

WESTON AND BASFORD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
12th JANUARY 2023

PRESENT	Councillor J Cornell (Vice Chairman) Councillors A Broome, J Chambers, S Edgar, S Gladden, A Kiddie and R Schafer
APOLOGIES	Councillors J Chamberlain, J Densem, E Franks, L Gill
IN ATTENDANCE	Councillor J Clowes 3 Members of the public

79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare their interest in any item on the Agenda.
No declarations were made.

80. HS2a ADVANCE NOTICE OF EARLY ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS ON LAND TO THE NORTH OF NEWCASTLE ROAD

Mr Andrew Maddock Site Agent of Balfour Beatty was present to report and answer Members' questions.

81. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 8TH DECEMBER 2022

RESOLVED: That the minutes of this meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

82. MATTERS ARISING.

(a) Englesea Brook Area – High Speed Broadband
Costs were awaited on the provision of High-Speed Broadband.

(b) Weston School
Further to Minute No 42 the joint event with the School when there was to be a brief presentation to outline the work of the Parish Council and information about the new Council, was to take place at the School on Tuesday 7th February at 6.00pm. Refreshments served from 5.40pm
This presentation would be part of a School Choir concert and all Members were welcome to attend.

83. BUS SHELTER – BASFORD

A report had been received that the bus shelter at Basford had been damaged and on inspection it was found to be beyond repair.
No buses served the area and it had now been partially removed and left safe. Further work to make good the fence was to be carried out as soon as possible.

84. PLANNING MATTERS

The Chairman of the Planning Committee reported: -

Neighbourhood Plan

Copies of the modified Plan were available for all Members and a questionnaire seeking residents' views was being prepared for delivery.

RESOLVED: That the draft modifications contained in the Neighbourhood Plan as now submitted be approved and adopted for public consultation.

85. WYCHWOOD VILLAGE HALL

Councillor R Schafer reported on additional regular and casual bookings of the Hall.

86. POLICE MATTERS

The 2 Police reports had been circulated to members.

87. REPORT OF CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS

Councillor J Clowes reported that she had again reported the pedestrian refuge and street light illuminating the stay left sign on the A531 (Newcastle Road), between Wychwood Village and Wychwood Park which had not been working for some time.

A pothole on Wychwood Park which had caused damage to a resident's cycle had now been repaired.

Councillor Clowes had been in correspondence regarding a request for a footpath from Wychwood Park to the Broughton, but it was not possible to achieve this, despite representations to the owners of the Broughton.

The 2023/2024 Budget Consultation was underway and would close on 30th January 2023
The Health and Wellbeing consultation would close on 5th February 2023.

The Virtual Highways meeting was to be held on Wednesday 1st February 2023.

88. PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor S Edgar reported it was anticipated that work on the Lovell's development off East Avenue would be completed in the spring or early summer. At that stage top dressing would be carried out for the whole of East Avenue. A dead tree in the area of the playground was to be replaced.

Cards had been distributed offering assistance and support to residents and there had been a positive response.

Councillor A Kiddie reported that she had assumed responsibility for the Community News and articles for inclusion were required ready for a February publication.

Councillor R Schafer asked about the adoption of roads on Wychwood Village as nothing more had been heard.

Councillor J Chambers reported on potholes on Main Road which were presenting a hazard to traffic. Councillor A Broome reported that trees and sapling Oaks had been planted on Wychwood Park and that gaps in the perimeter hedge had been filled with the assistance of Balfour Beatty

Councillor S Gladden asked about the ownership of the verges at the entrance to Wychwood Village. 2 metres of the verges which contained the services were in the ownership of Cheshire East Council.

Councillor J Cornell had reported a blocked drain in Englesea Brook which was causing flooding and Councillor Edgar said that there was to be a highways inspection in late January.

89. OPEN FORUM-QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

In accordance with the Standing Orders members of the public were invited to ask questions or address the Parish Council.

Residents complained about the condition of the highway in East Avenue, and it was suggested that they should write to Cheshire East Council to express their concerns.

The blocked gully outside 48 Main Road was still not attended to despite having been reported originally in 2019.

90. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) PRECEPT 2023/2024

Since the November meeting revised guidance had been received regarding the setting of the 2023/2024 budget for Weston and Crewe Green Parish Council.

The budget had been set by Cheshire East Council, but this had now been withdrawn and a precept needed to be levied to finance the first financial year of the new Parish Council.

A draft budget had been prepared in consultation with representatives of Crewe Green Parish Council and Weston and Basford Parish Council and the precept for Weston and Crewe Green Parish Council for 2023/2024 had been set at £45,250.

Notification had now been received that it was not possible to adjust the precept as previously advised and that the original figure of £37,152 would be applied.

RESOLVED: That representations be made to Cheshire East Council indicating that Weston and Crewe Green Parish Council would be in excess of £8000 short of its requirements for 2023/2024 as a result of this decision.

(b) Wychwood Village Hall Insurance

The renewal notice for the Village Hall insurance had been received from the long-standing brokers and in accordance with normal practice would be paid by the Parish Council, as owners of the Hall, and recharged to the Management Committee.

Councillor R Schafer, Chairman of the Management Committee, considered the premium to be excessive particularly in respect of site clearance and rebuilding costs should the building need to be demolished and rebuilt.

RESOLVED: (a) That the payment be withheld pending further consideration.

(b) That the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee and the Clerk be authorised to make the payment once the concerns expressed have been investigated.

(c) Payments

RESOLVED: That the following payments be approved: -

D G Owen Salary/expenses	1363.23
HMRC -Tax collected	443.02
D G Owen Grit Bin and salt	246.42
D Williamson	189.00

91. DATE OF NEXT MEETING 9th FEBRUARY 2023.

CHAIRMAN