

## EDITH WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on Monday 27 February 2017

Present: Councillors N. Milne (NM), I. Langford (IL), N. Farmer (NF), P. Coe (PC), E. Jarron (EJ), and the Clerk, B. Shirley (BS)

Visitors: Captain J Heath (JH), County Councillor G. Waller (GW), County Councillor K. Bool (KB), M. Ellwood-Wade (MEW), N. Appleby (NA)

Item	Description	Action
1. Apologies	Cllr Harris	
2. Declarations of interest on items on the Agenda	NM – planning permission at 9 Church Lane	
3. Public Open Forum	<b>Stile on the Glebe land, Weston Road:</b> NA reported that as someone with a disability, he is finding it increasingly difficult to use the stile at the Weston Road end of the Glebe land. It is dangerous and unfit for purpose. The Diocese have suggested he contacts the tenant, Mr Mitchell, direct to ask if he would be prepared to remove the stile and replace it with a kissing gate. KB will raise the matter with David Brown to see if this is a public right of way. NA wanted to know if the Parish Council have Mr Mitchell's contact details as he has not had a response to any of his e mails.	KB
4. Minutes of the last meeting held on 9 January 2017	Minutes of the meeting of 9 January. The Chair asked for the minutes of the meeting of 9 January to be agreed as a correct record: Proposed – PC Seconded – NF All in favour, and minutes signed by the Chair.	
5. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IL reported that the grass on the pavement to North Luffenham has been cut.</li><li>• NF reported that provision for the soakaway in Weston Road has been included in the RCC budget for the coming financial year</li><li>• JH reported that two further squadrons will be back by September. 2 Med are looking to move by 2018. In answer to a question from MEW, JH confirmed that all MOD houses will remain to support the staff from North Luffenham who will be moving to Cottesmore when St Georges Barracks closes.</li></ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Clerk reported that she had contacted RCC about the installation of the copper piping at the front of 5 Well Cross, and was informed that RCC could take no action.</li> </ul>	
6. Updates from the Army	JH had nothing further to add to his update in the previous agenda item.	
7. To discuss any planning permission applications received between now and the meeting	<p>PC updated the Parish Council on progress of the latest planning applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 King Edwards Way – remove ash tree, prune apple tree – no objections.</li> <li>9 Church Lane – reduce substantial timbers – planning permission granted</li> <li>55 Weston Road – demolition of single storey and two storey extension and replace (revised application) – planning permission granted.</li> </ul> <p>PC expressed concern on behalf of the Parish Council that RCC have not taken any notice of the concerns expressed about the proposed telecoms mast at the pre-planning application stage. This is a longstanding issue with RCC where planning decisions cannot be challenged.</p> <p>The Parish Council hopes to attend a special meeting of the Parish Council Forum to discuss planning issues. KB suggested that the PC should set out a couple of instances prior to the meeting where they can demonstrate their concerns.</p> <p>PC suggested that there was little purpose in having a Neighbourhood Plan if RCC are not prepared to reference it when making planning decisions.</p>	
8. Rutland County Council Conservation Officer	NM reminded the PC that Barrowden Parish Council have asked other Parish Councils to support them in expressing concerns to RCC about the decision to outsource a Conservation Officer. RCC have responded in letter to all Parish Councils from David Brown, confirming that the service is being provided by South Kesteven District Council. RCC are confident that the post can be covered in this way going forward, and by the current planning officers. The Parish Council does not agree with this approach, and supports the view of Barrowden Parish Council.	

<p>9. Update on environmental issues in the Parish:</p>	<p><b>Well Cross:</b></p> <p>IL confirmed that the work at Well Cross is now almost completed. The bench will be put in on Thursday, subject to the weather. Tarmac have done an excellent job, and she hoped the village felt that the work was an improvement. The work on the York stones on the monument should be completed by 11 March. Biffa will include mowing grass when they mow Tommy's Close and will not charge any extra.</p> <p><b>Grasscutting:</b></p> <p>IL has been concerned to see that when hedges around the village are cut by tenant farmers they do not cut back the undergrowth at the bottom of the hedge. This is particularly noticeable on Manton Road and Weston Road by the school. Biffa have agreed to cut it back at a cost of £80 plus VAT before the grass cutting starts. This was agreed by all present, and IL will now confirm with Biffa.</p> <p><b>Village noticeboard:</b></p> <p>NF is hoping that the new village noticeboard will be installed at the same time as the bench round Well Cross. If not, it is hoped to enlist someone locally to do the work.</p> <p><b>Streetlight, St Mary's Close:</b></p> <p>The streetlight is still not working. The Clerk has reported this to Eon, but had still had no response. She has spoken to Neil Tomlinson, who has confirmed that the maintenance of all street lights are the responsibility of RCC, and one of his staff will contact Eon direct.</p>	<p>IL</p>
<p>10. Village Welcome pack</p>	<p>NF has been working with RH on this. It was agreed that the Welcome Pack is uploaded on to the village website with hard copies being given to new residents as and when they become known to the Parish Council.</p>	<p>NF</p>
<p>11. Finance</p>	<p>a) The Clerk reported the balance on the current account to 15 February was £3,907.69</p> <p>b) The Parish Council's Q3 bank reconciliation was circulated. The Clerk reminded the PC that the Parish Council's Financial Regulations state:</p> <p>"On a regular basis, at least once in each quarter, and at each financial year end, a member other than the Chairman shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the RFO."</p> <p>EJ agreed to verify bank reconciliations.</p> <p>c) Financial Regulations also ask for a list of authorized payments to be made by the Parish Council on a regular basis to be agreed. Currently there is only one authorized payment made on a regular</p>	<p>EJ</p>

	<p>basis and that is the Clerk's salary. However the Clerk will be setting up a direct debit to BT for payment of broadband in the Village Hall. A list of all regular payments must in future be drawn up and signed by two members of the Parish Council when payment is authorized.</p> <p>d) The Chair reminded the PC that there was a line on the budget for possible funding of a speed sign on North Luffenham Road. He asked PC to approach Cory to see if they would be prepared to fund this.</p>	PC
11. To agree payment of invoices	<p>The following invoices were agreed for payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs B. Shirley, reimbursement of stamps - £15.36</li> <li>• Eon – non metred electricity, December 2016 and January 2017 - £141.96</li> <li>• Leicestershire Footpath Association – 2017 subscription - £5.00</li> <li>• Campaign to Protect Rural England – 2017 subscription - £36.00</li> <li>• BT – Village Hall broadband, January 2017 - £98.68. The Clerk informed the PC that because of the gap between the January and February Parish Council meetings, BT had invoiced the PC for both January and February, and had charged a late payment fee of £40.00 for January. The current amount owing to BT was now £197.36. The Clerk asked the Parish Council to agree to pay the full amount now to avoid any further late payment fees. This was agreed. The Parish Council also agreed that as BT bills come in, the Clerk will pay them to avoid late payment charges and report as usual to the Parish Council at each meeting.</li> <li>• The Clerk hopes to set up a direct debit to BT.</li> <li>• 2Commune – Conference fees - £180.00</li> </ul>	
12. To discuss correspondence received by the Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk has received a formal letter of resignation from John Boddington, and will draft a letter in reply, thanking him for his work on the Parish Council over the years. The vacancy will now be advertised, with prospective candidates invited to state why they wish to become a Parish Councillor.</li> <li>• Community Emergency Store Scheme – there is some funding available to Parishes will to store equipment to the value of £600. The Clerk has raised this with the Village Hall Committee, and will pass the details on to EJ to assess the impact and suggest a way forward.</li> <li>• In response to an e mail from Keith Simpson about leaves blocking gutters in Weston Road and Rectory Lane, the Clerk has contacted David Brown and the gutters have now been cleared.</li> <li>• The Pensions Regulator – BS confirmed that in respect of automatic</li> </ul>	BS  EJ

	<p>enrolment duties for the Parish Council, she has now completed a declaration of compliance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parish Council noted the following correspondence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Notice of publication of Parish Council Forum minutes</li> <li>○ The Great British Spring Clean</li> <li>○ Consultation on the draft RCC Housing and Homelessness Strategy</li> <li>○ Nominations for RCC’s Sustainable Growth (Environment) Theme Group</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p>13. To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting</p>	<p>27 March 2017, 7.15 pm, Edith Weston Village Hall.</p> <p>In response to a question from MEW, JH confirmed that the maintenance of the streetlights off Weston Road are the responsibility of CarillionAmey, not RCC.</p> <p>In response to a question from MEW, KB confirmed that as an interim measure, teams from RCC had cleared roads of fallen trees, and pushed branches back into hedges, but it is unclear who the trees belong to.</p> <p>JH asked the PC if they had received any complaint about the burger van operating from MOD land. He has been told that because of the burger van, takings from the village shop are down. The Chair confirmed that the PC is neutral in this matter, but are monitoring the impact on the village shop. The owner of the van is legally licensed and has permission to operate from the car park by the MOD.</p>	