WESTON-sub-EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE HALL OF FRIENDSHIP AT 7.15P.M. ON 23rd FEBRUARY 2010

PRESENT: Cllrs. Anne Barrott Alan Cotton Alan Edmonds Mike Jelley Jenny King Chris Rossington David Smith (chairman)

IN ATTENDANCE: D/Cllr Mark Annett Lynden Stowe Joel Hockenhal (CDC) Leanne Roach (Hyder) Mitchell Watts (Hyder) Rupert Brice (WRFAG) 0 members of the public clerk

10/015 COUNCILLORS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:
There were none.

10/016 FLOOD RESILIENCE:
1.0 The chairman opened by welcoming the visitors from Hyder and CDC and suggested that answering the questions raised on page 2 of the village hydrology update report 23.02.10 from David Smith.
1) Joel Hockenhal said that Hyder will use the model and historic rainfall information provided by the Environment Agency to work out flood alert levels.
2) & 3) JH said that to date CDC and GCC had jointly funded the studies and modelling exercise. A grant from DEFRA has been applied for which will be based on a proportion of the financial damage occurring in the village resulting from a 1 in 100 year event meaning that resilience solutions can be funded to this amount. Leanne Roach and Mitchell Watts went through the mitigation options saying that no one solution is sufficient to provide the anticipation resilience.
Funding of the mitigation options will be based on cost/benefit ratios including houses taken out of the risk of flooding and other parameters that benefit the ecology of the area etc. ~~Each will be costed against benefit which is the number of houses taken out of the risk of flooding~~.
4) The meeting heard that Tim Dowans is ensuring action on riparians neglecting their responsibility for water course maintenance. Funding for this enforcement has been set aside and a common protocol adopted throughout Gloucestershire.
5) It was reported that whilst enhanced gulley and drain clearance is now taking place they block again; the frequency of cleaning is therefore not adequate.
6) Timely contact of landowners of mitigation activities on their land was raised. JH thought it best to wait until completion of the feasibility studies. which should be by April, DEFRA review by May with proposals for action by mid July.
7) The various and most favourable extreme event attenuation sites were listed as the Moat site, Badgers Bank, the orchard below the Moat and the Lynches prior to exiting into the field. JH voiced concern about silting at the Lynches but agreed to look at the idea again, the chairman suggested that the clearing of silt could be made a compulsory task of the Parish Council. MW agreed to quantify the water flow in Dirty Lane from Saintbury and said diverting it away from Weston-sub-Edge would be difficult to achieve. LR said that English Heritage require the moat to remain in its present condition of mostly empty and may not welcome it being used for attenuation, however a compromise may be reached. Attitudes to resilience provision by insurance companies was raised. JH commented that if they don't adjust terms accordingly it makes a mockery of the government investment in resilience projects. Hyder agreed to quantify the attenuation schemes in terms of not overwhelming the Friday Street culvert. *8)* Details of timescales were raised. Feasibility studies should be completed by April, DEFRA review by May with proposals for action by mid July. JH thought availability of funds which requires government allocation would be two years away.
The chairman thanked Joel Hockenhal, Leanne Roach and Mitchell Watts for spending time in the village during the day and attending the parish council meeting.
2.0 After the Hyder and CDC representatives had left the chairman said that the prospect of further flooding in the village is more likely than first calculated because Hyder had not initially taken into account the water flow into the Upper Tributory from the upper Buckle Street brook; also that any amount of mitigation efforts will not prevent water ingress into homes susceptible from a rising water table. This last is brought about by the compaction of the ground beneath the route of the B4632 over centuries forming a non-permeable bund. The chairman said that those making financial contributions to provide resilience for the village should be told that there is no solution to a rising water table. This was agreed following a final confirmation from Hyder. Action DS
Councillors were disappointed that Hyder had rejected systems involving pumps, a low flow storage area at the Lynches, bunds and that preventing Saintbury water in Dirty Lane from draining into Weston-sub-Edge as being not feasible from a long term maintenance point of view.

10/017 ABSENCE: Notice of absence was received from Sue Jepson.

10/018 APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26.01.10:

Councillors unanimously **resolved** approval; the chairman signed the minutes as a true record of the business conducted.

10/019 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

1.0 Lynden Stowe reported that the council tax increase for 2010/11 would be 2.3%; the budget will be very tight, that £5m has been put into repairing pot holes, an extra £0.5m into road salt and gritting and money for the provision of 30 more social workers to work with young people.

2.0 Ambulance call out response times are back on the agenda as less than 50% are within the target time, Lynden said.

3.0 The poor state of the road surface at Dovers View was reported. Lynden agreed to enquire why no repairs have taken place. **ACTION LS**

10/020 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT:

1.0 Lynden Stowe reported that the council tax increase for 2010/11 will be 2.3% with £0.5m for flood resilience and £100k for community work.

2.0 Lynden agreed to enquire if an appropriate licence has been obtained for the forthcoming Jazz Picnic as part of the Campden Music Festival in May at Broad Close farm. **ACTION LS**

10/021 PLANNING:

APPLICATIONS BEFORE THE PARISH COUNCIL:

There were none.

DECISIONS OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY TO PERMIT/CONSENT:

There were none.

10/022 FINANCE:

1.0 RECEIVE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BANK RECONCILIATION:

The monthly financial statement and bank reconciliation were before the meeting.

2.0 APPROVE ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT:

Cheque	date	paid to	item	amount	VAT	total
200341	24.02.10	Chris Tombs	clerk's salary Feb	134.00	0.00	134.00
200342	24.02.10	Hall of Friendship	hall hire 26.01.10 for the PC meeting	14.00	0.00	14.00
200343	24.02.10	David Smith	retirement gift for Francis Robbins	22.49	0.00	22.49

Jenny King proposed and Alan Cotton seconded making these payments which councillors unanimously **resolved** approval.

3.0 APPROVE EXPENDITURE TO PURCHASE SALT/GRIT BINS:

After discussion Jenny King proposed and Mike Jelley seconded the purchase of three green coloured Glasdon Nestor grit/salt bins to be located at the road edge above Knapp farmhouse, at the junction of Dovers View and Church Street and at the junction of Church Street and Stratford Road. Councillors unanimously **resolved** approval.

4.0 APPROVE RENEWAL OF SCHOOL FIELD GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT:

Mike Jelley proposed and Jenny King seconded renewing this contract with Glebe Contractors at a cost of £717.50; councillors unanimously **resolved** approval. **ACTION CLERK**

10/023 APPOINT AN EXTERNAL/INTERNAL AUDITOR:

David Smith proposed Geoffrey Weaver as the parish council's external auditor; councillors were in unanimous agreement. **ACTION DS**

10/024 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE:

09/087 2.0 Lynden Stowe has reported that with the burden of pothole filling there will be little or no new money available – **actioned**

09/087 3.0 Chairman reported that grant money should have been used to fund provision of a youth leader.

09/112 Repair Church street phone box – repairs appear to have taken place.

09/119 Clerk's Piece – the rector has been informed and is aware that more work is needed to tidy the boundary hedge.

09/125 1.0 Hyder meeting has taken place on 26.2.10.

09/141 2.0 Autumn verge maintenance – this has not happened - the clerk was asked to contact Ross Homans again **ACTION CLERK**

10/006 Trees needing a TPO – councillors heard that trees in the conservation area and above a certain size require permission for work to be carried out on them. The chairman asked councillors to bring to the next meeting trees which should be considered for preservation orders. Mike Jelley offered to get information about the process. **ACTION COUNCILLORS/MJ**

10/008 1.0 Mike Jelley reported that recorded injury accidents at the Buckle Street crossroads for the three years to the end of 2008 numbered eight.

10/010 Parish council nominated trustee on the Frances Ellis charity – **actioned**.

10/011 Bank House light – **actioned**.

10/014 Lorry route sign at the Saintbury junction – **actioned** – no new lorry advisory route has been put in place in the parish and there are no restrictions on lorries using Aston Hill and the B4632 as a route to the nearby industrial estates.

10/014 Mickleton parish council's opinion of the Middle Quinton leisure complex, new housing and industrial estate – **actioned** – the clerk reported that the parish councils local to Quinton are opposed to this planning application, that Stratford District Council had given permission last month by a narrow majority and that the opinion of most is that it is a very poor decision as there is no condition for the developer to provide facilities such as shops, surgery, school etc.

10/025 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE LAST MEETING:

A list of correspondence received was before the meeting.

10/019 article in Clerks & Councils Direct keeps open the possibility that the Rights of Way 2000 act may still apply to the owner of Bank House using the village green there to access her property.

There being no other business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.15p.m.

Signed……Date……..