

Welford • Hoe Benham • Easton

Welford Parish Council

Weston • Wickham • Halfway

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 2nd November 2022 at 7pm in
Wickham Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Martyne Ellard (ME, Chair), David Hunt (DH, Vice Chair), Paul Stanley (PS), Henry Burgoyne-Probyn (HBP) and Sam Kynaston (SK)

In attendance Angela Boyce (Parish Clerk) District Cllr James Cole, District Cllr Dennis Benneyworth and 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sam Bell (SB) and District Cllr Claire Rowles.

2. Declarations of Interest from Councillors

Cllr Henry Burgoyne-Probyn declared that he was the neighbour of planning application 22/02302/FULMAJ - Weston Court Office. Conversion into 3 new dwellings.

3. To confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 28th September 2022

UNRESOLVED the minutes of the meeting held on 28th September were not signed as a true and accurate record due to a typing error. To be signed at next meeting.

4. OPEN FORUM.

There was nothing to report

5. Reports

5.1 District Councillors' Reports

District Councillors James Cole and Dennis Benneyworth reported that there was a very useful meeting held with the CEO of West Berkshire Council on 1st November. They discussed planning, speeding and a number of other issues that were brought up. It was noted that planning training will be offered to Parish Councils. District Councillor James Cole, noted the food waste service is underway and as well as being green, it can also save on money. Cllr Cole also noted that the cost of living hub is now active.

5.2 Chair's Report

The Chair had nothing to report.

5.3 Clerk's Report

The Clerk noted that WBC Planning dept are holding two training sessions via zoom on 23rd November at 2pm and 30th November at 6pm. The Clerk shared a request from a charity called SchoolReaders who are looking for local volunteers to listen to children in Primary Schools. The Clerk shared information about a Ukrainian support group based in West Berkshire, the information will be distributed.

6. Correspondence

The Clerk also noted that there is a West Berkshire Community Panel available for residents to have their say, a link will be put on the website and social media.

7. Grounds maintenance service costs 2023

West Berkshire Council will be increasing the charges considerably, to empty the dog waste bins in January 2023. We currently pay £130.00 per annum which will be increasing to £886.00 per annum. The reason for the increase is because the service in the past was extremely under charged and the service reflected this. To be decided at the next meeting whether to go ahead or go with another company.

8. Charity Donations

- a. A donation of £500.00 to the West Berkshire Emergency Cost of Living Crisis Appeal was agreed.
- b. A donation of £200.00 to the West Berkshire Library was agreed.

9. MUGA

9.1 Play equipment replacement. After an inspection was carried out, there are two swing seats that need replacing. A quote has been obtained at a cost of £443.10 plus VAT.

9.2 Welford and Wickham C.E. Primary Schools, request for financial help towards unpaid rent, grounds maintenance and the upkeep of the playing field, after much consideration, was refused.

10. Planning Matters

22/02302/FULMAJ - Weston Court Office. Conversion into 3 new dwellings. The Parish Council object to this application.

11. Parish Plan update

Dennis confirmed he has spoken to West Berkshire Council and they can assist us with the Parish Plan refresh. The Clerk to contact West Berkshire Council for assistance.

12. Finance

Receipts & payment report

| Payments | | |
|-----------------|--|---------|
| TBC | WELMEDICAL - Replacement battery for Wickham Defibrillator | 204.00 |
| 01/11/2022 | THE ROYAL BRITISH SAB26/40/2022 | 99.00 |
| 31/10/2022 | WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL WPC 43 | 20.00 |
| 31/10/2022 | GMG SERVICES & SOL WPC333 | 50.00 |
| 31/10/2022 | ANGELA BOYCE OCTOBER WAGES | 522.33 |
| 29/09/2022 | D K GARDENING SERV INVOICE 29/09/22 | 100.00 |
| 29/09/2022 | ANGELA BOYCE SEPTEMBER WAGES | 465.75 |
| 21/09/2022 | D K GARDENING SERV INVOICE 31/7/22 | 100.00 |
| 21/09/2022 | GMG SERVICES & SOL WPC332 | 50.00 |
| Receipts | | |
| 04/10/2022 | WEST BERKS COUNCIL WEST BERKS COUNCIL - PRECEPT | 4250.00 |

13. **CIL budget 2023.** No longer required.

14. **Defibrillator update and to agree the purchase of a new battery.**

The Clerk has made an official complaint to the Defibrillator company CU Medical, due to the issues that arose with the defibrillators during the software update. One battery needed replacing. The Council agreed the cost of £204.00 for a replacement battery.

15. Horse chestnut tree on the Common

An email was received from a resident regarding a horse chestnut tree on Marsh Common which has been damaged during recent bad weather conditions and it may have signs of disease. The Clerk to contact the tree officer at West Berkshire Council to ask them to come and have a look at it.

There being no other business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8:47pm