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WESTON ON TRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on 15th January 2024

Present: Cllrs Green, Harper, Mrs Freeman, Than, Steadman, Neville, Wilkins, District Cllr Dan Corbin.

There was 1 member of the public present

**1. Public session**

The issue of the recent flooding on Weston Road and Yates Avenue was raised, the problem is that the water runs off the field and has nowhere to go as the gutters can’t take the volume of water. The Parish Council posed a question on this at the last flood liaison meeting but as yet have not seen the minutes from this meeting.

**2.County Cllrs Report**

Report not available

**District Cllrs report**

Cllr Corbin reported on a meeting at SDDC about the budget and proposals for future years. Section 136 funding is to be removed from 25/26 and there appears to be no alternative funding but there is a scheme to help with Council Tax relief as precepts would need to increase. Parished areas will be disproportionally affected as opposed to the urban areas.

He reminded people about the meeting to be held at Richmond Homes about the issues in Long Walk Wood on 29th January. He has

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been trying to make contact with Hansons (now Heidleburg ,as they own part of the wood (the part accessed from the track in Weston), and Richmond have not had any success contacting him.

The environmental Agency is running drop-in sessions about flooding issues but there aren’t any in South Derbyshire. SDDC now have flood sacks which are flat but puff up when the water hits them. These are much easier to store than sand bags.

The next stage of the Local Plan consultation will be looking at specific sites and will be later in the year (possibly September). A larger venue than last time is needed for our area.

The community Grant Scheme from the levelling up fund is open, match funding is required.

**3.Declaration of Interests** – none declared

**4.Apologies -** Cllr Neil Atkin

**5.Minutes of the previous meeting** having been previously circulated the minutes were deemed to have been read and were agreed as a true record of the meeting held on 18th December 2023

**6.Matters arising from the minutes**

The plaques will be put on the tree and bench when the weather is better.

Recreation Ground gate – actual costings to be obtained

Network Rail – Cllr Green is still chasing a reply

Long Walk Wood – Richmond Homes are holding a meeting on Monday 29th January to give an update. Parishionners are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Storm Babet Flood Recovery Schemes – SDDC is encouraging people to apply for financial help if their home or business were flooded by

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the recent storm Babet. The support ranges from one-off grants of up to £500 to discounts on Council Tax for any resident whose home was considered uninhabitable. The Clerk distributed this information to affected properties.

**7.Reports** Chair’s report – Cllr Green reported that as Cllr Neil Atkin has missed several meetings there are outstanding issues on which his help is needed, hopefully these will move forward now.

Clerk’s report –The dog poo bin at the lock has been causing a problem, it was reported to the Clerk that it was laying down – presumably been knocked over by a car. Unfortunately people continued to throw their bags in the vicinity so the Clerk removed the bags and contacted SDDC to ensure it was being emptied regularly. Cllr Green went to put it back up but by them someone had done it. Thanks were expressed to whoever did this.

On 14th January there were overnight burglaries reported in Aston, Police are warning residents in the surrounding area to be vigilant.

Thanks to Cllr Mrs Freeman who attended a meeting organised by Cllr Corbin about the budgets.

All of the Cllrs intend to go to the Richmond meeting so the Clerk will let them know.

The Area Forum meeting will be in Melbourne on Tuesday 30th January , as many Cllrs as possible will attend to hear the Chief Execututive of SDDC speak on the budget proposals.

Footpath Officer’s report - most of the paths are in reasonable condition although muddy. A fallen tree was reported on the path behind Coopers but the area is passable. The lane from the lock

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leading down to the river is flooded in places, nothing can be done while they are still working in this section but afterwards it will be made good and become a bridleway .

**8.Planning** – no new applications received. The response to the Richmond application has been sent,

**9.Correspondence**

No new correspondence received

1**0.Section 106 –** no up date

**11.Website –** up to date.

Cllr Than is creating a new Watsap group

**12.Finance**

Invoices awaiting payment

Clerk’s wages £295.25

Clerk’s expenses £28.50

Go Daddy £143.71

2 Commune £80.40

The Finance meeting took place prior to this meeting. It was unanimously agreed to set the Precept at £17,500 for 24/25

The meeting closed at 9.15