WESTON-sub-EDGE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE HALL OF FRIENDSHIP
AT 7.15P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 26th MAY 2010

PRESENT: David Smith (chairman) D/Cllrs Sue Jepson Sgt Martin Jones 14 parishioners
Chris Tombs (parish clerk)

10.01 WELCOME AND REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN DAVID SMITH:

1.1 David Smith welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting.

1.2 The village plan which started life at this meeting two years ago is about to be published and delivered to all households. It has been adopted by the parish council and records what parishioners have said what they want. Some of the ideas have been started e.g. facilities for teenagers of which the parish council will want to follow up. Although the School field surface is now much better, it is not used. The village plan identified that it is too remote to the village. Bill Carruthers and the village plan team are thanked for their very hard work.

1.3 The emergency plan group have worked hard to put in place the response teams and procedures for action should an event occur in the village. In this process of preparation all that remains is to stage a trial of a simulated emergency to check how well the plan and the people works.

1.4 Verges in Stratford road are now cut by a contractor. The new verge opposite the Seagrave will be planted soon with completion in the autumn. Footways in Church Street have been re-surfaced; some road repairs still need to be done.

1.5 Financial support for the Hall of Friendship has been given by the parish council, Cotswold District Council, trusts and other sources enabling much regeneration.

1.6 Inappropriate use of speed in the village has been addressed by the parish council by putting up temporary 30MPH signs and soon using a radar gun; the results hopefully will provide evidence for the need for traffic claming. Planning is a sore topic; frequently the opinion of the parish council is overridden by CDC planning department. The Seagrave Arms is due to be re-opened at the end of June; go to the Weston-sub-Edge website to view what is on offer there.

10/02 APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28th 2009:

Mary Knight proposed and Roy Jenkins seconded approval of the minutes of last year's meeting; the chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

10/03 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL POLICE:

3.1 Sgt Martin Jones reported that a new chief constable has been in post since the start of this year. Savings are expected to be needed but should not reflect in a reduction of police presence in the North Cotswold. PC Rob Wells is sponsored by Gloucestershire county council and as such can't be put on other duties and the Safer Community Team is free from bureaucracy so more of their time can be spent in the community. Some cover is shared with the police from Evesham.

3.2 Local police panels meet in Chipping Campden where priorities for policing are established; all are welcome to attend.

3.3 Local crime figures for the parish show a considerable reduction on last year at 9 (21) because of a concentration of police and National Trust effort at the Dovers Hill car park with incidents there down to 6 (13). Other crimes reported were victims of online fraud. There were no crimes of violence or burglaries. Issues with anti-social behaviour of young people in the village are being investigated by PC Wells. The approach is to identify those involved, talk to them, talk to their parents and if necessary issue a warning.

3.4 The need to report an incident straight away using the Safer Community Team number 0845 090 1234 was strongly emphasised.

10/04 REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:

4.1 Sue Jepson as Cotswold district councillor reported the lowest council tax rise at 2.3% for 15 years. The audit commission gave the council 3 out of 4, the best in the county. Staff cuts will be made without affecting efficiency. Corporate directors have been cut from 5 to 3. CDC continues to work with west Oxfordshire district council, now a permanent arrangement.

4.2 CDC has set up a £0.5m flood fund with spending in the Campden Vale concentrated on Chipping Campden and Weston-sub-Edge. Money has also been allocated to keep disabled people in their own homes rather than going to residential care – generally a better option for them.

4.3 The rate of recycling is 62% which is the highest in the UK. The kerbside collection of plastics is being considered, perhaps with implementation by the end of the year.

4.4 £100k has been set aside for communities to support village halls and play facilities, one being the recreation ground in Chipping Campden which will be of benefit to residents of Weston-sub-Edge. £350k has been spent upgrading the district's sports centres including the one in Chipping Campden.

4.5 £54k has been allocated to protect the local heritage of the Cotswolds. A local development framework will take over from the local plan in 2012; sensible development will be allowed. The online planning system has been in operation for two years now and is working well. Access to it is available to members of the public via the CDC website.

10/05 REPORT FROM THE WESTON RIPARIAN FLOOD ACTION GROUP:

David Smith reported that the brook spring clean planned for January was postponed due to adverse weather conditions. A new date has yet to be set. The CDC consultants Hyder have prepared a mathematical model of the drainage of the escarpment above the village. The Environment Agency have requested an independent check of this model to assure it works correctly; this will mean a delay in arriving at the final recommendation of what can be put in place to raise the flood resilience of the village. It seems likely that this will be a series of holding ponds on the escarpment which will be easy to construct and require no maintenance. Issues with great crested newts, barn owls and badger sets there will need to be resolved.

10/06 REPORTS FROM THE LOCAL ORGANISATIONS:

1.0 BOWLING CLUB: Marie Dow reported that despite the poor weather last summer the club only had to cancel one match because of rain. This year has got off to a better start with the first match of the season being played on a perfect spring day in April. The green was in excellent condition. All social events have been enjoyable and well attended. On Friday evenings members of the club have a friendly 'roll up' on the green and newcomers are very welcome to come along.

2.0 FRIENDSHIP CLUB: the club is open on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunchtime. There is a snooker room and bingo is played. The club is open to all and new members are most welcome – opening times are on the noticeboard says Alan Cotton.

3.0 GARDENING CLUB: another successful year reported Christine Smith with visits to the clematis collection in Welford-on-Avon, Anne Hathaway's cottage garden and the Michaelmas daisy collection near Malvern. An enjoyable 'gardeners question time' was held, chaired by two well known local horticulturists and a successful plant sale raised essential funds for the club. The committee has six members and would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to join. The programme for the rest of the year includes an open garden at the home of one of our members, visits to Fibrex of Pebworth, Coughton Court and Mill Dene garden at Blockley, together with presentations on 'pest

and disease control without the use of chemicals' and the 'garden in winter'. Anyone is welcome to join the Gardening Club – please see a member of the committee or visit the village website to find out more.

4.0 HALL OF FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE: the meeting heard from chairman Mary Knight that the hall is in its 78th year during which much has been achieved; new heating system, windows, lighting, tables and improvements to the cloakroom. To come is re-roofing and updating of the kitchen. David Smith, Tony Kemp, Roy Jenkins and David White and others are to be thanked for all this achievement. The hall is now used by a wide variety of groups – including the new WLG coffee shop at 10.30a.m. every Saturday, open to everyone do come along – wouldn't Miss McCulloch be surprised. Vacancies exist for new Trustees of the hall. David White thanked those who had very generously donated £2000 to enable the purchase of much needed new tables and asked for donations to help with the purchase of new chairs.

5.0 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: messages come to about a dozen villagers by telephone from the police and get passed on – perhaps the parish council can act to get it back onto a better footing with wider circulation of the information.

6.0 OUTINGS CLUB: although numbers on the outings have fallen over recent years demand remains strong; a busy programme of monthly visits has been organised. Already this year trips to Trentham gardens, Ledbury and the Malverns have taken place. To come will be Bristol zoo, Weston-super-Mare and other places. A bring and buy sale, raffle and a Christmas lunch will complete the year; more members always welcome – Rita Jones.

7.0 PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL: at the annual parochial church meeting in 2009 Major Webb stood down as Deanery representative after over 40 years. He was replaced by David Herbert who also joined Barrie Knight as church wardens. The church was beautifully decorated in June for the flower festival. This year, instead of the festival a 'gift day' has been organised at which treasures and ornaments of the church will be on display. Last year's fruit, flower and vegetable show and fete was again a great success. For harvest supper, invitations went to everyone in the parish – 30 attended and a very happy evening was had. No charge was made for this event. In August Weston-sub-Edge hosted the St. Lawrencetide service in August with a buffet luncheon served in the church. A family service continues to be held on the 1st Sunday in the month although sadly only one young person regularly attends – report from Marie Dow.

8.0 WESTON LEISURE GROUP:

BOOK CLUB: Christine Smith told the meeting that this club has now been running for 12 months with 8 members. A wide range of books have been read from classics to prize winning novels with the occasional biography. The group meets informally in each others homes over a glass of wine or cup of coffee. Members don't always agree on the enjoyment of the book under discussion; this always provokes an interesting discussion. For more information please visit the village website.

HILL WALKING GROUP: how much further? Oh no not another hill! You said its round the next corner! It's a bit muddy, not another stile! A great walk Alan!

There are many 'ways' to walk the Cotswolds and yet the phone rarely rings. I walk with the faithful few, company is rewarding, inspirational and encouraging. Walking is exercise, frees the mind. However, onward to Ford, Condicote, Stanton, Bellas Knapp, Sezincote and Winchcombe - Alan Edmonds.

KEEP FIT GROUP: regular membership at 7 or 8 needs more to keep it viable – please come along said Judith Williams-Brown, Mondays between 4.00p.m. and 5.00p.m., £3.50 per time, fun for all ages.

RURAL CINEMA: showings of films have continued on the last Thursday of the month except December and August. There is a loyal following that come to each showing whatever the film. Support is mainly from the village with increasing numbers from the surrounding villages. Films are sourced from Cotswold District Council; a variety of drama, romance and thrillers is chosen. The equipment showing the films in the Hall of Friendship is the best in the area; the group runs in surplus which helps to subsidise other activities in the leisure group – Jenny King.

THEATRE GROUP: so far this year two trips have taken place; by Hedgehog bus to Malvern theatre and by car to the Everyman in Cheltenham, because the numbers were down; going by bus is more sociable. Another trip is planned for later in the year – Jenny King.

WESTON SENIORS: business very much as usual says Peter Welstead. The group has been running now for three years. Its aim remains to provide a venue for people to meet for a chat, cup of coffee, biscuits or cake on the second Monday each month. The group intends to carry on as it is now.

10.07 REPORTS FROM THE LOCAL CHARITIES:

1.0 ALLOTMENT TRUST: the parish clerk reported that the allotments are gardened to a very high standard with almost all of the plots tended as they should be. A half plot is vacant and possibly another half plot. The finances are very healthy. The hedges will be trimmed over the winter. An extra water tap was requested and Mary Knight reminded allotment holders to be ready for the Allotment competition at the flower show later in the year.

2.0 WESTON-SUB-EDGE EDUCATIONAL CHARITY: Rachel Hurley reported that the trustees are Kate Thorpe chairman, Sarah Hudson-Evans, Valerie Kemp, Barrie Knight and Francis Robbins. They had met on six occasions during the year to make awards against 146 applications covering various activities and courses. In total there were 78 individual applicants of whom 11 pre-school; 29 reception to year 6; 18 year 7 to year 11; 6 aged 16 to 18 and 14 further education (18 to 25 years).

3.0 RECREATION GROUND TRUST: the parish clerk reported that an increased frequency of grass cutting there continues in an effort to maintain a playable surface. A lot of work has been put in by Anna Edmonds to establish the wild flower area. Some results of the sowings are now beginning to show.

10.08 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: a request was made to have the Recreation Ground to Lynches wood footpath cleared and the hazard of the barbed wire on top of the fence was also reported. The parish clerk agreed to attend to this. **ACTION CLERK**

10.09 DATE OF NEXT YEAR'S MEETING:
None was set.

10.10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:
There was none.

The chairman closed by saying that the trustees of the Hall of Friendship have a duty of care to ensure the sustainability of the property; it is under utilized and everyone was urged to make more use of it and in doing so help build a stronger community – a lot of activities are available which need to be further strengthened.

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

Signed……Date……

Written reports where provided are attached to these minutes.