

Weedon Parish Council Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 19 September 2023 7.30pm

Minutes of a General Meeting of Weedon Parish Council held in The Old Schoolroom Tuesday 19 September 2023 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Rose (Chair), G Delaney, S Gibbs, P Gupta,

Clerk: Ruth Millard

Members of the Public: Bucks Council councillors A Bond and D Blamires, M Palmer (applicant for 65/23 b), PC Lee Turnham (Thames Valley Community Speedwatch Coordinator)

62/23 Public Open Forum

The Bucks councillors gave their reports and answered questions from the members.

PC Turnham presented an update on Community Speedwatch in the area, with particular emphasis on Weedon, and answered questions from Members. More details are given under item 67/23 a.i. below.

63/23 Apologies and Members' Interests

Members received and accepted apologies for absence from Cllrs T Jameson-Evans, W Kett, D Atkins, Bucks Cllr Peter Cooper.

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. No Members' interests declared.

64/23 Approval of Minutes

Members agreed the minutes from the general meeting of 18 July 2023 as an accurate account. The Chair signed the minutes.

65/23 Planning

- a. **23/02723/HPDE** An extension under the Householder Permitted Development rules, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 3.5m for which the maximum height would be 3.9m and for which the height of the eaves would be maximum 2.4m / 95 Aston Abbots Road Weedon HP22 4NH

Members noted the permitted development application and that the Parish Council would not be consulted unless the immediate neighbours objected within their required notice period.

- b. Update on OS 7009 Aston Abbots Road remaining gap land (wildlife amenity space and public park bench)

Matt Palmer gave an update on the progress of the building development at 50 Aston Abbots Road and answered questions from the Councillors.

Cllr SG updated members on the status of the gap land discussions with Mr RB, the owner of Turpins Orchard. Draft Heads of Terms were nearing completion for the freehold land transfer to Weedon PC, immediately followed by a long leaseback to RB on a full repairing and maintaining lease. Cllr SG confirmed that the conservation of the public views was paramount in the agreements. Final drafts will be put to the Parish Council for approval as soon as agreed by RB.

Design and exact siting of a new bench on the Parish Council retained area and the moving of the litter bin need to be discussed by the PC.

66/23 Finance and Accounts

- a. Payments. Members noted invoices to be paid and payments made between meetings.
- b. Accounts. Members agreed statement of accounts and bank reconciliation for end August 2023.

67/23 Environment

a. Footpaths, Footways and Highways

i. Speed Control

Speedwatch. Regular sessions have been continuing. PC LT reported that the statistics showed a small reduction in the percentage of drivers being recorded as speeding over the 36mph cutoff, since Speedwatch began in Weedon. The data entry process was confirmed by LT as being still a manual one, carried out by volunteers. There had been some volunteer shortages, leading to a delay in the letters going out, but this was now back on track. Various strategies for the timing of sessions were suggested, including a concentrated week-long campaign with sessions every day. PC LT will arrange a visit by the roads policing unit's mobile van within the next few months. Locations would have to be formally approved. **Action:** Continue sessions and try to recruit more volunteers. SG to research locations for the speed gun vehicle to be situated off-road.

Upgrade MVAS. Members discussed purchasing one or two permanent solar-powered SIDs with set red and green displays for the speed of the vehicle. **Action:** GD will get 2/3 quotes and circulate to the members.

Speed strip. Members discussed installing the Archers strips across village routes (tubes which record volume of traffic). However, it was decided to examine the records from the MVAS for similar data. **Action:** JR to liaise with MT and download data.

ii. Litter, Dog and Grit bins. All in good repair and waste collections are being done as scheduled. The notice on the litter bin at the gap giving the dog bin location at the park should be removed as the new AA Road dog bin is now very close by. The litter bin at the gap land bench area will ultimately need to be relocated.

iii. Best Kept Village. Members were very pleased to hear that Weedon village has won the Tindall Cup. There would be a presentation Saturday 23 September. Members discussed a potential location for the cup to be displayed, but it was agreed there was no suitable safe place. Therefore, it will be stored in the Chapel safe.

iv. Footpaths inc gates, signs. The £1,000 grant for the 2 gates has been received from the Community Board.

Footpath 12. Members noted that 2 ash trees on Footpath 12 are dropping debris on the footpath. Tree surgeons will be asked to look at them on their site visit for the Park and advise on any action required. Further research needs to be done to establish ownership of these trees. **Action:** Clerk to contact Bucks Council.

iv. Bucks Highways. No update from Highways on replacing the Northcroft street name sign or the village entrance gate. Bucks councillors recommended the use of "one.network" for getting pre-alerts for roadworks in the village. **Action:** JR will contact the LAT.

b. Street lighting. All in order.

c. Park and Play Area

i. Inspections and works arising. Works to be done following annual ROSPA inspection. G Millard has been working through the list of the work to be done.

ii. Horticultural. Members agreed to review the Park trees with South Bucks Tree Surgeons to ensure clearance over play equipment and open area and to obtain a further quote for works. **Action:** JR and WK to schedule a site visit.

The high hedge behind the climber challenge equipment needs to be cut back further to ensure clearance from the wire and platforms. **Action:** JR to brief Buckland before the October cut.

iii. Christmas decorations. Members agreed to purchase a Christmas tree from last year's supplier, and to request a Best Grade one. The lights were sufficient, giving a good display. **Action:** RM to place order. GD and PW will erect as before.

d. Pond, Grass, Hedges and Verges

Overhanging issues

i. 8 New Road (hedge/ditch/verge) SG is liaising with the owner, who has still failed to do any work, despite several informal discussions and letters. If actions are not taken satisfactorily by October, then statutory notices will be served.

ii. White Beam House. The hedge on to New Road is increasingly hanging over the verge. **Action:** SG will prepare a letter to be sent by the Clerk, requesting it to be cut back.

Cooks Hill wildflower verge. It was noted that this wildflower verge had not taken well. Members will set up a working party to consult with neighbours and horticultural contractor re reseeding or variation in management.

Fortescue Track. Members noted that trees on the Fortescue track are becoming prone to branches falling. Tree surgeons will be asked to look at them on their site visit for the Park and advise the owner (Wheatsheaf) on any action required.

e. Capital Projects/Exceptional Expenditure. No new projects.

68/23 Weedon Graveyard Management inc horticultural, administration, applications for memorials/EROBs

a. Administration: SG will present a review and proposal for procedure regarding graveyard deposits made before WPC lease at the next meeting. **Action:** SG

b. Horticultural: The members agreed to accept the quote from George Cheshire to remove the spoil from grave digging at the rear of the graveyard, having requested several quotes from other contractors and had no replies.

Tree surgeons will be asked to look at the larger trees overhanging the graveyard on their site visit for the Park and advise the PC on works required.

69/23 Correspondence and Communications

Website - all up to date. *Community Board* - JR is continuing to attend the meetings. *Newsletters* - JR has circulated the annual newsletter for members' comments. **Action:** JR to arrange printing and distribution after final approval.

70/23 Date of next meeting Tuesday 21 November 2023

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Chair Signature

Date.....

Minutes prepared by *Ruth Millard* 17/10/2023