WESTON-sub-EDGE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE BAR

AT 7.15P.M. ON TUESDAY 23rd MAY 2017

PRESENT: Bill Carruthers (parish council chairman) C/D/Cllr Lynden Stowe
4 members of the public (parish councillors) Chris Tombs (parish clerk)

17.01 WELCOME AND REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN BILL CARRUTHERS: the parish council continued to meet regularly on the fourth Tuesday of the month. There were seven Councillors in post at the start of the year which reduced to six on Andy Irvine's resignation part way through the year. Andy has yet to be replaced.

Councillors serving the full year were: Bill Carruthers, Chris Rossington, Wendy Clarke, Rachel Hurley, John Measey and Mike Jelley. The Council was ably supported by Chris Tombs parish clerk. The business of the council is minuted and is available on the village web site. Routine business includes receiving reports from GCC and CDC Councillors which enables strong links to be maintained with our ward councillor and hence to CDC and GCC. Following receipt of reports the opportunity is taken to raise matters of concern and highways and footpaths have received priority this year. A routine quarterly meeting has been set up with the GCC engineer who procures work and this has had positive results in terms of achieving road and footpath repairs and maintenance throughout the parish. Clearly this has not been as extensive as the Parish Council would wish but has been consistent with work in other parishes within GCC's budgetary constraints.

Planning issues are also discussed and CDC held to account for developments being compliant with planning consents. All planning applications are reviewed and commented on in the interests of the parish and financial statements are reviewed at each meeting.

The parish council continued to subsidise the Seniors' Coffee mornings and the Youth Club by funding the use of the village Hall. The Village Hall also continues to receive some financial support.

Speeding traffic on Stratford Road and Friday Street remained a concern and "gates" were provided at the entrance to the 30mph zone on the Stratford Road, there being evidence that such "gates" are beneficial in reducing the speed of vehicles entering villages. The Council is pursuing a vehicle activated speed notification sign for deployment on Stratford Road in a further effort to reduce speeding.

With GCC budget for maintenance continuing to reduce, further provisions have been made for increased maintenance of verges etc through the village.

Financially, the parish council funding remains stable and the council was able to hold the parish precept at the same level as 2016/17 with no increases. The financial accounts were audited and there were no qualifications.

The main improvement project for the year was to improve the facilities at the Recreation Ground supported by grants from Gloucester Environmental Trust and Cotswold Conservation Board and the project commenced following a meeting with the immediate adjacent residents to explain the project. The start was delayed as there were difficulties proving ownership of the recreation ground as the field was not registered at the Land Registry. This has now been achieved. The project is almost complete with final seeding of the field carried out. A second project is being set up to provide recreational equipment on the improved field and funding initiatives are under way.

The Council intends to deploy additional defibrillator units around the village with the help of CDC grants in line with ambulance service recommendations.

As always, if any parishioner has issues then the parish council is pleased to receive and act on them, contact details of councillors being available from the parish clerk, or contact councillors direct.

17.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: an apology for absence was received from Chris Rossington.

17.03 APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24th May 2016:
Minutes of last year's meeting were before the meeting and approved as a true record and signed by the chairman.

17.04 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL POLICE: a brief set of crime statistics for the previous year and current were before the meeting and are attached. Those present challenged their accuracy and asked the clerk to take this up with Stow police. **ACTION CLERK**

17.05 REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS: Lynden Stowe began by saying that GCC has increased council tax by 3.99%, 2% of which is to pay for adult social care the demand for which is rising each year and represents 30% to 40% of the council's budget. A £9m budget for highways has been superseded by a government initiative to enable a £150m spend over the next 5 years. This should mean the backlog of highway repairs can be reduced from the current £80m to £40m. Lynden Stowe announced that has a cabinet portfolio position. He thought broadband speeds in the parish were not too bad. Those present thought otherwise. An ambulance vehicle is now stationed at Moreton-in-Marsh in an attempt to get a quicker response time in the north Cotswolds. Funding for youth projects is available.
CDC council tax is frozen for this year although government increased charges for planning applications. The CDC local plan should going for inspection in July2017. Grants are available for funding additional defibrillators and commemoration of the end of WW1.
The chairman thanked Lynden Stowe for his reports and considerable support over the year.

17.06 PRESENTATION AND REVIEW OF WRITTEN REPORTS FROM THE VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS IN THE VILLAGE:
ALLOTMENTS: most significant to report probably is the fact that this year is the first one in several decades in which Ted Smith no longer has an allotment. Many years ago when a lot of the plots were not gardened he was asked if he would take on the unused plots. This he did and until recently had eight plots, a quarter of the site. At the moment all of the plots are taken and being enthusiastically gardened by the majority of the tenants. May is a difficult time of the year because the weed growth is phenomenal particularly if any of the plots have not been kept clean; more than enough to defeat those new to taking on an allotment tenant. After a slow start to the growing year because of the weather conditions all seems to looking very good now. The allotments continue to be a huge credit to those who have them.
BOWLING CLUB: last year's outdoor season was enjoyed by all who played. Some matches were abandoned because of the vagaries of the weather. Membership continues to decline although five new members have joined this year. Maintenance of the green continues to consume 60% of the club's expenditure which necessitates four or five fundraising events during the year.
CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST: report not available.
EDUCATION CHARITY: The Board of Trustees consists of Sarah Hudson-Evans (Chairman), Valerie Kemp, Jane Slatter, Rupert Oswell and Wendy Clarke
Wendy Clarke joined us in July 2016 due to the retirement of Francis Robbins who had served for 16 years.
The Trustees meet on six occasions during the year to make awards, two meetings per term.
All students can apply once per term, with University Student applying at the start of their course for the whole year. Awards made include applications for nursery, sporting tuition, academic lessons, music, dance, school trips, residential trips and university courses.
In the last academic year ended 31st August 2016
93 valid applications were received. In total there were 42 individual applicants of whom:

2	Pre-school
16	Reception to Year 6
11	Year 7 – Year 11
2	Age 16-18
11	Further Education (18-25)

OUTINGS CLUB: the group continues to thrive in spite of increasing infirmity of some of the members and the rising cost of coach hire. New members are coming in and in fact membership has increased in 2017. The trips out are thoroughly enjoyed by all and this year have included visits

to Witney and Hampton Court in Herefordshire. For later in the year trips are planned for Abingdon, Weston-super-Mare, Shrewsbury and rounding off the year Westonbirt in October. In November the annual poppy appeal lunch and bring & buy event is planned, with proceeds to the Royal British Legion. The event that everyone looks forward to is the Christmas lunch at the Lygon Arms in Campden. The club is a lifeline to some of its members because it can be the only time they are able to get out beyond their community. The group is ably run by Margaret Bird and Rita Jones and continues to be financially self sufficient.

U3A GROUPS: the University of the Third Age groups, history, new age kurling and mixed dancing have met throughout the year in the Village Hall. The history group continues to be very well attended and much appreciated by a wide group from the local communities. The new secretary is continuing to find interesting and varied speakers of subjects of local interest. The dancing group is in imminent danger of closing, being unable to attract sufficient who are fit enough to take part. This is a great pity as the activity has been greatly enjoyed. The members are continuing to meet however over a cup of coffee and chat.

VILLAGE HALL: last year saw a succession of three tenants for the Village Bar. Now it is being run well opening on a Thursday in addition to Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Food is available during opening hours and for events taking place in the hall. Lettings have held up; U3A, yoga, Youth Club, monthly auction, rural cinema and the Latimer's dancers. LED lighting has been installed, the car park needs to be resurfaced and work is needed on the original hall roof. A reserve fund is going to be established in order to meet these significant future refurbishment costs.

YOUTH CLUB: The Youth Club has continued to meet in the Village Hall on the first and third Thursdays of each month during term time. It operates under the auspices of the Campden Youth Project and is lead by Sue Stanier, a very experienced Youth Worker and Youth Club Leader.

Sue plans a varied programme a year in advance with activities ranging from sports nights to cooking and cake decorating and from canvas painting to themed nights, such as Oceans Day or New Year's Resolutions.

A grant towards the running costs has been received from CDC, members pay £1.00 subscription per meeting and sweets and drinks are on sale to boost funds. However, the Youth Club could not operate without the support of the parish council, nor could it run without the commitment of volunteers such as Pat Turner and Jacob Greenslade, an ex-member who has helped out this year as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Whilst the number of attendees has varied, current membership is, unfortunately, too low to be viable in the longer term. The members thoroughly enjoy the activities on offer but new recruits are needed urgently.

17.07 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: there was none.

17.08 DATE OF NEXT YEAR'S MEETING:

It was agreed that it should be held on 24th May 2018 at 7.15p.m..

There being no other business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.25p.m..

Signed……Date……