

# Weedon Parish Council Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 21 November 2023 7.30pm

Minutes of a General Meeting of Weedon Parish Council held in The Old Schoolroom Tuesday 21 November 2023 7.30pm

**Present: Cllrs J Rose (Chair), G Delaney, S Gibbs, T Jameson-Evans, W Kett**

**Clerk: Ruth Millard**

**Members of the Public: R Bates**

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## 71/23 Public Open Forum

RB updated Members on progress with the gap land (see 74/23).

## 72/23 Apologies and Members' Interests

Members received and accepted apologies for absence from Cllrs D Atkins, P Gupta, Bucks Cllrs P Cooper, A Bond and D Blamires.

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 item 72/23 (a) as Church Steward of the Methodist Chapel.

## 73/23 Approval of Minutes

Members agreed the minutes from the general meeting of 19 September 2023 as an accurate account. The Chair signed the minutes.

## 74/23 Planning

- a. Update on OS 7009 Aston Abbotts Road gap land (wildlife amenity space and public park bench)

### *Legal and contracts*

*i.* Cllr SG reported that Heads of Terms had mostly been agreed with RB. When finished, they would be presented to the Parish Council. RB was happy with the progress, but informed that he may be changing solicitors. Final drawn plans will be provided to the Parish Council, and the matter of the exact positioning of the oak trees on the eastern boundary will be confirmed. RB was concerned that successors in title to the PC ought to have a continuing obligation to protect the land. SG reiterated that the covenants not to develop the land would sit on the freehold title and bind all subsequent freeholders, and the same covenants would oblige both Landlord and Tenant in the subsequent lease agreement.

**Action.** Members **RESOLVED** that SG would submit a request to NALC (National Association of Local Councils) for legal advice on the compliance of the proposed transaction with the local government legislative framework and any required steps or wording that ought to be considered. The request would be made through BMKALC as the PC has no direct access to the NALC legal service.

*ii.* Members discussed the additional need to protect the public views across the land of the new house being built at 50 Aston Abbotts Road (owned by MP).

**Action.** Cllr TJE will approach MP informally and liaise with SG to make proposals for legal provisions.

### *Public bench and re-siting litter bin*

*iii.* SG raised the issue of the purchase of the bench for the PC to maintain on its retained freehold land for the benefit of the community. The original proposal indicated that this would be provided by MP and RB. **Action.** Members decided to go back to MP to discuss.

Members agreed the bench should be 2 metres in length, with a back but no arms. Various options, including recycled materials, were discussed. Longevity of the materials was important, but the style must fit the site. The bench position was agreed as centralised facing over the view and the land will be built up with spoil from no. 50 to ensure people could look out over the fence. The litter bin will be moved to the corner of the PC retained land. Earthmoving would in principle be carried out by the contractors working for MP.

**Action.** Research further, discuss with MP and finalise at the next meeting.

*iv.* The issue of the ditch along the frontage was raised. This may need to be resolved before the new bench is installed.

## 75/23 Finance and Accounts

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

Business Account	30 September 2023	24,734.48
Treasurers Account	30 September 2023	1,000.00
Business Account	30 October 2023	21,773.24
Treasurers Account	30 October 2023	1,000.00

### Income September/October 2023

Business Account ....3205	05 September 2023 – Bucks Community Board	<b>1,000.00</b>
	09 September 2023 - Interest	<b>17.36</b>
	15 September 2023 – 50% Precept	<b>7,017.00</b>
	26 September 2023 – Chapman Rent	<b>46.32</b>
	09 October 2023 - Interest	<b>22.22</b>
	25 October 2023 – Woolnough Memorial	<b>120.00</b>

### Direct Debits

<b>SSE, invoices 02.08.2023-01.09.2023 Acc. for Aug 2023</b>	<b>LGA 1972, Sched. 14 para</b>	<b>DD</b>	<b>47.02</b>
<b>SSE, invoices 02.09.2023-01.10.2023 Acc. for Sep 2023</b>	<b>LGA 1972, Sched. 14 para</b>	<b>DD</b>	<b>44.31</b>

### Invoices paid online

<b>SEPTEMBER 2023</b>			
* Race Computing Solutions, inv. WPC014	LGA 1972, 111	BP 422	230.00
* Buckland Landscapes Ltd. Inv. 49030	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19 & LGA 1972, s214	BP 423	420.50
Jalexia Webprint Ltd. Annual Report	LGA 1972, s111	BP 424	109.00
<b>OCTOBER 2023</b>			
Buckland Landscapes, 49332	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19 & LGA 1972, s214	BP 425	402.50
MRA garden Services, invoice 09633	LGA 1972, s101	BP 426	205.00
The Old Schoolroom, invoice 7052	LGA 1972, s113	BP 427	20.00
Steven Richards, inv. SI-28884 Duck food	LGA 1972, s137	BP 428	85.43
Starboard Systems Ltd. Scribe acc. inv. 4573	LGA 1972, s111	BP 429	273.60
ER Millard, September 2023 Salary Month 6	LGA 1972, s112	BP 430	339.06
HMRC, Income Tax Sept 2023	LGA 1972, s112	BP 431	30.40
PKF Littlejohn LLP, Audit 2022-23	LGA 1972, s111	BP 432	252.00
Parish Online invoice 11UB096-0008	LGA 1972, s111	BP 433	45.00
ER Millard, Allowances & Expenses to Sept 2023	LGA 1972, s111	BP 434	330.60
ER Millard, October Salary 2023 Month 7	LGA 1972, s112	BP 435	339.06
HMRC, Income Tax October 2023	LGA 1972, s112	BP 436	30.40
GMT Services (Gerry M)	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19 & LGA 1972,	BP 437	706.10
<b>NOVEMBER 2023</b>			
Buckland Landscapes Ltd, invoice 49619	LG(Misc Prov)A 1976, s19 & LGA 1972, s214	BP 438	402.50
MRA garden Services, invoice 02976	LGA 1972, s101	BP 439	660.00
ER Millard, November 2023 Salary Month 8	LGA 1972, s112	BP 440	339.06
HMRC, Income Tax November 2023	LGA 1972, s112	BP 440a	30.40

- c. Pre Budget discussion on spending in 2024. With the use of an Excel sheet, JR gave a comprehensive report of the financial position of the Parish Council. She proposed the purchase of one SID (Speed indicator Device), in this financial year and then a second device in 2024, possibly with a grant applied for from the Community Board
- d. Clerk Annual Review. Noted that this has been delayed.

**Action.** JR and SG will undertake the review before the next PC meeting in January. Implementation of 2023-24 National Salary award (backdated to April 23) and any move to a new grade level will follow the review.

## 76/23 Environment

### a. Footpaths, Footways and Highways

#### i. Speed Control.

*Speedwatch.* This is continuing.

*SIDs.* Members discussed the various quotes received for SIDs (Speed indicator Devices) and agreed two of the companies, Elan City and Messagemaker, had the best options.

**Action.** GD will contact the companies to find the nearest local units that members can view in situ.

ii. *Litter, Dog and Grit bins.* All in good repair and waste collections are being done as scheduled. The litter bin in the gap area needs to be moved by a few feet (see 74/23 above).

iii. *Footpaths inc gates, signs.* Nothing to report.

iv. *Bucks Highways.* Signing up to one.network for advance notification of local road works has been useful. JR is forwarding on relevant emails to the village. *Devolved Services Horticultural Contract.* Cllrs noted they had been satisfied with the contractor's work this year. **Action.** Clerk to send out the 24/25 specification to current contractors after review by cllrs over email.

### b. Street lighting. All in good order.

### c. Park and Play Area

i. *Inspections and works arising.* GM has sent a comprehensive list of the work he has completed, plus items outstanding. GM was thanked for his initiative in finding robust solutions to some of the difficult repair jobs.

**Action.** JR to order bird spikes and replacement strimmer guards for the swing poles.

ii. *Horticultural. Tree Quotes.* Members discussed the quotes received for the park and graveyard tree work and agreed to accept South Bucks as the preferred contractor. **Action.** JR will contact them to confirm.

*Amenity areas Horticultural Contract.* Cllrs noted they had been satisfied with the contractor's work this year.

**Action.** Clerk to send out the 24/25 specification to current contractors after review by cllrs over email.

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

i. *Overhanging issues. 8 New Road (hedge/ditch/verge).* **Action.** In the absence of any work having been done by the occupier despite repeated requests, the Clerk will send out a formal notice letter under the Devolved Services Contract protocol, to be drafted by Cllr SG.

*White Beam House, New Road.* **Action.** Clerk will send a standard letter to the occupiers of White Beam House requesting cutting back on the ditch side of the fence this season.

ii. *Cooks Hill and other wildflower verges.*

Members agreed that the wildflower verge on Cooks Hill had not taken. **Action.** Cllrs will meet with neighbours to re-specify management. Aston Abbotts Road wildflower verge is the most successful wildflower verge and may be seeded again in the spring.

e. Capital Projects/Exceptional Expenditure. No new projects proposed and budget will be taken up with speed control equipment purchases.

## 77/23 Weedon Graveyard Management inc horticultural, administration, applications for memorials/EROBs

### a. Administration

i. SG presented an outline of what had happened to graveyard deposits made before WPC lease and a proposal for regularisation of the system. She then withdrew from the discussion. Members **RESOLVED** to honour the EROB reservations that had been paid for prior to the PC lease (in accordance with the lease provisions) and Weedon PC will issue the EROB certificates to the owners. No fees for the unissued EROBs will be requested of the Chapel.

ii. The members noted and agreed to the application for a headstone for George Woolnough.

### b. Horticultural

Cllrs noted they had been satisfied with the contractor's work this year. *24/25 Graveyard Horticultural Contract.*

**Action.** Clerk to send out the specification to current contractors after review by cllrs over email.

## 78/23 Correspondence and Communications inc website, Community Board, annual/other newsletters

No correspondence not covered elsewhere. The website is operating well. JR is continuing to attend Community Board meetings.

## 79/23 Appointments

The members considered and agreed to the re-appointment of J Rose in April 2024 as trustee to Lord Fortescue's Charity.

80/23 Date of next meeting      Tuesday 16 January 2024

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Chair Signature .....

Date.....

Minutes prepared by *Ruth Millard* 27/11/2023