

WEOBLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Weobley Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2017 at the Hopelands Village Hall, Weobley, starting at 7.30 pm

In the chair: Mrs Lorraine Anderson

Present: PCSO Allford and 14 members of the electorate

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Brenda Havard and Liz Holcombe.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th April 2016 were read, approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Concern was expressed that people were not placing dog bags in the bins but throwing them into trees and bushes. An article to encourage responsible disposal would be placed in the next edition of the Magpie.

3. REPORT OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Ward Cllr Cooper was not in attendance.

4. POLICING ISSUES

PCSO Allford provided the following update:

- Thanks were extended to the Chair and Council for their support over the past year;
- There had been an increase in crime over the past few months in the village mainly due to the vandalism which occurred over the Christmas period;
- The Police had addressed the issues by changing ways of operation and there had been no crime reports during the past month until the arson attack over the weekend;
- Residents were urged to report any crime to the police by either ringing 101, emailing kw.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk or visiting the Crimestoppers website. In an emergency always call 999;
- PACT surgeries were held every 5 weeks;
- Residents were requested to consider setting up a Neighbourhood Watch. Volunteers would be required;
- Weobley was still a safe place to live.

Thanks were extended to PCSO Allford for all the work he and his team did on behalf of the community.

5. REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman, Mrs Lorraine Anderson, presented the following report on the activities of the Parish Council during the previous year.

- Thanks were extended to Cllr Cooper and the Police for their regular attendance at Parish Council meetings and for the updates provided.
- Vandalism, including the recent alleged arson attack, was an on-going issue. Residents were actively encouraged to report crime and any other relevant issues on 101;
- Ward Cllr Cooper was currently trying to deal with the issue regarding the hike in business rates for the local supermarket with Herefordshire Council;

- He had also actively helped secure the retention of the Post Office and was currently working on securing a school crossing;
- A new Parish Councillor, Cllr Simons had been co-opted onto the Council following the resignation of Ben Corbett;
- A new Clerk, Paul Russell, had been appointed following the retirement of Lynne Pugh;
- Meetings regarding the Gadbridge Road development had taken place which had been positive. Outline permission had been granted and there was a current Reserved Matters application being discussed;
- A small development for five houses had been granted permission at the Methodist Chapel site;
- The Neighbourhood Plan continued to be developed and a detailed presentation would be given under item 6;
- The village had suffered a level of disruption over the past few months due to cable renewal works being carried out by Western Power. This work was scheduled to be completed in the near future;
- It was hoped that resurfacing works previously planned would be undertaken once Western Power had completed its works;
- The Parish Council had agreed to refurbish the Victorian Lamppost. This work would be undertaken in the near future;
- Quotations were currently being sought to provide power to the Rose Garden in order to facilitate events in this space;
- The Library and toilets had now officially been transferred to the Parish Council and a donation of £50 had been received from Western Power towards the upkeep of the toilets;
- Grateful thanks were extended to all those who volunteered to look after and help in the library and looking after the toilet;
- Among events that had happened in the village over the past twelve months included hosting the BBC One Show and the Bonfire and Fireworks which was increasing in popularity;
- Parking in the centre of the village continued to cause some concern and new signs had been erected to help direct vehicles to the various car parks;
- Thanks were extended to all those involved in helping to save the Post Office.

She thanked all the councillors and the Clerk for their help and support during the year. In turn thanks were extended to the Chair from Councillors and residents for all the work she undertook on behalf of the community.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPORT.

The Chairman presented a report on the progress of the Weobley Neighbourhood Plan. The presentation had been uploaded onto the Neighbourhood Plan Website <http://weobleyndp.weebly.com/>

Data Orchard had been appointed to help the Steering Committee develop the Plan and a consultation would take place on the 12th and 13th May 2017. A requirement for 82 dwellings had been required but with all the permissions granted over the past few years less than 10 additional dwellings would need to be provided for.

7. PLAY AREA REPORT

Mr Chris Breen presented the annual report relating to the management and maintenance of the Play Area.

The Play Area Committee looked after the site and met every month. There were a number of additional volunteers who helped with the litter picking and mowing but more volunteers would be welcome in order to spread the workload.

The Annual Play Safety report had been carried out and issues highlighted were being dealt with as necessary. During the past year the volunteers had carried out regular maintenance work including the topped up of the wood chip safer surface and regular maintenance to the play equipment.

Future plans included the potential provision of a new skate park area. A resident was in attendance to ask the Parish Council to consider providing a skate park. Following discussion it was agreed to set up a small working group to begin developing proposals. This would be made up of two residents, Cllr Breen, Cllr Saunders and the Clerk. The first meeting would take place prior to the Parish Council meeting on 23rd May 2017.

The meeting thanked Mr Breen and his team of volunteers.

8. OPEN DISCUSSION

The following matters were raised:

- Concern was expressed that the area on the Castle site had been cleared but some rubbish had been left. It was explained that Heritage England had overseen the works. It was agreed to address the issue of the rubbish left;
- It was suggested that a volunteer group be set up to help clear and maintain the area in the future;
- Concern was expressed regarding the parking on the highway where the new Post office was. It would be monitored and further advice on possible action to discourage parking on the corner would be sought.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.14 pm.

CHAIR:

DATE: