

WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Saturday 19th May 2018 in the Village Hall, Weston commencing at 10.00 a.m.

Present:

Councillors: D. Chase, R. Allarton, G. Francis, P. Laughton, M. Lowney,
P. Nice, T. Webster
County Councillor: B. Laughton
District Councillor: S. Michael
Clerk: S. Akerman

Members of the Public: 7

180501 Introduction and welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

180502 To accept the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on May 6th 2017

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record and duly signed by the Chair.
Proposed by Cllr. Francis, seconded by Cllr. Lowney.

180503 To discuss any matters arising from the minutes

None raised

180504 To receive a report from County and District Council Representatives

County Councillor Bruce Laughton commented on two pieces of good news, namely the success in applying for new village signs and the proposed resurfacing of Main Street and improvements to the pavements along with work to improve the condition of Bell Lane.

The County Council is required to make significant financial savings again this year and Cllr. Laughton commented that the council tax increase is targeted at funding adult social care.

The council is evaluating all of its major contracts including those with Via, Veolia and Inspire who run the county libraries. The Sutton-on-Trent library is due to be relocated to the new village hall which is included in the plans for the Persimmon Homes development in Sutton. The plans also include reviewing the carparking facilities at Houndsfield Surgery.

District Councillor Sylvia Michael started by thanking the parish council and clerk for their efforts over the past year and said she had enjoyed working with them.

During the last year, Kelham House has been sold with the district council moving into the new offices at Castle House. The offices are shared with Newark & Sherwood Homes, CAB, Probation Office and Dept. for Work & Pensions.

The council has agreed a 5-year housing development programme during the year and is also to establish a limited company to focus on the development of residential and commercial sites.

The 60-bedroom Gladstone House is now open and has received its first residents. A state of the art assisted living facility, Gladstone House will also provide accommodation for couples when one has been discharged from hospital requiring some recuperation before returning home. A similar facility is also planned for Ollerton.

180505 Guest Speakers

Neighbourhood Policing - PCSO Keith Crowhurst advised the meeting that the number of reported incidents in Weston was very low. Ninety-two incidents recorded do

mention Weston, however the majority of these are linked to incidents on the A1 such as accidents and fuel theft. There were no burglaries reported for the village in the last year.

Fuel theft continues to be of concern for the police. Groups from out of the area are targeting lorries parked on the A1 laybys at night gaining access across adjoining farm land and sometimes causing considerable damage to the land. He stressed that farmers must report any sightings – Clerk to put a notice together to circulate/post.

PCSO Crowhurst stressed the importance of reporting incidents when they are happening wherever possible – the success rate for resolving crime is much higher for ‘real time’ reports – it is very important to report anything suspicious at the time and not days later. His area covers Ollerton to Gunthorpe and resources are focused on where incidents/issues are reported. The Police will never see any contact to report suspicious behaviour as a waste of time. Numbers to call: 101 – connects to the district control room and 999 – for emergencies, i.e. if people or property are at threat, however if you are unsure what number to call always dial 999.

Member of the Public (MOP) asked about speeding on the Great North Road, especially motor bikes. PCSO Crowhurst said it is extremely difficult to track speeds of a motor bike with a radar gun as you need to capture a number plate.

Cllr. Chase commented about the speed survey carried out in 2016 when the council asked for a reduced speed limit of 50 miles/hour which was unsuccessful due to the average speed recorded being within the limit and no major incidents reported.

MOP asked if volunteers with speed guns recording speed would make a difference. PCSO Crowhurst stated he would not recommend this on the Great North Road as it would be too dangerous for the public.

Weston Village Hall – Mrs P. Laughton started by saying a big thank you to the volunteers who make up our committee and who work hard to enable the village hall to continue to be available to the community. We now have Evie Francis as our youth committee member and we have welcomed her enthusiasm and also her cakes and biscuits at the coffee mornings. Also thank you to all who attend the events and support what we do.

This last year we have continued to hold events at the hall, have our regular bookings and have hired the hall out for some private bookings; these we hope to increase this next year. Outside bookings have included both children & adult birthday parties, funeral teas & Jim Sherville’s annual Burn’s Night. All our classes and events are advertised on the Weston website, Facebook and *Unity* magazine. Posters are displayed in bus shelters, local shops and the Post Office.

Weekly events - Boogie Bounce commenced a few weeks ago and is well supported. Daisy’s Keep Fit class also on a Tuesday evening is now in its third year. Bingo is on Thursday afternoons and Louise Clarkson Dance School is also on Thursday afternoons and covers all ages with an average of 50 children working towards shows and accreditation awards.

Monthly events - Weston WI on the second Monday evening of each month and WI will be holding two Rummikub sessions soon – dates to be advertised. Parish Council meetings first Wednesday of each month – all welcome to attend.

Themed Coffee Mornings to raise funds for both the village hall and for donations to local charities are held on the second Saturday of every month with home-made cakes to eat here and for sale, plus Tombola, book stall and greetings cards. Sometimes plants or home-made crafts for sale. Colin provided bacon cobs at the December and January coffee mornings and we hope to offer this again over next winter. Thank you for regular supporters and to Sue Morris for bringing her greetings cards, wrapping paper and more. We would always welcome more people to attend the monthly coffee mornings so please encourage others to enjoy the cakes and this social event.

Annual Events still very popular include our Pie & Pea quiz nights in March and November. The last one was sold out several weeks in advance so please let us know if you want tickets as soon as these are available. A big thank you to Colin for making the pies and generally catering for the quiz nights. Many thanks to David and Judith for hosting another successful Barn Dance at Ladywood Farm last July attended by over 100 people

Future Events - Afternoon Tea @ the Hall is a very relaxed event with lovely food. The next one will be on Saturday 21st July and tickets will be on sale soon. We will be holding two 'Pub Nights' one with a Quiz and Ploughmans and one with a treasure hunt hopefully. We have just had another excellent First Aid training session provided by the Newark Community First Aiders and they will be holding further training sessions – these will be advertised when the dates are confirmed. This included defibrillator training.

Improvements to the hall in the last year include new kitchen flooring and a big thank you to Glyn and Vicki Francis for tiling the kitchen. The children in the village held a cake sale to raise money for the hall and a thank you to John & Elaine for the lovely Village Hall sign.

Some of the floor joists in the main hall had rotted and were replaced and the whole floor superbly renovated. Also, David and Colin installed a new drainage channel at the back of the hall to help prevent further damage to the floor joists. As you can see the main hall has also been decorated and had new blinds fitted and is now much brighter and more welcoming.

We have replaced the electric emergency lighting, and outside the fencing has been replaced, repaired and stained. Thank you to Colin. We have installed two new notice boards for the school photos and History of Weston, more information and photos would be gratefully received if anyone has any of these.

We will be replacing the gas heaters for electric ones. We are waiting to hear whether our grant application has been successful or not as the grant would only be for future work and not for heating already installed. If not accepted for funding this time we will go ahead with changing the heaters anyway with money raised from last year's events and hall hire. Further funding applications are being made in an attempt to secure enough money to provide indoor toilets and a store room.

I hope you are happy with what we have provided in the last year and hope that you will continue to use and support our village hall. Any new members for the committee would be most welcome.

All Saints Church – Mrs Gill Fendley commented that the aim as Christians is to spread the gospel in word and action in this village and to offer prayer and care for those in need. We serve the community in Weston through prayer and through facilitating worship times and significant services like weddings and funerals.

The community has the opportunity to worship God every Sunday through different services such as Communion (twice a month, family worship and morning worship. This has been difficult through the year as Rev. Price has five churches to look after.

New services this year include an informal prayer, praise and healing service every two months, a family gathering which is informal and open to all. December 2017 saw a very successful Christmas Christingle service.

Weston Choir has been established this year thanks to Colin Laughton and his sister Kim. The choir has been singing at key church services and has been most successful and enjoyable. We are always looking for singers and you are most welcome to join us.

This year sees the completion of the purchase of burial land from the parish council. We wanted to make funerals a seamless process as it has always been for families and to continue serving the community by being the main point of contact for facilitating burials. I would like to welcome everyone to a special celebration service on the 7th July 2018 at 7pm which will be an opportunity to give thanks and to remember loved ones with a candle or a flower. Following this there is a concert by the Dukeries Singers.

Finally, every Monday evening we pray for individuals and the community of Weston. We have installed a box which individuals can post any prayer requests and we welcome anyone who wants to join us. We believe prayer is the centre of our Christian lives and would like to extend a welcome to all to join us on Monday for a time of prayer.

Weston Women's Institute – Mrs Marina Williams kindly presented the Trustees Report for the year 2017/18. The year 2017/18 saw a steady membership of seventeen down by two on the previous year. Monthly meetings were held through the year except in August when traditionally the meeting is replaced with a group outing which this year meant a visit to the RNIB Guide Dogs National Breeding Centre which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Early in the year the committee took the decision to reduce the number of external speakers due to the significant costs and instead looked for other ways to fill the meetings with entertaining and informative content whilst keeping costs down. Talks included Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, The Red Cross, a local Town Crier and a very informative talk about Botswana. The group's AGM was held in March and in December the usual Faith Supper was held along with a cake icing demonstration. The group also hosted a 'Puddings and Recipes' evening inviting neighbouring WI's to join us, a summer barbeque, enjoyed a talk on being *The Mother of the Groom* by one of our own members and hired curling equipment for a sports evening.

The monthly meetings include a themed competition for which members earn points for entering and at the end of the evening our guest speaker is asked to judge the entries and additional points are awarded. At the end of the year, the member with the most points is presented with the Cunningham Cup which is awarded in honour and remembrance of Mrs Helen Cunningham a past member and President.

In March a group of approximately 35, including member's husbands, enjoyed the annual birthday dinner at Kelham House, Newark. Other organised outings included attending Newark Palace Theatre for a performance of *Oliver* and in July a performance of *Hobsons Choice* at the Tolthorpe Open Air Theatre, near Stamford. Members also support Averham Theatre when possible. The group manned two stalls at the WI's July Centenary Fair and have also attended events and birthday celebrations at neighbouring groups. Federation events attended include, a literary lunch, cheese and wine tasting, Rummikub, ice hockey at Nottingham, bingo and whist. So, as you can see Weston WI is a small but very social group.

Weston WI was formed in December 1968, so this December the group will be celebrating its 50th birthday. New members are always welcome.

180506 To receive the Annual Report of the Parish Council from the Chairman

We have had another successful year during which we have completed one of our long running issues and transferred ownership of the parish burial ground to the PCC.

We applied for a grant from the Transparency Fund to enable us to purchase a new laptop and software and this was successful.

We purchased ten poppies to support the Royal British Legion appeal and have agreed to donate again this year but to re-use our poppies.

One of the regular items on the agenda has been the very poor state of Main Street and also Bell Lane. Cllr. Bruce Laughton has worked tirelessly to keep these to the attention of the County Council. It has been decided that Main Street will be resurfaced this financial year, probably in September, and that the pathways will get repairs and resurfacing in parts week commencing June 11th. Bell Lane is also scheduled for major repairs sometime this financial year. Both of these jobs are very welcome and will contribute to the general appearance of the village.

We have considered entering the Best Kept Village competition and after deliberating, the council agreed that next years competition may be a better option as the roads and paths should look a lot better. The council would need the support of the whole village and possibly need to set up a group to guide and coordinate this.

I would like to thank Bruce Laughton our County Councillor and Sylvia Michael our District Councillor for their help and guidance and also Sandra our Clerk for her time and effort which sometimes goes beyond the hours we employ her for.

In closing Cllr. Chase advised the meeting that the councils application to the Local Improvement Scheme for funds of approx. £6,000 to provide new gateway signs for the village on the Great North Road has been approved in principle and subject to Highways approval of location. This means that a design has to be agreed and the council will consider this in more detail at the next meeting.

180507 Best Kept Village Competition – an annual competition held by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and sponsored by Wilkinsons. The winner of the small village category for the last two years has been Caunton.

Cllr. Michael advised she is fully supportive of villages entering the competition as it gets people involved, gives people a pride in their village and fosters a strong community spirit. Caunton set up an Improvement Group with a grant from the parish council to coordinate their entry.

Cllr. Chase asked that residents think about whether Weston should enter in next years competition.

180508 Open Forum to receive comments and questions from the public

MOP asked whether a community garden space is feasible for the village, however it was agreed that it is difficult to consider where there is vacant and available land for this to be sited.

MOP asked about front gardens/hedges encroaching over the footpath. Cllr. P. Laughton advised they should be cut back by the resident if an obstruction is caused.

MOP asked about the grass verges and was advised these would be cut back when the road improvements were completed.

MOP thanked the council and councillors for their efforts for the village over the last year.

180509 To receive a vote of thanks and close

The Chair thanked the guest speakers and residents for attending and for the kind words of thanks.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 11.05am.

These minutes were approved as a true and correct recorded and signed by the Chair on Wednesday 3rd April. Minute ref. 369-371. Minutes recorded by the Clerk to Weston Parish Council

