

## WESTON IN GORDANO PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Weston in Gordano Parish Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020 commencing at 7.30pm at The Village Hall, Weston in Gordano.**

<b>Minute Ref:</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>020/20</b>	<b>Chairman's comments</b> <p>Cllr Bennett reported that new Clerk, Peter Ballantyne has been working efficiently to check PC records and information during the stage of transition. He has warned that the PC's laptop needs new battery and updating or replacing; he is currently investigating best options. Bank account transition in progress. Peter is also handling registration of the PC with HM Revenue and Customs which is now necessary to complete monthly tax returns. He plans to gradually work through the large amounts of historic PC paperwork to trim it down to the statutory requirements.</p> <p>Cllr Bennett now has the contract for Peter Ballantyne, which he will sign and send out to Peter to sign.</p> <p><b>Present:</b> Cllr Jon Bennett (Chair), Cllr Kevin Cranshaw, Cllr David Down,</p> <p style="margin-left: 400px;">Cllr David Giles, Cllr Paul Harris, Cllr Ian Holding</p> <p><b>In attendance:</b> Bernie D'Arcy from Avon Wildlife Trust and Penny Roberts minute taker. There were also three members of the public present.</p>	
<b>021.20</b>	<b>Apologies</b> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Peter Ballantyne, Clerk.</p>	
<b>022.20</b>	<b>Members of the Public</b> <p>There were no members of the public present at the meeting.</p>	
<b>023.20</b>	<b>Declaration of interests</b> <p>The Chairman explained that members' register of interests had not been undertaken for some time. Cllrs to expect to complete the standard declaration form at the next meeting; new declarations will then be taken at the start of each meeting of the Council thereafter.</p>	<b>All</b>
<b>024.20</b>	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2020</b> <p>Minutes approved and signed as correct record of the meeting.</p>	
<b>025.20</b>	<b>Matters arising from the meeting held on 9th January 2020</b> <p>(i) <b>Minute 007.20 – Hill Lane Gravel Debris</b> Email sent by Cllr Bennett to Hayden Rushton had been circulated. Cllr Holding advised that Hill Lane is definitely an Adopted Highway, a copy of N. Somerset Adopted Highways Map circulated clarifying this.</p>	

Cllr Bennett had suggested that Mr Rushton attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> April PC meeting, as he himself would be absent for the March meeting. Cllrs felt this was a long time to wait to resolve the issue; agreed that Cllr Bennett would now offer Mr Ruston the 5 March meeting option. (Cllrs Down and Cranshaw had advised that they would both be absent from the April meeting)

**JB**

**(ii) Minute 013.20 - Gordano Greenway**

Several Cllrs reiterated the importance of this planned route, especially in the light of the new cycle way from Weston to Clevedon, and progress on planned railway in Portishead. Cllr Down advised that he had attended a meeting that considered the need to accommodate migratory birds in the valley.

**Action:** Agreed to invite Peter Yates Round to give an update at the next meeting.

**DD/PB**

**(iii) Minute 014.20 - Speed watch sign**

Cllr Cranshaw confirmed that the new sign is in place and that traffic monitoring had taken place on the previous Monday at 2pm. By coincidence the Police speed camera was there at the same time; they had cautioned several people. Cllr Cranshaw warned of the high level of fine and up to 6 points on licence that can be incurred if speeding through village at above the limit.

Cllr Bennett reported that he had arranged to meet a villager who contacted him with concerns over traffic on the main road near the church.

**(iv) Minute 016.20 - Middle Hill Common – update from Bernie D’Arcy**

Bernie D’Arcy explained that Middle Hill Common is subject of a 5 year monitoring cycle, the next monitoring survey to be undertaken this year, focusing on calcareous grassland indicator species, and scrub indicators. The trust has been working on reducing the scrub since 2015; as the common is not grazed, they take a hay cut at the end of August each year. Some volunteers from the Walton Common group are involved. It was suggested it was important to try to involve more people from the village.

**Action:** Agreed that a Middle Hill Common Working Group date should be planned and advertised in the Parish Pump.

**JB/PB**

**Tagget’s Wood**

Bernie outlined current safety work related to Ash Die Back Disease in Tagget’s Wood. Timber being taken out during coppicing is being used widely for environmental projects; opening up the rides will promote flora in this area of calcareous grassland.

**Seven Acre Wood**

Asked about the Trust’s view of Seven Acre Wood proposals, Bernie confirmed that they would be sending in a response, as it is a very important wildlife corridor linking Walton and

Middle Hill Commons to Western Big Wood.

**Visitor Centre**

Cllr Bennett queried whether there was any progress on the suggested Visitor Centre for the valley; Ms D'Arcy replied that there was not.

**026.20 Clerk's Report**

Comprehensive written report circulated to Cllrs. Peter Ballantyne has quickly engaged with WIG PC business and identified actions that need completing; key points covered in the Chair's opening comments.

**027.20 Finance/Payments**

The following payments were approved:

**PB**

- (i) Web site hosting £47.88
- (ii) The Open Spaces Society membership renewal £45
- (iii) Emptying dog waste bins, December £40
- (iv) EDF Street light Cadbury Lane £68.86

A payment of £2,000, previously agreed in August 2019 was made towards the repair and maintenance of the Churchyard/Cemetery wall.

**028.20 Planning Applications**

No applications had been received since the last meeting of the Council.

**029.20 Highways/Public Rights of Way and Speed Watch**

The Council were concerned that there will be a planned M5 closure overnight on Monday 10 February; Cllr Giles had contacted both Highways and the Police to establish whether either could help prevent HGVs coming through the village as a result. Neither able to assist. Meeting discussed the feasibility of having a weight restriction placed on the main road.

**Action:** need to clarify what the procedure would be for this.

Regarding proposed weight restriction, it was felt PC should be in good position to make the case regarding HGVs ignoring diversion routes, and resulting damage to historic buildings/church wall.

**DG**

**Speed Watch /Monitoring HGVs**

Cllrs recalled that Mike Squire had previously monitored HGV traffic and compiled a log of offending companies, with the plan of writing to them to seek contribution to church wall fund. This has not yet happened.

**Action:** (i) need to contact Mike Squire.(ii) Agreed PC should plan to monitor traffic during night on Monday 10 February, Cllrs asked to volunteer.

**KC/All**

**030.20 Village Green**

The Clerk detailed in his report that he had ordered supplies of bedding plants from North Somerset, for use by the Gardening Group on the village green and in containers.

**031.20 Seven Acres Wood and other land**

Cllr Holding circulated a summary of key points relating to options available which was discussed and felt that currently twin tracking would be the best option. To proceed it would be necessary to collect details from supporters of when and how they had historically used the area. Noted there is already some interest in social media. Need low key approach but to consult relevant members of local community. Discussion on delineation of WIG parish boundary; Action: (i) Cllr Holding to circulate parish map, and also questionnaire. (ii) Cllr Holding to write formally to the Open Spaces Society and get Case Officer appointed.

IH  
IH

**032.20 Correspondence**

Email correspondence had been circulated to Cllrs. There has been no post received for the Council.

**033.20 Any other business**

- (i) Cllr Down had been informed by the Police that for their next Open Day they are planning to put a road into their field for parking. He himself is no longer in a position to allow them use of his farmland for parking. There was some concern over the potential cost.
- (ii) Query as to the whereabouts of the flashing speed sign.  
**Action:** to investigate and seek to book for WIG use.

PB

**Date of the next meeting**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March, at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

All to  
note

**The Meeting Closed at 9.30 pm**