the January meeting.*

iii. Signature for the EROB for Sandra Woolnough was signed by the Chair & Clerk. ACTION: Cllr WK will deliver to the owner.

iv. Graveyard works proposals for path and rear area, still waiting for quotes. Works may need to be deferred until next year. The neighbouring landowner has agreed in principle that the existing soil/earth mound behind the conifers will be spread on his field. *Subsequent to meeting, other potential contractors have been identified by Community Board Co-ordinator and details will be passed on. The project was potentially suitable for a grant application to the WICB.*

v. TPO Beech Tree overhanging neighbour. The PC has permission to cut the overhang back by 2 metres. The neighbour wants it to be cut back by 3 metres, but has not supplied requested documentary evidence from their insurers to justify this. ACTION: Cllr JR will try to resolve the situation.

f. New capital projects Update on feasibility study of bike rack provision. *Defer until the January meeting.*

75/22 Correspondence and Communications

a. Website. Inc govt WCAG (Website Content Accessibility Guidelines). Nothing to report.

b. Community Board. A meeting with the Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board Co-ordinator, Cllr JR and R Millard, for a walkabout, had been arranged for 16/11/2022.

76/22 Appointments

i. The Members considered and agreed the re-appointment of J Sellers in Jan 2023 and G Anson in March 2023 as trustees to Lord Fortescue’s Charity.

ii. The Members considered and agreed the re-appointment of J Sellers in Jan 2023 and J Rose in June 2023 as trustees to the Dr John Bridle’s Charity.

77/22 Date of next meeting The Members agreed the date of the next general meeting Tuesday 24 January 2023.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Chair Signature

Date.....

Minutes prepared by
Ruth Millard 15/11/2022