

**WESTON AND CREWE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13 JULY 2023**

PRESENT:

Councillors: John Densem (Chairman), Paul Bate, Anne Broome, Janet Chamberlain, John Chambers, John Cornell, Steve Edgar and Annelene Kiddie.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Borough Councillors Janet Clowes and Alison Heler, Laura Airton (Duchy of Lancaster) and 5 Members of the Public.

23/037 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Lewis and Schafer

23/038 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23/039 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

With regards Minute 23/030, Cllr Schafer had confirmed that the Village Hall Committee AGM was quorate, therefore, the first sentence of the minute was amended to read 'Cllr Bate advised that the Committee AGM was held on 25 May 2023'.

With regards Minute 23/026, the Clerk confirmed that the response to the Freedom of Information request had been provided within the statutory timescale.

RESOLVED – that, subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 08 June 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

23/040 STAFFING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED – that the Committee comprises the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Cllr Chambers

23/041 PLANNING MATTERS

1) Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Cornell advised that the Neighbourhood Plan had been submitted to Cheshire East Council in accordance with Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General Regulations) 2012. However, consideration would be delayed until the AECOM design guide had been approved by Locality. Councillors noted that there were specific policies aimed at protecting Wychwood Village from further development.

2) HS2

Nothing to update.

3) Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan

The consultation version of the Local Plan had been published with a deadline of 14 August for comments. The Plan proposed an option for a 140-acre employment site adjacent to J16 of the M6. Weston & Basford Parish Council had previously objected to a developer interest in this land. There were a number of concerns about this proposed option: development within the Green Belt, the capacity of J16, likely increased traffic flows and traffic safety issues within the Parish, along with the need to look at any development proposals along the A500 Corridor comprehensively and not in a piecemeal fashion.

RESOLVED – that the Parish Council objects to this option in the Local Plan and the response be delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee.

4) Planning Applications

Councillors received an update on decisions by the Parish Council's Planning Committee as follows:

App No	Application	Decision
22/2011N	Change of use from retail to dwellinghouse at VINE COTTAGE STORES, 18, CEMETERY ROAD, WESTON (Revised Plans)	Continued objection
23/2305N	The installation of two Rolec 32A 7kW Electronic Vehicle Charger Pedestals at OAK HOUSE, CREWE HALL FARM, OLD PARK ROAD, CREWE	No objection
23/2206N	Demolition of two linked cottages adjoining Bridge House, and replace as an extension to Bridge House with alterations at BRIDGE HOUSE SNAPE LANE, ENGLESEA BROOK	No objection

23/042 HIGH SPEED BROADBAND – ENGLESEA BROOK AREA

Cllr Chamberlain advised that assurances had been received that BDUK and Openreach were actively in dialogue with a view to resolving the outstanding issues.

23/043 WESTON WOODS

Councillors noted that there was currently no date from the developer regarding the tarmacking of East Avenue. Concern was expressed at the aesthetics of the public areas of the development and the lack of action on the establishment of the Management Committee by the developer. Cllr Edgar agreed to liaise with the developer on these matters.

23/044 WYBUNBURY UNITED CHARITIES ANNUAL REPORT

Councillors noted the report submitted by Cllr Cornell.

23/045 STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING

Cheshire East Council had commenced a consultation regarding the proposed naming of 9 streets in the proposed development to the west of David Whitby Way. The Parish Council made no comments on these proposals.

23/046 VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Cllr Bate provided a brief update on Committee matters.

23/047 POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk provided a summary of the police incidents across the Parish Council area.

23/048 REPORTS OF CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS

Cllr Clowes provided an update on the discussions with Cheshire East Council regarding Wychwood Village. It was noted that the RICS adjudication and Traffic Regulation Order survey would be proceeding. With regards road adoption, this was awaiting the adoption of streetlights and the developer dealing with the service strips. The request for two litter bins to be provided in Wychwood Village had been approved.

23/049 PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Following flooding on Mere Road, Cllr Edgar had been advised that the gullies would be jetted this week.

Cllr Kiddie referred to Public Rights of Way being blocked following crop planting

and it was noted that it was a land tenant's duty to ensure that access to PRow were maintained. The Council would work with the Duchy of Lancaster of this regarding the identification of land ownership in the area.

Cllr Edgar confirmed that a bin would be provided on the alleyway to Croatia Avenue.

The Clerk was asked to report the damaged fence on Snape Lane to Cheshire East Council.

23/050 OPEN FORUM – QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Councillors received an update on the flooding incidents along Main Road and other areas. The gully outside 48 Main Road had still not been fixed and there was exasperation that this was still ongoing. Borough Cllrs Edgar and Heler would take this matter forward again with the Borough Council. The Duchy of Lancaster was also making representations.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding maintenance and access issues on Wychwood Village. Everyone agreed the importance of two-way communication on these issues.

As part of the discussion, the Chairman provided an update on the provision of the proposed mower storage shed, where the Parish Council would be providing funding of up to £1,000. The meeting was in agreement that the shed proposed was not suitable and the Council agreed that a shipping container with suitable screening would be more appropriate, particular from a security aspect. However, there were concerns regarding access to the proposed location. The representatives from the Maintenance Group would liaise with the Village Hall Committee on this matter.

It was suggested that the Council should contact the landowner for clarification regarding public liability insurance and the enforcement of the rules regarding permissive paths.

23/051 FINANCE REPORT

1) Payments

RESOLVED – that the following payments be authorised:

Payee	Reason	Amount £
HMRC	PAYE Q1	1,330.83
Mark Robinson	Salary & Office expenses	780.65
Don Fanstone	Internal Audit	200.00
Cheshire Community Action	Affiliation	50.00
David Owen	Handover	350.00
David Williamson	Lengthsman (April and May)	589.50
Angela Whitter	Allotment Rent (H2 2023/24)	1,000.00
Johnsons	Printing	676.00
Scottish Power	Electricity for Street Lights	387.28

2) Weston and Basford Parish Council – Accounts 2022/23

i) Internal Audit

The Council's internal audit had been completed and the accounts had been signed off. There were two recommendations, which had already been actioned, ie maintenance of the accounts electronically and reclaiming VAT more frequently.

ii) Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

Councillors reviewed the Annual Governance Statement, which outlined the requirements for a sound system of internal control. There was one area of non-compliance which related to the late publication of the Annual Governance and

Accountability Return, which had been caused by the late receipt of the completed accounts.

RESOLVED – that the Annual Governance Statement be approved, noting the non-compliance with one requirement.

iii) Accounting Statement 2022/23

The Accounting Statement summarised the Council's income and expenditure over the past two financial years and included explanations for major variances between the years.

RESOLVED – that the Accounting Statement be approved.

23/052 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 14 September 2023, commencing at 7.30pm at the Weston Church Hall.