

## WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023  
in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

In Attendance: Councillor Chase (Deputy Chair), Councillor Hill, Councillor Henderson, Councillor Liversidge, Councillor Meadows plus 2 residents and NSDC Councillor Sylvia Michael.

Minute Taker: Olwen Edwards (Clerk)

Commenced at 7.30pm

23.11.0 1	Apologies for Absence: Councillor Bruce Laughton on long term absence given by Councillor Michael
23.11.0 2	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes</p> <p>A) Clock/Church Key Update: No specific progress, bring back next meeting was discussed that a further discussion on access times would be beneficial.</p> <p>B) Lengthsman contract: Circulated in mid-October no comments received*<sup>1</sup>. <b>Action:</b> Clerk to now sort formal contract from 1<sup>st</sup> November. Councillor Hill is attending the Lengthsman training on 8<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p>C) Damaged Sign: Clerk clarified progress with VIA with previous Clerk. Clerk has since approached Sign Systems for a quote. <b>Action:</b> Clerk to speak to Insurers: (only) quote is from original contractors, 3 companies chose not to quote. Have sought 3 quotes. Clerk to minute the names of the companies approached for the audit trail, auditors purposes and insurance. Discuss next meeting and make a decision.</p> <p>D) Clerk contacted Councillor Laughton re water at Bell Farm, Parish Clock. Councillor Michael will take up flooding and highways issues.</p> <p>E) Contact with Highways (re. hedge/fencing developments at old cricket pitch, horse rider safety sign and storm drains). Clerk contacted VIA, and queries were passed to NSDC and NCC. Councillor Michael will take this up.</p> <p>F) Training for new Councillors: Clerk pursued however training was listed on the NALC newsletter issued today</p> <p>G) Snow warden duties: Councillor Hill (and Councillor Chase) volunteered, <b>Action:</b> Clerk to let NSDC know.</p>
23.11.0 3	The minutes of the previous meeting of 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 were accepted. Proposed Liversidge and seconded Councillor Henderson 5:0
23.11.0 4	One Declarations of Interest declared regarding the Solar Park development from Councillor David Chase on item 23.11.08.
23.11.0 5	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>A) To hear issues and views from residents. A resident raised concerns again about storm drains as Councillor Laughton had previously agreed to did agree to pursue. Also raised concern that she had been receiving phone calls purporting to be the energy surveyor from 6 different phone number. Also raised that in Sutton on Trent on the Great North Road the highway is in a bad way and asked if NSDC were looking at this. Councillor Michael agreed to take this forward.</p> <p>B) To also receive reports from County Council and District Council Representatives and Parish Councillors. Councillor Michael reported that the second appeal for land for <i>Ivy League</i> (Secretary of State appeal) has been appealed and been dismissed. A question was asked whether a further appeal to the decision could be submitted. It was explained that a revised application could be submitted circumventing the need for an appeal on the current application. Councillor Michael explained that the NSDC recycling approach.</p>
23.11.0 6	To receive and consider any highways issues: Councillors reported continuing issues with blocked gullies which had been reported re Main Street. But certain highways issues remain a problem. Councillor Michael agreed to take

<sup>1</sup> Within the public meeting it was stated the contract needed to be circulated by the Clerk. However on review in the closed meeting, it was identified that the contract had already been circulated on email for comment mid-October, so issuing the contract and immediately taking up the post, could now be progressed if the applicant was agreeable.

	these issues away to progress.
23.11.0 7	<p>To consider financial matters</p> <p>A) Incomings/Outgoings/Balance: Requires a refreshed sheet, (before signing to remove £184 payment inadvertently added) however the balance sheet matches the bank account. Propose Councillor Chase and seconded Councillor Meadows. All agree 5:0 <b>Action:</b> Clerk to provide a refreshed summary sheet.</p> <p>B) Lengthsman payment to CL for works undertaken earlier in the year £384, Clerk reported (and circulated) that Colin Laughton had provide comprehensive detail of the dates, activities and photos of work undertaken within this role. All agreed 5:0. Proposed Councillor Liversidge seconded Councillor Chase.</p>
23.11.0 8	<p>To consider planning matters and receive updates on ongoing applications</p> <p>A) Solar Farms proposal – to install solar farms across Newark &amp; Sherwood Area. Councillor Chase having declared an interest left the room, Councillor Meadows stepped in as Acting Chair. On advisement, Chair suspended the Standing Order, to allow contributions from the public attending. Councillor Michael spoke to the proposal explaining the Company will consult with local parishes and then tweak before application goes in. The actual Planning Application will go in, in 2025 and the Parish will have a further opportunity to comment then but asked that we kept NSDC informed. She explained there will be a year of consultation. The company is contacting the Parish Clerks to arrange a meeting on teams or face to face to have a broad discussion about the proposals. It was agreed that for Weston the village would prefer a meeting face to face.</p> <p>Councillor Michael went on to explain that the Government will determine the application as it is over 50mhw, so this has to go to the Government Planning Inspectorate, NSDC don't have the decision making power on this application. There will be a planning application in due course and NSDC will give views.</p> <p>A resident felt that it was important to ask the company to advertise and leaflet the village as it is their consultation. Councillor Henderson said he had already received a consultation letter. It was proposed by Councillors to call an Extraordinary meeting to discuss the proposals. Proposed David H and Rich L, Clerk to promote on our website, facebook and noticeboard and ask company to a face to face meeting on a Wednesday evening. <b>Action:</b> Clerk to request a village public meeting with the infrastructure company and then arrange an extraordinary meeting. Clerk to print key documents and the map and put in noticeboard and provide links to more information on the solar park website.</p> <p>Council felt it useful if we prepared some questions and informed the company so that they could come prepared: How will the network connect to grid at Staythorpe?. How will the cabling work?. Will there be more detailed plans?, What is the expected disruption? Could we have further details and visuals?, What is the proposed height of the equipment?, What do you see as the method of giving money or benefits back to the community, grants, donations, jobs, locally sourced materials, labour, etc? How much of infrastructure will be sourced locally?.</p> <p>The Acting Chair reinstated the Standing Orders and stepped down to allow Councillor Chase to return to the room and resume as Chair. Noting we needed to address the Chair gap created by Councillor Laughton's departure.</p> <p>B) Bell Farm, application for a Holiday cottage – added to agenda as time of response was limited due to no meeting until January. Following discussion all were in favour of supporting the application.</p>
23.11.0 9	<p>To discuss any issues raised by residents since last meeting</p> <p>A) None</p>
23.11.1 0	<p>Consider correspondence circulated to Councillors since last meeting</p> <p>A) NALC financial regulations review: Clerk to feed back any proposed changes and whether a change was prudent. However Council were satisfied with the current financial regulations and had no additional comments to make.</p>
23.11.1 1	<p><i>Open Forum – ten minutes to receive questions and comments from members of the public</i></p> <p>None</p>
23.11.1 2	<p>To consider and discuss any non-agenda items and business for the next meeting on Wednesday January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024.</p>

- Election of a new Chairperson
- Solar Farms
- Precept/Budget
- Lengthsman

Clerk explained that of the two closed items one could not be discussed publicly as it was a personnel matter. Re. second closed item: The Budget - would come to the Parish Council meeting to be publicly discussed in January. But as the Council didn't get together at any other time, this presented an opportunity to discuss the financial overview of a 'very' rough draft version of the budget.

Public meeting finished and non-Parish Councillors departed.

#### **CLOSED BUSINESS**

- A) Draft Budget for 2024/2025 - Initial discussion around the draft budget to bring to January's meeting for public consideration. **Action:** Clerk to re-issue a budget with suggested changes, NSDC RV rates and expectations around free reserves, add in Lengthsman funds, using just one column working to 5% if workable, removing the previous years and other % columns.
- B) Councillor Hill explained he needed to set up a payment for £102.96 which was a late invoice for dog bins. And could not be held over until January. Agreed 5:0
- C) Councillor Hill suggested that the Council set up a DD for the Lengthsman for £80 per month. Agreed 4:1, (1 abstained). Proposed Councillor Henderson, seconded Councillor Chase. **Action:** Councillor Henderson to set up the tax repayment.
- D) Personnel matter: Clerk to update when necessary and any learning.

Meeting ended at: 9.14pm.

Clerk: Olwen Edwards

Date: 02/11/2023

Signed by Deputy Chair:

Date:

Name: Councillor David Chase