

## WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 in the Village Hall, Weston commencing at 7.30 p.m.

#### **Present:**

Councillors: D. Chase, R. Henderson, C. Laughton, P. Laughton, M. Lowney, G. Francis

Also attending: County Councillor Laughton, District Councillor Michael

Clerk: S. Akerman

Members of the Public: 3

191001 To receive Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest  
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Saddington  
Declaration of Interest – Cllr. Lowney declared an interest in the Closed Session item

**Open Forum** – ten minutes to receive questions and comments from members of the public  
Nothing raised

191002 To accept the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record and duly signed by the Chair. Proposed by Cllr. Lowney and seconded by Cllr. P. Laughton

191003 To note and report matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda  
Cllr. Lowney asked for an update regarding the work on the parish clock and the Clerk advised that approval of the faculty request is still awaited before any work can be undertaken.

191004 To receive reports from County Council and District Council Representatives  
District Councillor Michael commented on the following:

- Newark & Sherwood have set up a fund for parishes to apply to for aid in promoting the development and delivery of projects and to contribute to a community plan, support focus groups, purchase equipment etc. The fund of £200,000 per year will run for three years from April 2020.
- A Fly-Tipping Working Group has been set up with a 12-month targeted campaign 'Not in Notts' which will include advertising, working with the Police to combat increasing fly-tipping in the area.
- A cross-council project team has been established to consider a response to climate change issues. Targets include 10,000 trees to be planted by 2023 and a free tree planting scheme is already available for residents and parishes to introduce more native specimens.

County Councillor Laughton commented on the following:

- Following a recent meeting with Robert Jenrick, Notts Police and Highways England to discuss steps that can be taken to address the issue of diesel theft on the A1, Highways England have installed signage on the A1 laybys and have agreed to look at introducing a waiting time limit on the laybys to discourage overnight parking.

191005 To receive and consider any Highways & Rights of Way issues

- Cllr. Lowney raised the issue of flooding at various locations on the Great North Road between Weston and the A1 at Carlton. Cllr. Laughton commented that this is a long-term issue especially at Sutton-on-Trent near the BT station where water is flowing in the wrong direction. To correct this would involve major work. NCC is working with the TV IDB following the floods in June 2018 and are looking at scheme to store water up catchment.
- Cllr. Lowney also raised the issue that the footpath along the Great North Road is less than 12" wide in places and difficult for pedestrians to walk along due to the urgent need of siding up. Cllr. Laughton commented that this is also a problem in Sutton-on-Trent and would take the comment away to follow up.

- A broken gate on Church Walk (Footpath 2) has been reported.

*County Cllr. Laughton left the meeting at 7.50pm*

- 191006 To consider financial matters
- To record the balance of accounts at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 - the Clerk reported a balance of £14,270.08 which includes defibrillator funds of £1,046.
  - To report receipts
    - N&SDC second tranche of precept at £2,062.50
    - Anonymous donation for a new bench at £448
  - To agree payments – None
- 191007 To consider any planning matters and receive an update on ongoing applications
- 19/01152/OUT – outline planning for the conversion & extension of existing house and erection of four detached properties at Lowcroft, Main Street. A discussion was had and whilst it was agreed that it was good to see some development of the area and existing house, it was felt that the plans were too intense for the space. Other concerns raised included the potential for a significant increase in the number of vehicles accessing Main Street and the potential loss of a lot of mature trees and the impact this may have on wildlife, especially bats. It was felt one new property was sited too close to the road and the proposed development was not in keeping with the rest of the village. A vote was taken and **all agreed unanimously** to object to the application.  
When drafting a response, the Clerk was asked to list the concerns raised and comment that the Council is satisfied with the proposal to develop the existing property and is broadly in favour of some development but that an addition 4 properties was excessive.  
Cllr. Michael was asked to request the application be decided at committee should the Planning Officer be of a mind to approve it as submitted.
  - Decision (for information): None to report
- 191008 Community Plan  
Cllr. Michael asked the meeting to put forward suggestions of how N&SDC can provide support to the parish. The following were suggested:
- Footpaths through the village to be swept more regularly
  - Litter picking on the Great North Road
  - District Council to use its influence with NCC in the maintenance of pavements and footpaths around the village to encourage health and wellbeing
  - Cllr. Lowney raised the issues residents have in accessing Newark and the transport plan within the N&SDC Community Plan stating that there are a number of targets but no performance measures except one linked to the southern relief road scheme.
  - Cllr. P. Laughton asked whether N&SDC could work with NCC on the siding up of pavements.
- 191009 To receive and consider correspondence received
- Resident correspondence via website regarding the painting of the wall in front of the village hall. Comments passed on to the hall management committee chair.
  - Notts Police Crime Stats for August – 1 reported in Weston for anti-social behaviour

**Open Forum** – ten minutes to receive questions and comments from members of the public

- Resident comment regarding the planning application and pleased to hear the Council's views and decision. A query was raised as to where the village boundary actually lies for planning consideration and how that is affected by the application. Cllr. Michael agreed to look into this.
- Comment that recently a utilities company was attempting to locate the owner of a property but details were not available due to GDPR.
- Comment that it was hoped the planning process in regard to the application discussed would be as robust as has been seen on previous occasions.
- Concerns raised regarding speeding traffic along Main Street.
- Comment regarding dog fouling on footpaths and concerns over a water hydrant being almost obscured due to long grass in the verge. The Council commented that the verge in question is the property of NCC Highways and its responsibility to maintain. The Clerk was asked to look at the cutting scheme for the year and report how many times NCC have been into the village which

is was thought would be few. Cty. Cllr. Laughton to be contacted regarding this.

- 190910 To consider and discuss any non-agenda items
- The Clerk advised that a brief report and photo on the new village signs should appear in the Newark Advertiser this week.
  - Cllr. C. Laughton asked Cllr. Michael if N&SDC were holding any planning training which would be useful for new members. He Clerk advised that Notts ALC have run training in the past but have no plans to do so in the immediate future. It would be possible to have a Planning Officer from N&SDC provide training and may be beneficial to open this up to neighbouring councils. The Clerk to liaise with Sutton and Carlton PCs before speaking with Cllr. Michael on this.

Next Meeting – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November at Weston Village Hall from 7.30pm

Items for discussion: Budget for 2020/21

- 190911 Closed Session - Clerk Appraisal and Review  
Cllr. Francis and the Clerk to arrange to meet and further discussion deferred to the November meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.40pm