

## WESTON IN GORDANO PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Weston in Gordano Parish Council held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 commencing at 7.30pm at The Village Hall, Weston in Gordano.**

<b>Minute Ref:</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>034.20</b>	<b>Chairman's comments</b> Cllr David Down opened the meeting and welcomed Cllrs and the members of the public to the meeting.  <b>Present:</b> Cllr David Down (Vice Chair)                      Cllr Paul Harris, Cllr Kevin Cranshaw,                                      Cllr Ian Holding Cllr David Giles,  <b>In attendance:</b> Mr Peter Ballantyne, Clerk	
<b>035.20</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Jon Bennett.	
<b>036.20</b>	<b>Members of the Public</b> There were three members of the public present. A parishioner raised concerns regarding the traffic scheme and the broken kerb stones at the entrance to Cadbury Lane. Photographs were circulated to Cllrs for their consideration. Concerns were also expressed regarding sinking drain hole covers that were in need of repair. Parishioners were encouraged to report these items to North Somerset Council and the Clerk agreed to report these items to the Area Officer.	<b>PB</b>
<b>037.20</b>	<b>Declaration of interests</b> (i) <b>Completed declaration of interest forms</b> – all Cllrs returned their completed declaration of interest forms to the Clerk. The Clerk advised that these forms would now be posted to the Council website. The Clerk reported that Cllr Jon Bennett also wishes to advise the Council that he was planning a single storey extension at the back of his home, Cadbury Cottage, Cadbury Lane. The pre-application will be submitted in the next 4-6 weeks, ahead of a full application. (ii) <b>Declarations of Interest relating to the agenda</b> – the Clerk provided advice on the types of pecuniary interests that Cllrs should normally declare at this point in the meeting. There were no declarations of interest.	<b>PB</b>
<b>038.20</b>	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2020 were approved and signed as correct record of the meeting.	

**039.20 Matters arising from the meeting held on 9th January 2020**

**(i) Minute 039.20 (i) – Hill Lane Gravel Debris**

Cllr David Down reported that Mr Hayden Rushton had sold the property and it was not known at this point whether this matter would be concluded by Mr Hayden before he departs or the new owner.

**(ii) Minute 039.20 (ii) - Gordano Greenway**

The Clerk had circulated an email from Peter Yates-Round indicating that there is little to report at this time. The good news was that central government seems keen to endorse and (hopefully) support cycle ways financially. He is busy on Thursday evenings but would be happy to provide further written reports in due course and respond to any questions the Council may have.

**PB**

**(iii) Minute 039.20 (iii) – Proposed weight restriction – Cllr**

David Giles reported on his discussions with Rob Thompson, North Somerset Council regarding the possibility of a weight restriction for the village. While there was unlikely to be progress on this in the short term he agreed to persist with his efforts.

**DG**

**(iv) Minute 039.20 (iv) – Company contributions to Church**

**Wall Fund** – Cllr Kevin Cranshaw agreed to contact Mike Squire for the log of HGV offending companies, with the aim of writing to them to seek contribution to church wall fund.

**KC**

**040.20 Clerk's Report**

The Council noted the Clerk's report detailing the actions taken since the last meeting of the Council on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

**Laptop**

The Clerk reported that as NSC originally provided an IT package in 2011 at a discounted rate to assist the PC to move to paperless working whether NSC would offer such a package for its replacement. The response from NSC was that no such package was now available and that local councils were required to make arrangements for their own provision of IT Equipment.

The Clerk agreed to seek advice from ALCA and prepare a recommendation for the Council.

**PB**

**Vehicle Activated Sign**

The Council were pleased to note that the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) may be available in March/April and that Richard Dillon at NSC would contact Cllr Kevin Cranshaw with the details in due course.

**NatWest**

The Council noted that the Clerk continued to have difficulties in getting NatWest to process the agreed bank mandate to add him as an authorised signatory and remove the name of the previous Clerk.

**041.20 Finance/Payments**

The Clerk advised that the bank balance at the date of the meeting was £10,604.09.

**(i) Payments** - The following payments were approved:

- **Standing Order to Mr P Ballantyne** - on 10<sup>th</sup> Day of each month for the sum of £251.52. (This is monthly net pay £233.52 plus Use of Home as Office Allowance of £18 per month).
- **Standing Order to HMRC** – on 15<sup>th</sup> Day of the month for the sum of £58.20. (PAYE deducted from the Clerk’s salary).
- **K and E Property Maintenance** - £40 in respect to emptying the dog waste bins.
- **ALCA** – annual subscription £58.64
- **Mr P Ballantyne** – £30.30 - mileage £24.30 and electric for Village Hall £6.00.
- **ALCA** - £150 in respect to three training courses attended by Cllr Ian Holding in October, November and December 2019.

**PB**

**(ii) Maintenance of the Churchyard**

The Council discussed a request from Patrick Chavasse on behalf of St Peter and St Paul Church PCC for a grant of £650 as a contribution towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard.

The Council referred to a briefing note provided by the Clerk on the provision of Financial Assistance to the Church and asked the Clerk to clarify various points. The Clerk advised the Council of the advice from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) to Councils in this situation that it is prudent for Councils to consider these issues carefully before taking a course of action that it cannot be certain is legally valid.

Cllr David Giles emphasised the importance of the Church and village cemetery to the local community and said that the Council had a responsibility to help with the maintenance of this village asset.

Cllr Ian Holding asked for clarification on who owned the churchyard.

There was a lengthy discussion on the issue and in response to a request from the Chairman for a proposal on the way forward, Cllr David Giles proposed that the Council proceed with the provision of a grant to the Church as in previous years.

Cllr Ian Holding advised the meeting that he had no wish to participate in a vote on this matter.

Cllr Ian Holding advised the Council that he was resigning and left the meeting at this point.

The Council decided to defer a decision on this matter to an emergency meeting that would be arranged for this specific purpose.

**DD/PB**

**(iii) Small Councils Internal Audit Network**

The Council agreed to join the Small Councils Internal Audit Network.

#### 042.20 Planning Applications

- (i) **20/P/0450/FUH, 1 Cadbury Halt, Weston-in-Gordano** – the Council agreed there were no objections to this application to raise the existing ridge of front gable to loft bedroom – Clerk to submit a response on behalf of the Council.
- (ii) **Enforcement Cases** – the Council noted the list of enforcement cases provided by North Somerset Council.

PB

#### 043.20 Highways/Public Rights of Way and Speed Watch

Cllr Kevin Cranshaw reported that he had monitored traffic through the village during the recent evening of the M5 closure. There were 139 vehicles in approximately 40 minutes. Generally they were travelling close to the speed limit the highest speed of a lorry was 25 mph and one car at 44 mph.

#### 044.20 Consultations

- (i) **Your Neighbourhood Consultation and Engagement** – Cllrs expressed their concerns at NSC's proposed charge for emptying green garden waste bins at £50 per bin. Concerns included an increase in fly tipping; the fact that residents had already been required to purchase the bins; increased carbon footprint as more residents drove to the recycling centre; and, the actual cost when residents were already paying for the service. The Clerk agreed to draft a response on behalf of the Council and forward a copy to District Cllr Nigel Ashton.
- (ii) **Car Park Review** – Cllrs expressed their concerns at NSC's proposal to introduce parking charges across the county but more specifically at their plans for Portishead. The Clerk agreed to capture the gist of Cllrs views and submit a response on behalf of the Council.

PB

PB

#### 045.20 Seven Acres Wood and other land

In the absence of Cllr Ian Holding, Cllrs had a general discussion with the members of the public on the latest position.

#### 046.20 Correspondence

- (i) **Climate Emergency Actions Days** – the Council decided not to send any representatives to these ALCA training days.
- (ii) **Metal Detecting in the Parish** – the Clerk agreed to respond to that the Council did not own any land that could be used for metal detecting.
- (iii) **Somerset Village of the Year** – the Council noted that applications had been invited for the Somerset Village of the Year.
- (iv) **Request for Parking Restrictions** – it was agreed to include this item on the agenda of the April meeting.
- (v) **Thank you** – the Council were pleased to receive an email from Catherine Dixon thanking the Council for their cheque of £100.

PB

**047.20 Any other business**

Cllr David Giles raised his concerns about the frequency and duration of roadworks between the village and Portishead.

**The Meeting Closed at 9.55 pm**

**Date of the next meeting**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020, at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

**All to  
note**