

Draft Minutes of Weldon Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1st November 2021 in the
Weldon Village Hall Annex

Councillors Present	Janet Gibson, Peter Dowsett, Mike Page, Dick Priem, Colin Shepard, Graham Stray, Kane Taylor and Simon Taylor (Chair)
Also Present	1 Member of the public, North Northamptonshire Councillor (NNC) Kevin Watt, and Sue Cook (Clerk)

- 21.146 Apologies** had been received from, Cllr A Page, Cllr Vickers, Cllr Williams and PC Brad Wilson. All were accepted.
- 21.147** The following **Declarations of Interest were registered** – Cllr Gibson on item 21.154, Cllr Dowsett for item 21.152 and Cllr K Taylor for item 21.161 b.
- 21.148** The Clerk gave the following **Crime Report**, a total of 31 crimes across the Parish many were thought to be linked there were also 2 anti-social behaviour incidents. 2 Speed Enforcements have been carried out recently which has resulted in 4 prosecutions. The Beat Bus Surgery was well attended with reports of parking issues and speeding around the Village.
- 21.149 Public Time** – One resident highlighted her concerns over the lack of pedestrian crossings, the narrowness of some of the footpaths and access into and out of Weldon. Cllr Page explained that the crossing on the A43 submitted to NNC for technical approval, awaiting feedback, other areas of concern may be covered by other parties.
- 21.150 North Northamptonshire Councillors – Cllr Watt** informed the meeting that several trees around the area came down over the weekend. There is £21,000 allocated for litter bins across the county, it costs in the regions of £440 for each bin to be installed. Council Tax summonses were posted out incorrectly and some council tax has been taken out of resident's bank accounts early, NNC have agreed to reimburse any bank charges this may have caused.
- 21.151** It was resolved to accept the **Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th October** as a true record and were signed by Cllr S Taylor.
- 21.152 Working Party Update** – Cllr S Taylor confirmed that Spine Road will open on Saturday 20th November. Oundle Road will be closed for a period of time after that to allow work to be carried out on the Roundabout.
- 21.153 Training for All Councillors** – The Clerk has made enquiries about the first aid course, unfortunately there are no bookings available on a Saturday until the New Year for the Village Hall. Cllr A Page is booked on Using Facebook as a means of Communication, dealing with situations on 16th Nov and she would appreciate someone else to attend the Biodiversity session with her on 10th November re Biodiversity. Cllr Priem agreed to attend this with Cllr Page.
- 21.154** It was resolved to accept the **Environmental & Sustainability Policy and the Allotment Tenancy Agreement**.
- 21.155** It was resolved to form a **Youth Council**, Cllr K Taylor to contact the Youth Worker to proceed with this.
- 21.156** It was resolved to donate **play equipment** to Weldon Cricket Club and Deene & Deenethorpe Parish Council
- 21.157** It was agreed that the **Rowan Tree** could be planted in the Leys instead of the Pocket Park. The Clerk to liaise with Mr Cox.
- 21.158 Park News** – It was resolved that the Parish Council should have its own newsletter. With discussions on Queen's Platinum Jubilee a proposal for a new logo and possible statue 'Weldon in the Woods', as it was previously called.

The final Park News item will include: The Parish Council's commitment to Climate Change with new Environmental and Sustainable Policy, asking for support to make the Queen's Platinum Jubilee a community weekend, Birchington Rd updates and any other planning issues, 20's plenty campaign, Youth Council and I consent to receiving emails from the Parish council.

21.159 To Consider Any Incoming Correspondence as previously circulated with no further action required

- a) Updates from NCALC
- b) Weekly Schemes of Works
- c) Various Roads, Corby - 40 mph Speed Limits
- d) Newsletter from Jason Smithers, Leader of NNC
- e) Community Action Fund Grants available for parishes within 10 miles of an FCC Environment site – **Cllr A Page would like the Parish Council to apply for funding, the Clerk stated that this would not be a problem but would need to know what the project is and how much to apply for.**
- f) Consultation: Licensing Act 2003 - North Northamptonshire Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2022-2027
- g) East Northants Resource Management Facility – acceptance of application for Development Consent Order for examination for Augean along the A47
- h) Winter Service and Severe Weather Alerts for 2021/22
- i) Consultation letter and proposed plans to upgrade existing Radio Base Station bringing 5G to Weldon

21.160 To note any concerns raised by residents via email to the Clerk

- a) Overgrown hedges along Kettering Road, Bridge Street and Gretton Road (reported on Fix my Street)
- b) Overgrown Ivy on Kettering Road Bridge (reported on Fix my Street)
- c) State of the bus shelter on High Street (reported on Fix my Street)
- d) Faded road markings at Church Walk and Oundle Road (reported on Fix my Street)
- e) HGV's & Double Decker Bus using Church Street (all reported to the various companies & PC Wilson)
- f) Collapsed wall between 16 & 18 Oundle Road (footpath to be legally closed to allow repairs to be carried out)
- g) Street Light in Bramblewood Road (reported to Julie Goodrum)
- h) Parking on the grass opposite the Barbers – No Parking on the Grass Signs to be installed.
- i) Litter Bins and Dog Poo bins not being emptied on a regular basis

21.161 Finance

- a) Cllr S Taylor and the Clerk gave the following report from the Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday 20th October. Since the last Parish Council meeting, the Clerk has paid £1438.56 for 4 planters and £182.80 for the repairs to the sit on mower, which gives a balance across all the 3 accounts of £213,713.29. The increase is due to having received the 2nd half of the precept and a further £703.28 VAT refund. The payments to be approved this evening leave a balance of £210,543.06 in the bank

The following payments were approved in line with current legislation

Payee	Reason	Amount	Power
Sue Cook	October Salary & Expenses	£986.91	LGA1972 s112
NCALC	Planning Nuts & Bolts	£114.00	
Sue Cook	No Parking Signs	£59.40	OSA 1906, s9

Simon Green	New Signage	£71.66	OSA 1906. S9
NCALC	Media Course Clerk	£38.00	
N P Cox	Village Maintenance & Expenses	£374.45	OSA1906, s9
N P Cox	Grass Cutting & Fuel	£1342.16	OSA1906 s9
Cllr Dowsett	Plants for War Memorial	£111.92	OSA 1906, s9
St Mary's Church	Room Hire for Tots & Babies Groups	£2960.00	S 137

- b) A new grant request has been received from St Mary's Church for £2960 towards the cost of room hire, play equipment and first aid training for their Mum's and Tot's groups. This was approved
- c) It was **resolved** to increase the Youth Worker's Salary to £30,000 per annum this is to be built into next year's budget.
- d) It was **resolved** to increase the budget for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee from the £10000 to £25000. There is surplus of £10500 in the contingency cost centre, £2000 in the Woodland Park Cost Centre, £500 in the Salt Bin Cost Centre (neither cost centres are used) with the balance coming from general funds.
- e) It was agreed not to not pursue with the Village in Bloom venture but to ensure that the Planters etc are maintained to a high level. The Clerk thanked Cllr Dowsett for siting and planting the 2 new planters opposite the War Memorial.
- f) The Finance Committee agreed to allow Cllr Priem to order the new Signage for the Tank, funds for this will come from the War Memorial Upkeep Cost Centre. The invoice has now been received slightly lower at £42.
- g) Cllr K Taylor had provided compare costs for purchasing new mower etc. Cllr Taylors figures do not include the extra grass areas that Mr Cox has taken on i.e. The Leys, the Gandy Field, and Halls Close all funded by 3rd parties, along with the Pocket Park. The Finance Committee recommend that the Parish Council purchase a new **Sit on Mower** at a cost of £3600, along with a **hover type mower** at a cost of £420 both costs include VAT. The hover mower will allow Mr Cox to the cut the slopes. The Finance Committee has asked Mr Cox to obtain quotes for an industrial strimmer known as "brush cutter". Funding to be taken from the Maintenance cost centre. This was approved by everyone present.
- h) **It was agreed at the October** that the Parish Council should spend up to £760 which includes postage and packing on **20's Plenty Sticker (NHS ones which cost £50 for 100 stickers) and Banners £35 each, these have still to be ordered as there is a need to know how many banners.** Funding to be taking from the Contingency cost centre. It was agreed to just purchase the Stickers at the moment.
- i) The 6 **Bollards** have been replaced by Mr Cox who had some spare bollards.
- j) It was resolved that Cllr Gibson could spend up to £500 on rat boxes for the infestation on the allotments.

21.162 **Planning Applications:** Cllr Page gave the following report on the **Birchington Road planning application (outline)** – the Parish Council has been exchanging letters with the chief planner and latterly the NNC Service Director responsible for planning, over developer behaviour last year and events leading to and around the application, we also submitted our written objection on 29th September putting detailed technical arguments about the application, which we shared with U&C and PHPNA to raise their own objections. We believe this is now gaining traction, as other NNC agencies are becoming involved, suggesting in writing that criminality

may have occurred and recommending investigation by the authorities. We have asked for confirmation that as a result whether the application is on hold. We are continuing to closely monitor the application.

Cowthick – we are in regular conversation with the developer, who is keeping us up to date as the project develops, and end users are being identified for the buildings. They want to be good neighbours, part of which is regular dialogue and sharing how they are developing responsibly.

Oundle Road School - Outline planning has been passed, a significant condition is that construction traffic is not permitted to use Weldon Village via Oundle Road or Church Street (which has a weight restriction). The funding agency is the DFE, who have contacted Persimmon directly about the continued delay in completion of the Weldon Park Spine Road to provide access from the A43. Persimmon are under considerable pressure to open the spine road in November as agreed, and have given assurances to the DFE that this will happen.

Part 2 Local Plan has been approved by NNC full council in September, emphasis has shifted to focus on environmental improvement, improving and expanding green infrastructure (walking and cycling), reducing pollution by motor vehicles, environmental buffers and corridors, and priority for ensuring and improving the health and welfare of people present in the environment. **The new strategic rural forum** is now up and running, designed to give an equal voice to Parish and Town Councils directly with senior executives, officers and members of the NNC. The fact they are explaining and listening is a positive step towards a service culture for North Northants.

21.163 Reports

Kirstie Lloyd-Uzoegbu **Youth Worker** – report will be circulated and posted on website

Parish Maintenance Committee – have not met since the last full council meeting.

Neighbourhood Development Plan – The Clerk reported on behalf of Cllr Vickers that with full council permission the Village Hall has been booked provisionally for Saturday 20th November for Yourlocale to carry out a presentation to any interested residents on the work so far, there are no other Saturdays free for 2021. **This was approved.** Cllr Vickers will distribute supporting documentation. The public will be able to view from 10 - 1. Also, would like advice on how to advertise it. The Congregational Church has still to respond about their land on Corby Rd which is holding up the Plan going to consultation. Cllr A Page would like to see the Environmental and Sustainability Policy included within the Plan.

Village Hall Management Committee – minutes circulated and posted on website.

Queens Platinum Jubilee Committee – minutes circulated and posted on website.

Emergency Plan Committee – The Clerk has had a TEAMS meeting which resulted in several posters and other documentation being received. The Clerk will advertise the need for Flood Wardens. It is believed that the survey has been carried out but results not yet received by the Emergency Planning Team.

Weldon School – No report due to Half Term

21.164 Future agenda items/business for future meetings. The nature of future agenda items can be discussed at this point however no decision can be made until the next meeting.

- a) Using Facebook as a means of communication.
- b) Review of By-laws in the New Year
- c) Budget/precept for 2022/23

21.165 Date of next meeting - Monday 6th December

This being all the business the meeting was closed at 21:00