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WESTON ON TRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on 20th May 2024

**Present**: Cllrs Harper, Mrs Freeman, Than, Steadman, Neville, Wilkins,

District Cllrs Peter Watson and Dan Corbin and County Cllr Neil Atkin

 There was 1 member of the public present.

**Election of Chairman;** Cllr Harper proposed Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Mrs Freeman, no one else wanted to be considered. The Clerk had Cllr Green’s agreement to stand - a vote was taken and Cllr Green was unanimously voted in for the coming year.

**1.Election of vice chair**; Cllr Mrs Freeman proposed Cllr Harper and was seconded by Cllr Steadman. There were no other nominations so Cllr Harper continues as Vice chair for the coming year.

Representatives on outside bodies;

Planning – Cllrs Harper, Than, Steadman and Wilkins

Sand and gravel liaison- Cllr Green, Neville and Wilkins

Footpaths – Cllrs Green and Wilkins

Airport – Cllr Steadman

Area Forum – Cllr Mrs Freeman and anyone else who is available.

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**2. Acceptance of office** – Cllr Harper signed the declaration of acceptance of office

In the absence of the Chairman Cllr Harper chaired the meeting

**3. End of year reports**

Chairs report – Cllr Green has sent a report for the year ending March 2024. He commented that second stage of the Local Plan, which will look at specific sites, will soon be out to consultation. This could have a detrimental impact on the village if all of the proposed sites were developed.

The Council has recently commented on consultations by East Midlands Airport on their Future Airspace Strategy and Noise Management Plan. The Future Airspace Strategy could result in new flightpaths coming closer to Weston, resulting in more noise. The Noise Management Plan has been approved by government and implementation has started. This should result in less overflying from training flights. EMA are about to start consulting on their Sustainable Development Plan which covers environmental issues and the massive planned increase in flights from EMA partly driven by the Freeport.

DCC Highways visited Weston in summer last year and a number of road markings and signage improvements were identified to tackle school run parking and speeding in the village. The Parish Council agreed with all of the proposed improvements but have still to get a date when the works will start.

The Annual Communication Event was held at the end of November and was well attended. The main issues raised were road safety at Cuttlebridge. We understand that a design study on traffic lights is to be carried out by DCC but do not have a date for this.

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The PC contacted Network Rail re hedge trimming on Kings Mill Lane, Trent Lane and Swarkestone Road back in February last year. The work was scheduled for September, after bird nesting season, but was not carried out until March and then to a poor standard. Members of the PC met with Network Rail in May to discuss the problem and progress has since been made. Trimming of vegetation on Trent Lane and Swarkestone Road has been done and more hedge trimming is to be done in September.

Richmond Homes closed the permissive footpath through Long Walk Wood last October due to concerns over and tree felling works were carried out in the new year and the path re-opened. A new Woodland Management Plan is done with no notice and caused major concerns to residents. The PC worked with Richmond and organised a meeting where residents could air their views. Concerns were raised with SDDC . A new Woodland Management Plan is due shortly.

Following the winter storms Weston PC raised issues of flooding on Yates Avenue and at two locations on Weston Road and also on Main Street at the SDDC Flood Liaison meeting. We also attended a drop in session by the Environmental Agency at Sawley. A follow up meeting is expected.

The PC supported Earth Day by organising a village walk.

A number of new dog waste bins, litter bins and benches are being purchased using a number of funding sources to improve facilities and some tree and bush planting is planned.

 **Footpath officer’s report**

The footpaths in Weston remain in a good condition and a number of improvements have been carried out by the Parish Council in the last year. We have also had help from the Melbourne Footpaths Group who replaced the bridleway sign on Swarkestone Road pointing to Chellaston.

 1299

Hansons/Heidelberg work on gravel extraction has now passed Kings Mill Lane and the footway/bridleway from Kings Mill to Weston Grange is due to be reinstated shortly. This will now be a bridleway over it’s entire length and will open up a new horse riding route between Weston and Aston.

DCC have marked the Trent and Mersey canal towpath through Weston parish as an official cycle route in their March 2023 Cycle Map. This has resulted in more use and deteriorating condition of the path. We are awaiting a reply from DCC to our questions on plans to improve the towpath.

**Public session** – the member of the public lives in Yates Avenue and came for an update on progress made to prevent The Square and Weston Road flooding again. He has looked into the possible causes and feels the problem is the ditch on the field which is blocked at the ends and so not able to take the water which comes off the field. Cllr Harper explained that the Parish Council is pursuing the matter. Cllr Corbin is involved at District level but was unable to say anything as it is now a legal matter.

 **County Cllrs report;** Cllr Atkin spoke about the footpaths and cycle ways and the canal towpath which is partly funded by Sustrans.

He is aware that there is a backlog for signage and road marking matters, he has asked when Weston’s are likely to be done but has not heard back yet.

He reported that we will receive the full amount of the Community levy Scheme monies.

 1300

Work on footways and byways still have to be backfilled and he should hear on 25th when these will be done.

There have been many complaints across the County on grass cutting, partly due to no mow May.

Cllr Harper asked for an update on the possible traffic lights at Cuttle bridge and Cllr Steadman reported the situation is getting worse there especially with the vegetation. Cllr Neville asked Cllr Atkin how long the backlog is.

**District Cllrs report** – Cllr Corbin spoke about the issues in Long Walk Wood and that it was now open again.

The mobile phone mast in Aston is going ahead but is slightly delayed, this will benefit surrounding villages as well as Aston.

He is investigating the flooding issues in Yates Avenue and is organising a meeting with Severn Trent and the Parishes.

Cllr Watson congratulated the elected Councillors.

He spoke about the National Grid meeting on 30th May and intended to ask what the pylons would look like and how high they would be at the lowest point. Also will they cross existing pylons or will some of the old ones come down?

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

**5.Apologies –** Cllr Green

**6.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 15th April 2024

**7.Matters arising from the minutes**

Network Rail – Some work has been done on cutting the hedges on Swarkestone Road but more needs to be done.

 1301

Dog poo bins – there is still a problem with the poo bin at the lock. As it can’t be opened it is not being emptied. The Clerk is continuing to move the bags from around the bin. 3 new large bins are on order to replace the ones currently at the lock and around the bowling green. We have also ordered some extra litter bins.

Plaques – if Mrs Record is available, it was agreed to invite her to the June meeting and ‘unveil’ the plaque on the bench outside the village hall.

**8.Reports** Chair’s report – Cllr Green reported that he had seen 2 consultations prior to the meeting. The first one is from SDDC on cycle routes and the other on the National Grid.

The SDDC cycle consultation says that it is being updated to identify opportunities for developer contributions to develop infrastructure. This has 2 routes in Weston Parish, the canal towpath and the route from Weston down Kings Mill Lane to the Trent. The upgrade to the towpath cycle route is already on DCC’s list of projects. Kings Mill Lane is a DCC adopted highway currently being used by Hansons/Heidelburg which we expect will be returned to a fit state when they have completed their work. That leaves the possibility of a river crossing at Kings Mill (which appears on SDDC Greenways Strategy) We could reasonably expect the Freeport to fund that to improve access to their sites from north of the Trent.

The National Grid consultation is a good idea but the route is odd. A direct route would pass in a straight line to the west of Derby but the proposed route loops right round the east of Derby taking a longer and presumably more expensive route

 1302

Clerk’s report – a new padlock has been purchased and fitted to the Recreation Ground gate, keys are held by the clerk, Cllr Green, the grasscutter and Cllr Neville.

Complaints have been received about cones placed around a car parked on Kings Mill Lane. The Clerk will investigate.

3 bins and 3 dog poo bins have been ordered.

A parishioner has reported that there is a loose drain cover opposite the Avenue on Main Street, Clerk will report it to Highways.

A resident in Forrester Avenue (who’s garden backs onto Kings Mill Lane has mentioned that SDDC have not cut the hedge. The clerk will look into this.

The new Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire is Nicholle Ndiweni

**9. Planning** -none

**10 Correspondence**

 Invitation to the Civic Council meeting on 23rd May

Download Festival meeting -this is being arranged for representatives from affected parishes to be kept up to date.

Flood Wardens – The Environment Agency are looking to recruit more Flood Wardens who would be given training in order to monitor local watercourses and offer advise and information to the public, preferably they should be part of a community group or parish Council. Further details are available from the Clerk

 1303

National Grid consultation – a lot of information has been received from the National Grid about the great grid upgrade consultation on proposals to build approximately 60 km of new overhead electricity line between Chesterfield and Willington. They will be hosting sessions open to the public to answer questions, the nearest one to us is on 30th May at Shardlow Village Hall from 1.30 to 6.30

11**. Section 106 –** ongoing

**12.Website –** up to date.

**13.Finance**

Invoices awaiting payment

Clerk’s wages £236.25

Clerk’s expenses £100.83

Cllr Green for padlock £18

Glasdon for dog poo and litter bins £1923.05

Clerk’s tax kept in account £59

The audit paperwork is with the internal auditor

the meeting closed at 9.15