WESTON-sub-EDGE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL

AT 7.00PM TUESDAY 28th 2024

PRESENT: *Bill Carruthers (parish council chairman)* Mike Jelley, Matt McMinn, Gill Theo, Tom Whitehouse *(5 parish councillors) C/D/Cllr Tom Stowe, Gloucestershire County Councillor Lynden Stowe*
7 members of the public, Lucy Print (parish clerk) PC Paul Hancock Police Officer

24.01 WELCOME AND REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN BILL CARRUTHERS:

The Parish Council has functioned well during the year.

Councillors:
Bill Carruthers – Chairman
Mike Jelley
Gill Theo
Matt McMinn
Tom Whitehouse
Paul Wyatt
Richard Court-Ricour

Parish Clerk: Lucy Print

Parish Council Chairman's Report May 2024

Weston sub- Edge Parish Council continues to be active with a full complement of Councillors, Richard Court-Ricour having joined the Council replacing Wendy Clarke.
Many thanks to Wendy for her service over many years.

Council Agendas and Minutes are published on the village web site.

Financially the Council continues to be in a secure position. The Parish precept was increased by 5%, to cover inflation, for financial year 2024/25.
Council Accounts are currently being audited but it is not expected there will be significant issues. The accounts will also be subject to external audit.

The Council continues to meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, excepting August and December, with an open invitation to parishioners.
GCC Councillor Lynden Stowe attends periodically and maintains the link with GCC. CDC Councillors Gina Blomefield and Tom Stowe attend council meetings regularly to provide reports on CDC activities and take actions from the Parish Council.
The Council policy of challenging CDC on budget issues and CDC plans for budgetary spend remains in place.

Local planning applications remain a high priority for the Council with challenges being registered where necessary to preserve the environment of the Parish and surrounding areas. Particular notice is taken of applications associated with listed buildings.

A Village Plan has been issued, built on the feedback from a questionnaire issued to all households, effectively asking what parishioners view as priorities for the Parish Council and including development of the Village Hall and facilities

The main link with GCC is dealing with roads and footpaths with Councillors continuing to meet GCC Highways on a regular basis.
Heavy traffic through the village remains a problem with some minor adjustments to signage in hand to alleviate the problem somewhat.
The Honeybourne crossroads are a continued topic for discussion, with suggestions having been made for improvements to reduce accident frequency. GCC have implemented speed surveys with no conclusive outcome.
Chapel Lane resurfacing remains outstanding with the problem being lack of access for heavy machinery. Some improvements to Parson's Lane footpaths have been made
The vehicle actuated speed cameras remain in place with data being downloaded. Subjectively, the Stratford Road camera is believed to have helped reduce the speed of vehicles entering the village from Mickleton.
Further "white gate" installations are in hand at entrancse to the village from Willersey and Bretforton

The PC has an excellent working relationship with Cotswold Wardens, and stiles, gates and footpaths are maintained with their input.

The Parish Council takes the environment in the village seriously, and routinely has the verges cut in addition to occasional cuts by GCC,hedges trimmed around the allotments and the recreation ground, provide waste bins etc.
A successful litter pick was again organised in April.

CDC confirmed as permanent the "Article 4 (1) Direction which removes permitted development rights on Church Orchard. This essentially means, if landowners wish to do anything on Church Orchard they need consent from CDC Planning and should protect Church Orchard for the future.

The high priority of security in the village led to a scheme ,including CCTV and an ANPR facility, being implemented successfully with funding from the Parish Council and the OPCC fund "Creating Safer Communities". The scheme is being used as a model for other communities and data from the system is being utilised by the police as necessary.

The Parish Council continues to work closely with the Village Hall Trustees organising joint events and providing financial support to Hall projects such as the Solar Power project and additional insulation. It also continues to sponsor monthly coffee morning and funds the high speed broadband service

The website has been updated, providing easier navigation and refreshed graphics. The challenge now is to keep the information current and individuals are taking on responsibility for sections.

The Parish Clerk oversees the administration of the allotment charity with guidance from the Parish Council. The allotments continue to be oversubscribed with a short waiting list.

Public attendance at Council Meetings has been limited but the public are always welcome with questions taken at the Chairman's discretion at the end of the business addressed in the formal meeting.

Finally, I would like to thank all Councillors, the Parish Clerk and others who have given their time and efforts to support not only the Council but me personally.

Bill Carruthers, Chairman, Weston sub-Edge Parish Council, May 2024

***24.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**: apologies for absence received from Parish Councillor Richard Court-Ricour and Paul Waytt,and District County Councillor Gina Blomefield.*

***24.03 APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23- 05- 2022**: approved*

24.04 Report from Paul Hancock 9054, Neighbourhood Policing Team Gloucestershire Constabulary

Annual Crime figures 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024

Category	23/24	22/23
Violence	1	2
Burglary	6	6
Theft	6	5
Fraud	0	0
Criminal Damage	2	1
Drugs	0	0
Other	2	0
Total	17	14

Previous Year Totals 21/22 16 Crimes 20/21 21 Crimes
Total Number of calls to Police 23/24 61 Incidents 22/23 60 Incidents

The incident of Violence, involved malicious communication with calls being made to a business premises. The six Burglaries consisted of 2 Residential, 2 further unsuccessful attempts on residential properties and 2 involved breaks to outbuilding where items were taken.
The six thefts saw 4 reports (2 linked) of items being taken from vehicles, a break into a business premises and an incident of handling stolen goods, where an offender was stopped in possession of goods. Criminal damages involved scratches being left on a vehicle and damage to a wall. .
The two 'other' were a result of images on the internet and goods being stopped by border control addressed to the Parish.
3 males were arrested (March) and interviewed in connection to a number of Burglaries in the area. Investigations are still ongoing in connection with this. Police used to aid the investigation, the CCTV System recently installed in the Parish.
Burglary prevention advice can be found -
www.gloucestershire.police.uk/police-forces/gloucestershire-constabulary/areas/gloucestershire/campaigns/burglary/

The past month saw the resignation of PC Natalie Lansdown, who wanted to pass on her thanks for all the help and support she received during her time in post and to wish everyone all the best for the future.

***24.05 REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**:*

Report County Councillor Lynden Stowe:
Small increase in council tax. The incinerator waste disposal generated electricity totalling £15M 62% of the budget is allocated to adult and childrens services. Council has good reserves. Local roads have improved in last 12 months. New surgery planned for Chipping Campden offering extension in services. With all the rain this year flooding defences have worked well.

Report District Councillor Tom Stowe
Tom Stowe and Gina Blomefield were re-elected in May last year. CDC have a budget gap 24/25. Issues fly tipping and increase fires. Chipping Campden Leisure centre omitted from funding. Disatisfaction regarding communicates around bin collections – should not just be on social media.

24.06 PRESENTATION AND REVIEW OF WRITTEN REPORTS FROM THE VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS IN THE VILLAGE:

Weston sub Edge Allotments May 2024

All plots are rented.

Weston Sub Edge Neighbourhood Watch scheme

Weston Sub Edge Neighbourhood Watch scheme via the WhatsApp group continues to provide the village with a simple, current, means of keeping our community engaged in crime prevention and keeping us safe. We have 84 members in the group and this is lots of eyes and ears watching and listening to activity in the village and the surrounding area. For those who would like to join please email helen.munro321@icloud.com.

WESTON-SUB-EDGE EDUCATIONAL CHARITY Registered Number 297226
Annual Report for Weston sub Edge Educational Charity
For academic year Sept 2022 to August 2023

Trustees:
Mrs. Valerie Kemp, Mrs. Wendy Clarke, and Mr. Rupert Oswell, together with myself.
Mrs. Jane Slatter had given one years' notice to resign as a Trustee and retired Mar 23 having been a Trustee since Nov 14. Mrs Louise Cattanach joined as new Trustee in July 2023.

Thank you all for your commitment and the time you have given as Trustees of the Charity.

Applications have shown an increase from last year. In the last academic year, ended 31st August 2023, the Charity received 55 valid applications, an increase of 7. These were from 36 individual applicants as shown, up from 28 previous year.

0 Pre-school
12 Reception to Year 6
6 Year 7 – Year 11
5 Age 16-18
13 Further Education (18-25)

Online applications continue to work well as well as online payments.

Mr. Geoffrey Weaver remained our Independent Auditor.

The Portfolio had been well run by Tilney which has now been taken over by Evelyn, but still managed Mike Hughes and our finances remain strong. The Portfolio value is similar if slightly down on last year

I would like to thank Mrs Rachel Hurley for her hard work as Clerk and her continuing good humour.

Sarah Hudson-Evans, Chairman 25th March 2024

WESTON-sub-EDGE VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL
Chairman's Report to the Annual Meeting May 2024

Chairman's Report to the Annual Meeting May 2024

The year to end May 2024 has been a year of feverish activity with much achieved due to the support of Trustees, Council Members, Volunteers and village residents for which, as Chairman, I am most grateful.

The Charity remains in need of additional trustees, there now being five trustees appointed, two of which are ex officio. Sue and Anthony Prestage resigned as trustees during the year but they remain valuable, active supporters. My thanks to them for their support over the years particularly during the COVID pandemic.
Ideally, we would welcome a trustee with particular skills in Publicity and marketing – anybody out there? Also we would welcome Council members from regular user groups.

Financially, revenue has grown and as a non-profit making charity, all surpluses over operating costs are invested in the Hall to improve facilities. Excluding all grants and donations we managed to break even for the year.
There have been requirements for additional funds and we have been successful in securing funding from The Foyle Foundation, Campden Community Trust, the Village Hall Jubilee Fund, the Parish Council and the Rural England prosperity fund plus, most importantly, charitable donations from village residents following an appeal to cover some shortfalls in project funding due to unforeseen risks to our major project: the Solar Power project. Our grateful thanks to all contributors.

Bookings have been sustained at previous levels but we have sadly lost the Bridge Club and Pilates sessions. Our Bookings secretary is continually pursuing new regular hirers plus "one off" events to sustain and hopefully increase revenue to cover our ever increasing operating costs.
A sub committee of the Council has been successful in organizing "one off" events with much success, with attendee's feedback indicating an appetite for repeat events such as the Cheese and Wine evening (shared with the PCC), the Burns Night supper with Ceilidh.
Regular classes for Keep Fit, Zumba, U3A, Dog training, Yoga, Rural Cinema and a coffee morning remain as part of the Hall's overall offering.
The programme of events is available on the web site and the Chipping Campden Bulletin

"One off" events continue to be popular with parties, wakes and wedding receptions being available and successful., the Hall offering a very cost effective venue for such activities.

The revised Hall booking system introduced last year has been refined and the payment process streamlined via "STRIPE. A card reader is now available for payments for other events.

The Bar remains a major asset and gives our Hall something of a USP, the facility offering great value and quality food and beverages and incudes a successful catering offer for parties, wakes etc. Sunday lunches are particularly popular with booking absolutely essential.
The Bar and its contribution is vital to the ongoing viability of the Hall

The village website has been refreshed by the Parish Council with a major input from the Hall Council – it requires some minor adjustments but is a major improvement on the old site.
The Parish Council has also produced a "Village and Community Plan" based on a comprehensive questionnaire which identified residents' priorities. Encouragingly, development of the Hall and Facilities came out high on the prioritised list

Maintenance of the property continues to be a major burden and a major cost element of our operating costs.

The year has seen the launch of major projects targeting a reduction in operating costs, particularly utility costs which as supply contracts had to be renewed the effects of major energy cost increases have been felt eg Gas costs doubled, Electricity costs trebled.

1. *Improving insulation in the Old Hall roof with support from the Parish Council*

2. *Installation of a solar power generating system with some battery storage capacity, including strengthening of the Hall roof .The system now has to be fine tuned as we gain operating experience. Early experience, after a few teething problems of equipment and battery failure, is good with the Hall becoming around 70% self sufficient in electricity at this time of year. Load management will be essential in the winter months to maximise the savings.*

3. *The early stages of scoping the EV charging point project are well in hand and we expect to complete the project this coming year.*

4. *An alternative kitchen facility, to formally available to hirers from June 1st has been delivered most cost effectively with a massive input from volunteers, negating the need to employ any specialist contractors.*

The alternative kitchen facility , together with revised Hall and Bar entry arrangements, means that there are no conflicting requirements for the use of the main kitchen which is now dedicated to bar use.,

Longer term projects include :

1. *Refurbishing the Bowling Green club house to maximise its attraction as a venue alongside the Bowling Green itself.*
2. *Refurbishing the Games area and washrooms over the bar*
3. *Resurfacing the main car park which, despite some remedial work, the drive remains pot holed.*
4. *Potential provision of "Padel" facilities*

The bowling Green and Clubhouse remain as assets but also liabilities, in that they are heavy maintenance.

We continue to assess the optimum use for the Bowling Green and Club House, but there are no outstanding opportunities over the existing usage for camping and caravanning plus occasional weddings and parties with marquees, goals for both walking football and for our youngsters to play 5 a side. The facility is ideal for summer social evenings with outdoor games for the young people in the village, food from the bar and music.

Links with the Parish Council have continued to be strengthened leading to coordination of events which include the whole village and projects to the advantage of the whole community.

When one reflects on the past year it is amazing what has been achieved with limited resources – a great year and a compliment to all those who have contributed.

The Hall and its facilities are there for the benefit of the village and they can only survive with the support of villagers and their families.

My thanks to Trustees , Hall Council members and ALL volunteers that make everything possible and ensures the Hall continues to flourish as a major asset of our community.

Bill Carruthers Chairman, Hall Council, May 2024

24.07 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- *Extending conservation area – Church and Historic Monument not currently in it*
- *Village Hall Car Park in poor state – high priority to get it fixed. Investigate doing in sections*
- Speeding on Evesham Road and what can be done about Honeybourne Cross Roads. White gates and sharks teeth will be installed marking entrance to village and 30mph.

24.08 DATE OF NEXT YEAR'S MEETING:
It was agreed that it should be held on 27th May 2025

There being no other business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.12pm.

Signed..... Date 28 May 2025