

Welford • Hoe Benham • Easton

*Welford Parish Council*

Weston • Wickham • Halfway

**Welford Parish Council Virtual Meeting Held on Zoom Wednesday  
13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7pm**

**Present:** David Hunt Chair, Councillors - Martyne Ellard, Henry Burgoyne Probyn, Sam Kynaston, Paul Stanley

District Councillors James Cole, Dennis Benneyworth, Claire Rowles

2 Members of the public

Parish Clerk Sonia Coyle

Meeting started at 19:06

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Lynn Woodhead (email received, no reason given)

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None

**3. Minutes of the meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the Minutes and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as an accurate record of that meeting.

**4. Questions/comments from Members of the Public Present**

A member of the public expressed concerns over some flora and fauna on the Common, these will be taken into consideration when meeting with the EA.

**5. Receive Reports**

**Chairman's Report**

- There had been a report of plastic pipes being dumped north of the M4. DH had moved them closer to the road and contacted WBC.
- An email had been received requesting if it was possible to install a camera on the B4000 in Wickham to capture people dropping litter – not met with approval.

**Clerk's Report**

- Website has had photos of councillors uploaded along with several news items from WBC including the town survey and a flyer asking parishioners what they would like to see the red phone box being used for.
- Councillors APPROVED clerk to purchase Acer Aspire laptop with Microsoft 365 for £679 and Optoma projector for £356

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Email [welfordparish@yahoo.com](mailto:welfordparish@yahoo.com)

Tel 07810 443122

*David Hunt*  
16/1/21

- DH & PS to confirm if a screen is available after investigating.
- Councillors AGREED to purchase a new dog bin and PS will help with the installation. To be put in Easton by the layby where the footpaths cross the road.
- The white gates for Weston need to be reviewed. WBC have confirmed that for standard width gates there needs to be 1/2mtr between carriageway and verge and then standard gate is 1mtr. Options are to consider bespoke gates or alternative location, which may have less of an impact on the driver. ME & HBP to look at options within the village.
- Clerk requested purchase of "Local Council Risk System", East Garston have agreed to fund 50% if the system can be used by both councils. Clerk to confirm with DMH Solutions that this is possible before purchasing. (Total cost is £110)

### **Representatives from Outside Bodies**

- JC confirmed that the Covid vaccines are due to start at Newbury Racecourse tomorrow.
- CR asked that councillors encourage everyone gets the message out to all about the town consultation.
- DB Stated the WBC hub is still up and running doing lots of good work, and also that the fire brigade have reminders out about doing an annual check – this is on the Parish website.
- JC Pointed out that residents outside Newbury will have different views to residents inside Newbury so it is important to get as many people as possible to take part in the Masterplan survey.
- DB asked when website would go live and Clerk confirmed Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

## **6. Finance & Compliance – SC**

### **1.1 Orders for Payment**

Payments since last meeting

| NAME               | GOODS/SERVICE  | AMOUNT INC VAT |
|--------------------|--|----------------|
| K Griffiths        | Payroll  | £88.64         |
| Clerk's expenses   | Shelf, brackets, plugs & screws, 2 x files, dividers, paper<br>Car parking x 2 | £69.78         |
| Austin Enterprises | Website training x 2 sessions & taking website offline                         | £120.00        |
| David Weller       | Internal Audit Financial Year ending 31/3/20                                   | £50.00         |
| GMG                | Maintenance MUGA Nov   | £50.00         |
| Autela             | Payroll Oct – Dec (basic hours)  | £575.65        |

Payments to be made before next meeting

| NAME               | GOODS/SERVICE                             | AMOUNT INC VAT |
|--------------------|---|----------------|
| GMG                | Maintenance MUGA Dec                      | £50            |
| GMG                | Maintenance MUGA Jan                      | £50            |
| GMG                | Maintenance MUGA Feb                      | £50            |
| Austin Enterprises | Website Training                          | £45            |
| Autela             | Payroll (Extra Hours & Mileage Nov – Dec) | £432.53        |

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Email [welfordparish@yahoo.com](mailto:welfordparish@yahoo.com)

Tel 07810 443122

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|                  |  |         |
|------------------|--|---------|
| D Hunt           | Postage costs                              | £13.40  |
| SLCC             | The Clerk's Manual                         | £52.30  |
| SLCC             | ILCA Training Course                       | £120.00 |
| Clerk's Expenses | Ink cartridges, postage stamps, phone bill | £54.69  |
| Autela           | Payroll Jan & Feb                          | £516.10 |
| PKF Littlejohn   | Admin Fee                                  | £96.00  |

## 1.2 Precept 21/22

Clerk presented a budget statement based upon actual and anticipated expenditure for 2020/21 and projections for anticipated expenditure for 2021/22 based upon previous patterns and known changes.

Councillors AGREED to pay grants of £250 towards the Air Ambulance £600 to the library and £600 towards the church. However, the Chairman stated that until it is clearly understood who owns the village hall any grants for the hall should be withheld. JC offered to contact Mr J Puxley to try to ascertain ownership. A concern over public liability insurance in the hall was also raised. Clerk also informed Councillors that there was no money left in the Highways S106 pot as confirmed by Neil Stacey (WBC). The majority of the money had gone towards the refuge in Wickham with funds also being used for the VAS on the B4000 and an upgrade of the timer unit on the school flashing sign. Councillors asked clerk to obtain details as to who approved the costs on the refuge as originally it had been made too wide and work had to be redone.

The budget was accepted in its draft form and the outstanding items for the current year approved. After discussion Councillors AGREED that the precept should remain unchanged at £8,000 for 2021/22.

## 7. Neighbourhood/Local Planning

### 1.3 Public rights of way on B4000

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions the planned meeting with WBC for December has had to be put on hold.

### 1.4 Right of way maps

These have now been installed at Easton, Welford and The Five Bells – one left to be installed on the Common.

### 1.5 Sign for Elton

WBC confirmed that either side of Elton Lane is private land and that the road is adopted. Clerk to contact Alex Drysdale to request a warning sign be installed (warning children and walkers may be in the road).

### 1.6 Welford Common

Clerk informed Council of email from Michele Sherman at WBC confirming the council's intention to maintain and manage the Common. Paul Hendry (WBC Countryside Manager) has also been informed.

**Any of the following works do not need consent** (as stated on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

Add new stiles and gates in existing boundaries

Add direction signs and information boards

Create or widen existing unsurfaced or loosely surfaced footpaths

Add seats

There should be NO bonfires on the common.

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Email [welfordparish@yahoo.com](mailto:welfordparish@yahoo.com)

Tel 07810 443122

*[Signature]*  
16/12/21


A sign was discussed – 2 examples were given; Sole Common and Snelsmore Common. JC suggested that Councillor's take a physical look at the signs on the ground before making a decision. ME to speak to BBOWT and the Environment Agency as dogs are not allowed at some commons to encourage wildlife. PS also asked if BBOWT would be able to help look after the common. JC stated that if it was confirmed there is Giant Hogweed on site it is dangerous and needs to be treated accordingly.

There is a large willow tree on the common land which is possibly dead. JC suggested that BBOWT have a look at the tree to see if it could be cut back and regenerated.

**8. Items for next agenda**

Standing Orders & Code of Conduct to be reviewed at next meeting.

**Meeting ended 20:57**

  
16/3/21