

Welford • Hoe Benham • Easton  
*Welford Parish Council*  
Weston • Wickham • Halfway

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024  
at 7pm in Wickham Village Hall**

**Present:** Sam Kynaston (Chair) David Hunt (Vice Chair) Martyne Ellard, Paul Stanley, Sam Bell and Henry Burgoyne-Probyn.

**In attendance** Angela Boyce (Parish Clerk) and District Councillor Denise Gaines

1. **To receive apologies for absence** District Councillors Tony Vickers and Dennis Benneyworth
2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest.** There were none.
3. **To confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023**  
RESOLVED the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 were signed as a true and accurate record.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023**
  - 4.1 **Members Bids for Wickham Bench and MUGA Basketball backboard.** The Clerk confirmed the PC had been successful with their members bids. The Clerk has contacted the contractor regarding the installation of the bench and has ordered the basketball backboard.
5. **OPEN FORUM.** There was nothing to report
6. **Reports**
  - 6.1 District Councillor's Report. District Councillor Gaines confirmed that the Local Plan can not be withdrawn so they are now working with the inspectors to get the best option. There was also a discussion regard the rural forum that was held.
  - 6.2 Chair's Report. There was nothing to report.
  - 6.3 Clerk's Report There was nothing to report.
7. **Correspondence** The Clerk spoke to a resident regarding the Green in Mant Close which is being used as a car park and its hard to use with pushchairs and mobility aids. District Councillor Gaines will see if there is anything that can be done as the PC have previously looked into this and do not have the funding available.
8. **Vehicles using B4000** – There has been an increase of speeding vehicles and HGV's using the B4000. There was a discussion, it was agreed that the Chair has reached out to the village to ask for volunteers. The Chair will contact WBC to discuss setting up a speed watch campaign.
9. **Request for funding from Welford Cricket Club** – After a discussion, it was agreed that the PC would factor local sport into the parish plan, which could help future funding. However, with the amount of donations the PC do, they cannot offer any additional funding over the previous amount of £300 but the PC would let the Cricket Club know if any other funding opportunities come up. The Clerk is currently waiting to hear from the Cricket Club to see if they can get match funding.
10. **Clerks Salary update** – The PC agreed the new rate of pay according to NALC salary update for 2023/24 and backdated it from April 2023.
11. **Budget 2024-25** There was a discussion regarding the budget for financial year 2024/25. To be approved at the next meeting.

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**12. Precept Budget 2024/25** After a discussion the PC agreed they would increase the precept in accordance with the WBC tax base percentage. The Clerk to notify WBC once the tax base is received.

**13. Planning**

**a. Applications**

**23/02845/HOUSE** Weston House, Lambourn Road, Weston. Proposed removal of existing flat roofed extensions and replacement with an oak framed kitchen extension. The PC had no objections.

**b. Decisions**

**23/01380/HOUSE** 8 Easton Hill, Easton. Double Garage on Existing Parking Area.  
**APPROVED**

**23/01250/FUL** Halfway Cottage, Bath Road, Halfway. Conversion of existing garage to a residential annexe. **APPROVED**

**14. Finance**

**a. Payments**

<b>29/11/2023</b>	The Royal British Legion - Poppy Wreaths	99
<b>28/11/2023</b>	Wickham Village Hall - Hall Hire WPC 93	25
<b>28/11/2023</b>	ANGELA BOYCE - Clerk Salary November	605.82
<b>26/10/2023</b>	West Berkshire Council - Dog waste bin maintenance	292.58
<b>26/10/2023</b>	D K Gardening Service - MUGA and Common Maintenance October	160
<b>26/10/2023</b>	ANGELA BOYCE - Clerk Salary October	423

**14.2**

**Receipts**

<b>11/12/2023</b>	INTEREST (GROSS)	2.71
<b>09/11/2023</b>	INTEREST (GROSS)	2.63

**15. Parish Plan update** To discuss the Parish Plan

**16. West Berkshire Council Consultation on spending proposals for 2024/25** – To discuss and agree any changes that may affect the PC

**17. Close of meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8:20pm

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7:00pm in Wickham Village Hall.