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Minutes of the meeting held by the Parish Council on Monday 10th January 2022 at 7.30.p.m in the Village Hall

PRESENT Councillors	Mr G Hammersley (Chair) Mr T Collins Mr J Simpson Mrs S Venner
Clerk	Mrs M Money

West Northants Councillor Rupert Frost and 4 members of the public were also present.

01.01.22 To receive and approve apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr T Regan.

02.01.22 Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.
None were disclosed.

03.01.22 To approve and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th December 2021
On a proposal by Cllr T Collins the Minutes were approved and signed.

04.01.22 Public Time (3 minutes per speaker)
WNC Councillor R Frost was thanked for providing a map of the parish boundary but what is needed is a map showing the village boundary. Cllr Frost said he would try to locate one.

Discussion then turned to the flooding issues along Badby Road/Bradbury Road. Cllr Regan has previously emailed Highways and they had given a 28-day completion day. After 29 days the problem had not been corrected and another email was sent. A response is still awaited. The drain at the top of Bradbury Road, on the right as you turn in from Badby Road is again overflowing. This has been logged again with Fix My Street.

Cllr Frost had provided a schematic plan of how planning issues were dealt with, but Cllr Simpson asked for a more detailed plan. Specific questions were “How are Parish Councils notified of applications”. “How are amendments communicated” and “How are objections seen”. Councillor Frost said these should be available from the Planning Portal but will seek to clarify the position and respond to the queries.

The handyperson has undertaken some clearing at the bottom of the churchyard and in fact cleared land owned by Mr and Mrs Mobbs, an area they had designated as a wild area. Further work in the Churchyard is now on hold to enable substantial piles of debris to be cleared and then to consider what further work is required.

Lengthy discussion then ensued about whose responsibility it is to repair and maintain the walls and clear the path, running down from Mounts Lane towards the churchyard, which is a public right of way. Cllr Simpson had been in correspondence with West Northants Council as the wall is starting to collapse. WNC state that the walls are not the responsibility of West Northants Council. WNC consider that each of the adjoining landowners are responsible up to the mid-point of the public right of way. Mr and Mrs Mobbs are one of the adjacent landowners and do not agree with WNC statement. The walls are falling down but responsibility for maintenance is unclear.

As a public right of way it should be the responsibility of West Northants Council. At what point does the Parish Council. WNC consider that each of the adjoining landowners are responsible up to the mid-point of the public right of way. Mr and Mrs Mobbs are one of the adjacent landowners and do not agree with WNC.

The Walls are falling down but responsibility for maintenance is unclear. As a public right of way it should be the responsibility of West Northants Council. At what point does the Parish Council, or other person/body, say that something must be done?

Cllr Frost agreed to find out if any of his contacts could help as there is no "lead person" at WNC at present.

[Cllr Frost left the meeting at 7.55.p.m.]

05.01.22 Vacancies for Parish Councillors

No interest has been shown in the three vacancies.

06.01.22 Traffic calming

- a) Purchase of additional Speed Indicator Device ("SID")
- b) Data update and siting of new & old SID's

Cllr Simpson gave a resume of what actions the Parish Council had already taken, considering different types of Speed Indicator Device (SID) and inviting representatives of companies to make a site visit, this invitation had not been taken up. Two of the three SID's have been returned to Stocksigns to be updated to make it possible to download data via Bluetooth. It is not possible to collect data from the original SID. Data is needed before the Police will take any action. Cllr Simpson went on to say that Highways permission has been obtained to use 11 posts around the village so that the SIDs can be relocated on a regular basis. Cllr Hammersley agreed to review and try to progress the purchase of another SID for siting on the Weedon Road close to its junction with Mounts Lane/Poets Way, for which a grant had been obtained.

Discussion turned to the mirror at the Poets Corner crossroads. WNC has so far declined to allow a replacement mirror to be erected. Cllr Simpson will seek to liaise with former Cllr W Nunneley as to how the mirror originally came to be erected.

07.01.22 Correspondence

- a) Blocked culverts/drains in Badby Road well beyond the junction with Bradbury Road
Cllr Regan has emailed Highways and they had given a 28-day completion day. After 29 days the problem had not been corrected and another email was sent. A response is still awaited. The drain at the top of Bradbury Road, on the right as you turn in from Badby Road is again overflowing. This has been logged again with Fix My Street.

b) Follow up on letter from PCC – re condition of churchyard and work identified
A programme of work has been identified and agreed.

c) Condition of pavements and roads after “Gigaclear” broadband installation.
Cllr Regan had asked which areas of the village needed inspecting. The feeling is that the whole village should be walked.

d) Email from Cllr Venner re Village Boundary plan
WNC Cllr Frost has been asked to provide a plan showing the Village boundary rather than the Parish boundary supplied.

e) Email from Mr and Mrs Mobbs re churchyard boundary
The handyperson has undertaken clearing work as directed by the Chairman but has, in fact, gone beyond the churchyard boundary which is the stream. There is substantially more rubbish to be disposed of and this will be done on Friday 14th January.
(Also see comments under “Public Time”)
Mr and Mrs Mobbs questioned what remedial action the parish council was prepared to undertake. Cllr Simpson is in correspondence with Mr and Mrs Mobbs and the Diocese as to ownership of and responsibility for the fence between the two areas.

f) Email from Brenda Taylor I regarding Poets Corner/Mounts Lane safety concerns.
See comments under 06.01.22 Traffic Calming.
Efforts are being made to identify who authorised the mirror. WNC Highways do not approve mirrors on the highway. An “H” sign being erected at the entrance to the village has been suggested and will be investigated although it is believed that these can only be put up in certain locations.

g) Email from Anne Rushall re collapsing wall on the right of way between Mounts Lane and the Churchyard. See Comments under Public Time.

08.01.22 Amendments to insurance cover
Cllr Simpson has this in hand and will circulate proposals for consideration.

09.01.22 Financial

a) Bank balance on 31st December 2021 is £53,583.11 and as of 10th January 2022 it was £53,465.07 of which £23,819.00 is held as General & Earmarked Reserves

b) On a proposal by the Chairman it was **RESOLVED**

	Payee	Details	Amount	VAT	Total	Stat.Power
B/P	Mrs M Money	Salary/Expenses	434.50		434.50	LGA 72 - Sec 112
B/P	P Cummings	Handy Person	641.99		641.99	LGA 72 - Sec 111
B/P	NVHMC Inv 34/39	Hire of Hall	34.00		34.00	LGA 72 – Sec 111
B/P	W S Gardens	Grass Mowing	765.00	153.00	918.00	Open Spaces
B/P	Huws Gray	Materials Inv IB8990	21.53	4.31	25.84	LGA 72 – Sec111
B/P	Huws Gray	Materials Inv IB953318	306.80	61.36	368.16	LGA 72 – Sec 111
B/P	The Link	Invoice 8/2022	441.00		441.00	LGA 72 – Sec 111

B/P	Citizens Advice Bureau	Donation	200.00		200.00	LGA 72 – Sec Miscellaneous
D/D	Yu Energy	Inv 00658943 – 01.09.21 to 30.09.21	10.70	0.54	11.24	Highways
D/D	Yu Energy	Inv 00659012 – 01.10.21 to 31.10.21	11.10	0.56	11.66	Highways
D/D	Yu Energy	Inv 00659270 01.11.21 to 30/11/21	10.86	0.54	11.40	Highways
D/D	Yu Energy	Inv 00665335 01/11/21 to 31/12/21	68.53	3.43	71.96	Highways
D/D	Yu Energy	Inv 00665336 01/12/21 to 31/12/21	11.22	0.56	11.78	Highways

The Clerk was asked to provide a breakdown of Yu Energy invoices as the costs seem expensive when the original decision had been made to make savings on energy costs.

c) Receipts – None

d) To finalise the 2022/23 Budget

On a proposal by Cllr Simpson it was **RESOLVED** that the Budget be approved and adopted. (The unused funds ref VE day celebrations had already been added to Reserves)

e) To agree the precept to be levied on West Northants Council

On a proposal by Cllr Simpson it was **RESOLVED** that the Council do precept upon West Northamptonshire Council in the sum of £34,722.00 to be paid in two instalments in April and September 2022. There is no increase in the level of precept from last year.

f) To approve the CIL report for period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

The circulated document was approved.

Items requiring approval of expenditure

1. Increase the cap on the Handy Person's hours
It was agreed to increase the allowance to £7000.00 per year.
It was also agreed that the Handy Person should only purchase items from Huws Gray so that they would show on invoices.
2. To get an idea of cost for repairing the churchyard wall, near the Village Hall, when the trees have been removed.
The Clerk reported that she has spoken to the stone mason who says it is difficult to give a price until the trees have been removed and he can see just what needs doing.
3. Tools required for handyman needed for tree/bush/verge work and storage facility.
Some tools had been purchased already and need to be added to the Asset Register. A storage facility will be investigated.

The Handyperson will be asked to add litter picking along the Dodford Road and Staverton Road to his routine list of tasks.

Sundry items

1. Source a company to deal with light repairs following Aylesbury Mains ceasing to trade.
The Clerk advised that this is proving difficult for all councils who used Aylesbury Mains in the past.
2. Consider what tree work is required in the churchyard over the next 12/18 months. Cllr Simpson to liaise with Ben Allee, tree surgeon.
3. Update on new bench to mark the Queen's Jubilee.
The VE Day/Jubilee Committee will be asked to co-ordinate this.
4. Consider purchasing a plaque to be fitted in a suitable location, to mark the Jubilee.
The VE Day/Jubilee Committee will be asked to co-ordinate this.
5. Chase up site visit by Westcotec and Stocksigns
Cllr Simpson advised that there has been no response to the request.
6. Consider erecting lights on the Green for the Jubilee.
Mr Harper praised the Council for the Christmas lighting saying that the Parish Council and villagers had made an impressive display over the Christmas period. He suggested that more lights round the Green could be erected subject to a power source being identified. Cllr Hammersley agreed to assess the feasibility of this suggestion. It was agreed that the Green should be the focal point for the Jubilee celebrations.

An application to Plant a Tree for the Jubilee had been successful, and 30 Copse saplings will be delivered to Cllr Regan between 28th February and 10th March. A decision on where to plant these saplings is needed.

10.01.22 Policy Reviews

- a) To adopt/review Burial Ground Rules and Regulation – (this is deferred until a future meeting)
- b) To approve Fly Posting Policy – adopted.

11.01.22 Update on Allotment Renewal Lease

Cllr Simpson reported that the draft lease and option to purchase had been reviewed and returned to the Landlord's solicitors with queries, and a response was awaited.

12.01.22 Planning

Issues – none reported

Applications – None received

Decisions – None notified.

13.01.22 Health and Safety

- a) Burial Ground – Nothing adverse to report.

- b) Churchyard – (i) installation of handrails along the slopes leading down to the dip and up towards Mounts Lane - a request for a faculty has been submitted to the Diocese and a decision is awaited.
(ii) Lopping/removal of trees adjacent to the village hall. – these are the subject of quotes currently being obtained.
- c) Play Area – Nothing adverse reported.

14.01.22 Review comments from Open Meeting

Anything not covered elsewhere in these minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

15.01.22 Update on recommendations made in 3 yearly Tree Survey

These are the subject of quotes currently being obtained

16.01.22 Grass cutting

To review tender requirements and areas to be cut.

The plans have been forwarded to W S Gardens and their response is still awaited. The Clerk will circulate a plan which the current incumbent, W S Gardens, has been using.

17.01.22 Items for discussion at next meeting

None raised at this meeting.

18.01.22 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 7th February 2022 at 7.30.p.m. in the Village Hall

Meeting closed 9.40.p.m.