

**WESTON AND BASFORD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
HELD 10th JULY 2014**

PRESENT Councillor J Densem (Chairman)

Councillors J. Chamberlain, G. Cook, J Cornell,
E. Dickenson, J. Edwards, T. Eatough, L. Gill, T.Gill and M. Jones

APOLOGIES Councillor J Chambers

IN ATTENDANCE Councillor J Hammond
PC N Moore
8 Local Residents

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

27. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 12th JUNE 2014

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held 12th June 2014 be approved as a correct record subject to: -

- (a) the amendment of Minute Number 21 to refer to the survey on the Winter Garden Waste Collection Shutdown being held from 11 June until 23 July.
- (b) The amendment of Minute Number 20 to refer to the Southern Area Planning Committee

28. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Whites Lane Weston – Road marking
This work was scheduled for completion in early July

(b) World War 1 Commemorations
Councillor M Jones reported on alternative methods of producing a Poppy Cross and the costs involved. Councillor Jones undertook to carry out further research into the project in consultation with the Chairman.

(c) Renovation of the Finger Posts and Mile Posts
This project was to be carried out in August using materials provided by the Borough Council.

(d) Memorial bench donated by Mr G Witter

The Chairman reported that this bench was now in position and being used by residents.

RESOLVED: That a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Witter.

(e) Footpath-Wychwood Village

Further to Minute Number 18 (c) PC N Moore reported that he had investigated the need for a warning sign to alert drivers and did not feel that a sign would be helpful. He undertook to review the situation and report to the next meeting.

29. POLICE MATTERS

Pc N Moore reported that there had been 1 incident of crime and 3 incidents of anti-social behaviour in the Parish in June.

It was reported that items found on the former Golf Course suggested that the area may be being used for solvent abuse and that the long grass could present a fire hazard.

30. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

It was reported that bids to be included in the Minor Highway schemes programme 2015/2016 needed to be submitted by 30th September 2014.

Councillor J Clowes had previously reported that 2 treatments were to be carried out on the carriageway from the roundabout to the site of the former Gorsty Hall Hotel (Minute Number 21 refers) but no date had been given for the work to be carried out.

Work was to be carried out J16 of the M6 which would necessitate road closures and details of these were to be circulated to Members and would be added to the web-site. Members expressed concern that the closures could result in some country lanes becoming "rat runs".

Works were required at Rushy Lane and flooding problems had occurred adjacent to Rookery Wood Public House.

31. PLANNING MATTERS

The Chairman of the Planning Committee reported on the preparatory work being carried out prior to the Local Plan Examination in Public. The 24th July had been scheduled for a pre-meeting which would determine the timetable for the main Examination which would be held from 15th September to 3rd November. The Parish Council's Planning Consultant Mr Andrew Thomson would represent the Council at the Examination and was currently looking at the proposals of Haddon Properties.

The Planning Chairman reported on the desirability of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. This would be the subject of a report to a future meeting.

32. PUBLIC FOOTPATH-MAIN ROAD TO STEPPING STONES NURSERY

Mr G Witter had approached Cheshire East Borough Council regarding the overgrown condition of this footpath and the difficulties which it presents to wheelchair users. The necessary work had been carried out very quickly and Members expressed their appreciation to both Mr Witter and Mr P Grocott of the Borough Council.

33. REPORT OF CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLOR

Councillor J Hammond reported that the Borough Council's Recycling and Waste team had won the Team of the Year Award at the National Recycling Award Ceremony.

There were to be numerous road closures and restricted lanes caused by work to J16 of the M6. Full details were available on the Borough Council web-site. The possibility of households being leafleted was suggested.

An ITV programme "Jam Busters" about the WI was being produced and would feature Cheshire branches.

A Polling District review was being carried out but was not expected to affect arrangements in the Parish.

A £900,000 underspend on the 2013/2014 budget was to be made available for grants to community groups and a bidding process would be established.

34. PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor T Gill reported that there had been some slippage in the programme for the completion of the building work at Wychwood Village and it was anticipated that this would now be achieved by September.

Councillor J. Edwards reported that the former Golf Course was now very overgrown. The Family Fun Day had been highly successful raising £900 and promoting local businesses and charities. A substantial number of residents had attended including a number who had not attended these events previously.

The improved broadband service, Connect Cheshire, was now expected to be available by the end of 2014.

Councillor G Cook reported that the footpath on the corner outside the White Lion was overgrown.

The trees and hedges of the Duchy of Lancaster property opposite Cemetery Road junction with Main Road were overgrown and presenting a hazard, forcing pedestrians onto the road.

Councillor E Dickenson reported on a letter dated 26th June received from Network Rail regarding improvements to the Basford Hall sidings.

Councillor M Jones reported that the standard of work being carried out by the new verge contractors was a considerable improvement.

Councillor J Chamberlain expressed her appreciation for PC Moore's assistance during the flooding problems on the road between Englesea Brook and Barthomley.

Councillor J Cornell reported that a recent Chapel Walk along the Public Rights of Way in the Parish had highlighted the need for these paths to be walked regularly to ensure that they remain passable.

The path from Englesea Brook to Weston Village was blocked with overgrown vegetation, stiles were broken and the footbridge collapsed. There was also a hand rail missing from the foot bridge. It was agreed to include an item on the September meeting agenda to discuss the maintenance of Public Footpaths.

The Chairman reported that the bench on the Playing Fields had been repaired and the bench presented by former Councillor M Campbell situated on the Country Park was beyond economic repair.

RESOLVED: That the bench on the Country Park be replaced in the current location.

There was a dead tree on Borough Council land at Snape Lane, adjacent to the Grit Bin and dead boughs overhanging the highway at Weston Hall.

35. 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.

Mr A Jeffrey reported that 5 Speedwatch sessions had been held at Shavington Hall with the PCSO and Shavington volunteers. Further volunteers from the Parish were needed if the scheme was to operate efficiently.

The Gulley Pump had been operating in the area but the Driver had experienced difficulty in and locating some gullies due to the lack of a location plan.

Parking problems at Wychwood Village were causing considerable problems and it was hoped that once all roads are adopted enforcement of parking regulations would be easier. A Notice had been drafted to warn of legal action against those parking on pavements and causing obstruction. The support of the Parish Council was requested and PC Moore undertook to investigate possible courses of action to deal with the issue. It was suggested that the letter from Bovis to residents regarding parking restrictions had no legal standing. The Community Group intended to offer to assist in deciding future strategy when the adoption of the roads is proposed.

It was suggested that the assistance of the Countryside Ranger be sought to ensure that all Public Rights of Way be maintained.

The footpath at Whites Lane was overgrown with vegetation from the adjoining Duchy of Lancaster property.

Dog fouling continued to be a problem and larger notices and a spray to highlight areas fouled were suggested.

An indication of the progress in constructing the proposed bus turning circle was requested. Borough Councillor J Clowes was dealing with this matter.

Hedge cutting was required on the A531 as the road signs were being obscured and the traffic signs in the Parish needed to be cleaned.

A number of advertising signs had been placed at Weston roundabout and Snape Lane Bridge and the Clerk was requested to bring these to the attention of the Planning Enforcement Officer

It was suggested that the Parish Council investigate the use of Social Media as means of communicated its activities to residents.

36. FINANCIAL MATTERS-Authorisation of Payments

D G Owen Salary 1 st to 30 TH June 2014	
Stationery and Office Allowances	638.55
D Williamson June Invoice	161.50
HMRC-Tax collected	446.80
R J Shaw-Emergency Electrical Work, Wychwood Village Hall	188.92
R J Shaw- Refurbishment of Bench Mere Road Playing Field	100.00

37. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 11th SEPTEMBER 2014

CHAIRMAN