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

### Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7pm in Wickham Village Hall

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

**In attendance** Angela Boyce (Parish Clerk), District Councillor Tony Vickers and one member of the public

- **1. Apologies for Absence** Sam Kynaston (Chair), District Councillor Dennis Benneyworth and Denise Gaines
- 2. Declarations of Interest from Councillors None
- 3. To confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 RESOLVED the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were signed as a true and accurate record.
- 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023
  - **4.1 Councillor Training update** The Clerk shared a councillor training session held by another local Parish Council, Councillor Sam Bell attended and found it very useful. The Clerk is going to look into hiring the same trainer for a session and split it between Welford and Kintbury.
  - **4.2 Path at Elton (Welford 16)** Following a discussion regarding the relocation of the footpath at Elton (Welford 16), the PC object to the relocation. The Clerk will write to West Berkshire Council with the objection.
  - **4.3 Interference with a public right of way** Following a discussion it was agreed that the property owner has removed the fencing as requested. No further action is required at this time
  - **4.4 Traffic calming at Elton** The Clerk to write to West Berkshire Council to ask for a sign and high viz posts to be put up. To help calm the speeding traffic in the parish.
  - **4.5 Damaged stile at Weston/Welford** The Clerk has reported a damaged style to West Berkshire Council who have confirmed they will write to the landowner.
  - **4.6 Wickham bench update** There was a discussion regarding replacing the existing bench. It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.
- **5. OPEN FORUM.** It was brought to the PC's attention regarding flooding in Weston. It was agreed this will be discussed at the next meeting.
- 6. Reports
  - 6.1 District Councillors' Report Cllr Vickers updated the PC of his position of Planning and Community Engagement officer. There will be new ward member publication for noticeboards. They are looking into bringing back neighbour notification letters. The next full council planning meeting will be on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Regarding the Local Plan, the new Council members have got permission to pause the process which was submitted under previous administration. With the new Council feeing it should decide whether it wanted to submit it. However, it has now gone to an independent inspector. There is a review of the current Planning system and hope there will be improvements soon, in the meantime there are delays within the planning department. Cllr Vickers has been appointed to the rural business forum, meaning the Council will be able to engage with

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major landowners and agents and get a better understanding of what changes are happening.

- 6.2 Chair's Report There was nothing to report.
- 5.3 Clerk's Report The Clerk informed the school and Welford Estates that it has been brought to our attention regarding the rabbit holes around the sports field and received an acknowledgment from the school. The Clerk reported that she is still reporting the dog waste bin at Easton and confirmed that we are not willing to pay for the service as we have received and as it has not been emptied for some time and is overflowing, she will continue to monitor it. The Audit paperwork has gone off to the external auditor and the internal auditors fee was £50. The Clerk has sent a picture of the basketball hoop plaque to Playdale for a quote to replace the hoop backing.
- 7. Correspondence An email was received it was recently brought to the Clerks attention that the planning application 23/00714/FUL had slipped through our system and the Parish Council had not had an opportunity to discuss the application. As no decision has been made and no orange sign was made visible, the Clerk will write to the planning Dept at WBC and explain the situation and ask for their comments to be added. The PC are in favour of solar panels, however they object to the planning application in its current form as it is not in keeping with an area of outstanding beauty and it not protecting the local amenities. If this was put on to a roof of a building this would be more aesthetically pleasing.
- 8. Planning Applications

**23/01380/HOUSE** 8 Easton Hill, Easton. Double Garage on Existing Parking Area **There** were no objections

**23/01473/HOUSE** Old Oak Cottage Lambourn Road Weston. Two storey rear extension, single storey side/rear extension, front porch extension and separate garden studio. **There were no objections** 

#### 9. Finance

Receipts & payment report

23/06/2023	WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL Defib electricity	50
23/06/2023	WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL Hire	
23/06/2023	ANGELA BOYCE WAGES JUNE	464.17
23/06/2023	CHEF DUNCAN JONES Annual Assembly Buffet	100
23/06/2023	WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL Hire	
23/06/2023	D K GARDENING SERV Grounds Maintenance MUGA and Marsh Common	260
30/05/2023	ZURICH Insurance policy 2023/24	535.74
30/05/2023	WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL Hire	25
30/05/2023	MRS S C A COYLE Weebly Website renewal payment (Taken from previous clerks	168
	account)	
30/05/2023	ANGELA BOYCE WAGES MAY	458.64

07/00/2023 Interest	09/06/2023	Interest	1.51	
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- 10. Grant request from Welford Cricket Club A request has been received asking for a donation towards an artificial net, they are currently £8000 short of their target. The Clerk wrote back with some other organisations that may be able to offer grants. The PC agreed to make a contribution of £300. The Clerk will write back and ask for their details to make the contribution.
- **11. Insurance policy renewal** The Clerk confirmed that the MUGA equipment is covered under the insurance and not the field as we do not own it.
- **12. Dog Waste Maintenance Agreement** The Clerk has been in contact with other local Clerks regarding the issues with this service and they are getting together to come up with a solution. The Clerk will report back to the PC once she has heard back.

### **Close of meeting**

There being no further business, the Vice Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.52pm

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday  $6^{th}$  September at 7:00pm in Wickham Village Hall.

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