

WESTON ON THE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

For the meeting of Parish Council, held in Village Hall on Wednesday 7th August 2024

Meeting Number 24.412

Note for information: Cherwell District Council – CDC, Oxfordshire County Council - OCC

Public Participation

There was nothing to note in this section.

24.412.1 To Receive: Apologies for non-attendance

Councillors Bohm (DB), Lanham (BL), Davis (SD), Miller (JM) and Rowan (TR) were all present.

Councillor Nigel Simpson (Oxfordshire County Council) sent his apologies.

2 members of the public were in attendance.

24.412.2 To Receive: Declarations of Interest

JM declared an interest in relation to planning application 24/01572/AGN – OS Parcel 4658 North of Shell Filling Station and SW of the Chequers.

24.412.3 To Receive & Approve: Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd July 2024 (DB)

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd July 2024 were discussed with no changes required.

Items to be followed up at either this meeting or a future meeting include North View planning application, CDC Chief Executive visit to the village with Councillor Coton and Southfield development sign off. Also to be covered is if a response is received from a letter SD sent to the planning department regarding CDC/OCC highways liaison as well as a response from the latest letter which DB sent to CDC/OCC leaders regarding the oak tree footpath.

The resolution to approve the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd July 2024 was then proposed by DB and seconded by TR. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to present minutes to Chair to sign, then file and upload to the web.

24.412.4 For Information: Chairs Comment (DB)

The focal points from DB's perspective this month have been the airfield issue, the Gigaclear follow up meeting and working through their issues and dissecting information from ONPA following planning statements from the new Government.

DB was disappointed to have to cancel the Foodbank this month.

It was noted that Great Wolf has started to continue with utility works through Chesterton. DB has also had a meeting with the Puy du Foy chairman and a rep from France to help to understand plans and thoughts for a proposed theme park site near Bucknall and how it may affect our village.

DB has also been talking with people about joining the Parish Council.

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24.412.5 For Information: Clerk report (Clerk)

The clerks report to the Council was noted which confirmed payments from the Parish Council bank account including the usual monthly clerk salary payment.

The clerk confirmed that an application has been submitted to Oxfordshire County Council for a community transport grant to support the running costs of the community van.
OCC Highways have reportedly fixed the drain issue at Knowle Lane/B430 and are investigating the other drain issue on B430.

A huge thank you to the village's fantastic historian - Paula Hessian, along with the late Margaret Fissenden and Brian Wilson - for helping to put together an overview of the history of Weston on the Green for the Parish Council website.

24.412.6 For Discussion: Discuss recommendations from the Planning Group on planning applications (SD)

Key planning applications on the planning report were discussed by the Council.

Building Applications

Decisions Received – Permitted:

24/00804/OUT – Reynards Lodge, North Lane - Outline Planning Approval for the demolition of workshops, stables and tennis court and erection of three dwellings and conversion of existing building to form a dwelling (renewal of 21/02146/OUT).

24/00893/F – Kelberg, Northampton Road - Proposed erection of 8-bay workshop and associated works.

Decisions Received – Refused:

24/01102/F – North View, North Lane – RETROSPECTIVE – Upgrade of existing verge hardstanding.

Following the July Parish Council meeting the Council felt compelled to write to CDC given the immediate neighbour to North View had been granted permission to put in hard standing to the front of their property due to a 10 year rule of its existence. The Parish Council therefore highlighted this application as an exception and withdrew their objection.

CDC Planning decided to uphold the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, CDC Local Plan and Conservation Appraisal highlighting the importance of North Lane as a country lane and refused it. The Planning Officer gave a recommendation for a potential alternative and Councillors were advised to read the planning decision report from the CDC Planning Officer.

Withdrawn:

None

Other:

24/01572/AGN – OS Parcel 4658 North Of Shell Filling Station And SW Of The Chequers Part Of A34 by Weston On The Green - Erection of a General Purpose Agricultural Storage Building (non-livestock).

Prior Approval Required

Awaiting Decision:

23/03383/F – 2 Church Close - Two storey side and rear extensions (re-submission of 23/01872/F).

Commented

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24/01136/F - The Old Vicarage, Mill Lane - Renovation of existing detached garage to incorporate first floor home office space. **Commented**

New Applications:

24/01969/F - Westfield Farm Barn, Shepherds Close - Proposed replacement porch and alterations to the converted barn and the re-building of a former outbuilding.

Tree Applications:

24/00722/TCA – Manor Hotel - T1 x Multi stem Sycamore - (BLUE) overhanging power station/room, to fell; T2 x Poplar - (PINK) damaging wall of moat, to fell. **Commented**

24/01805/TCA – St Mary The Virgin Church - Please see Tree Safety Survey.

24/01806/TCA – Weston on the Green Memorial Hall, Mill Lane - T1 x Cherry - fell to near ground level.

24/01701/TCA – The Old Vicarage, Mill Lane - T1 x Ash - class 2-3 dieback, fell to near ground level.

24/01700/TCA – Ladygrass, Church Lane - T1 x Thuja - Crown raise to create 1m clearance above ground level. T2 x Gleditsia - crown raise to 5m above the garden (ground level) to remove primarily dead and dying laterals and cut back to create 2m clearance above the roof. T3 x Ash - a group of 2 trees with class 2-3 ash dieback, fell to near ground level.

24/01678/TCA – Holly House, Church Lane - T1 x smaller Eucalyptus growing underneath to be pollarded just above the fork. T2 x Mature Eucalyptus to be dismantle leaving stump close to ground level. T3 x Silver birch to have crown sympathetically thinned by approx. 10% crown volume. All trees are in the rear garden of Holly House.

Action: SD/Clerk to send appropriate planning replies to Cherwell District Council.

Update on the Schoolfield: three plots in the Schoolfield were up for auction recently. The largest plot was bought by a group of villagers in Westlands Avenue/Shepherds Close who purchased individual strips as a group. The group wish to retain the field as a meadow and are developing a plan to look after and protect it. The question over what would happen when a house was sold is being worked through. A second plot has been sold, unknown to whom, with the final plot not sold to DB's knowledge.

The Council has received a query from someone wishing to purchase a property on Mill Lane. They wished to talk through their plans relating to the use of the small holding to the rear to include stables and an equestrian riding arena also had a query on footpath usage by their horse. Planning permission for a change of use from agricultural to equestrian would be required. The Council discussed the request and will draft a suitable response to the enquirer.

Action: DB/SD to draft response to enquiry over potential planning application on a property on Mill Lane.

Graham Barnett updated the Council on his meeting with the OCC footpath officer regarding the Oxfordshire Way towards the far end of the Schoolfield, where it floods. OCC are looking at putting a boardwalk in to raise it above flood level and potentially raise the level where the kissing gate is and are also considering taking the kissing gate out. The Parish Council are keen to keep the kissing gates to retain the field and keep large animals away and wished this to be expressed back to OCC.

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24.412.7 For Information: Playing field & playground update including RoSPA annual inspection report (BL)

BL highlighted to Councillors that the annual RoSPA inspection report on the playground had been received.

A number of items requiring attention have been highlighted on the report and BL requested guidance around how the Council would like to proceed:

- Caps/screws missing in general: get quote from Playdale
- Gate access shearing risk: requires either replacing or repairing. JM agreed to investigate.
- Spica missing components or lose: get quote from Playdale for repairing
- Junior Multiplay, decayed timber: get quote from Playdale
- Basketball post: Council agreed to remove the item as it is a health and safety issue and should not be located in playground
- Wooden edging around wet pour on swings decayed: get quote from Playdale

The Council agreed for BL to ask Playdale to quote for repairs and maintenance according to the RoSPA report.

Action: BL to ask Playdale to quote for repairs and maintenance according to the RoSPA report.

BL has had no further communication from Ardley FC. The clerk is to check on the number of teams using the field next season and then to send across the invoice with an increase of £50.00 if only one team.

Action: Clerk to check with Ardley FC on next seasons usage of the playing field and send invoice across.

24.412.8 For Information: Update on village works (JM)

JM asked if a request could be submitted to OCC to cut back the vegetation along the Bletchingdon Road.

The Clerk informed the Council that this request has already been made on Fix My Street and has been informed that this will be able to be implemented after nesting season in the autumn. Half of the road was cleared earlier in 2024.

JM has been contacted by Jim Calcutt, having been phoned by a relation of a village resident commenting on the lack of water coming down to their lakes from the weir and Mill Race. Mr Calcutt requested a history of what work has been done in the area. JM confirmed sections of the ditches have been dug out but the Schoolfield owned section still needs clearing and the willows trimmed.

The weir requires repairing but it is a SSSI site so permission is required to access the site from Natural England as well as the land owner, Jim Calcutt.

JM suggested sending the land owner, Jim Calcutt, a letter asking his opinion on what could potentially be done.

Action: Clerk to draft letter to Jim Calcutt to enquire over suggestions to resolve the situation of water flowing through the village.

24.412.9 For Information: Update on commercial use of Weston on the Green airfield (DB)

John Kirk and JM accompanied DB to an informative meeting at RAF Weston on the Green on 11th July 2024.

The trial period for the commercial jumping has been pushed back to September 2024. The villages will feedback regarding noise at the end of two weeks and again at four weeks and the RAF will provide noise meters. The aircraft used will be a Cezna Green Caravan which is reportedly much quieter than the Air/Sky Van being used by the military. The air space is much larger since the commercial group will not have the 2 mile radius constraint that the military has. It is expected there will be up to 15 jumps per day from 9am until sunset at weekends and bank holidays.

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Currently the Airforce is having deconfliction meetings with the commercial gliding group that has used the base for 40 years.

Concern was firmly shared about intrusive and constant noise. All village leaders present declared support for military training. Apparently Weston on the Green airfield is the largest jumping site in Europe and is responsible for training all UK military in parachute jumping. The Parish Councils are going to check with CDC about the requirement for planning permission as the use is not military and also check regarding the rules for environmental noise. The commercial company is a not for profit company and they plan to help improve the buildings at the airfield.

JM recommended sending a letter to RAF Brize Norton to highlight initial objections to the commercial parachuting scheme including noise and frequency of flights prior to future problems arising. BL also queried what they were doing to offset carbon emissions with the additional aviation field used.

The Council agreed to send a letter to the Commandant at RAF Brize Norton to highlight the Parish Council's concern over commercial use on the grounds of environmental, traffic and noise concerns including frequency of flights.

Action: DB to send letter with PC view over commercial use of the airfield to RAF Brize Norton.

24.412.10 For Information: Update from Traffic Calming Action Group (Graham Barnett, GB)

GB updated the Council on the progress by the Traffic Calming Action Group. There is a new contact at OCC, James Wright, who the team were grateful to for actioning the updating of the white lines in Church Road/Lane very quickly.

GB is trying to book a meeting with OCC regarding the speed reduction application from 40mph to 30mph on B430 plus potential traffic calming options and associated costs. It was noted that Ardley and Middleton Stoney have 30mph speed limits now so that is good evidence to push for the 30mph speed limit through Weston on the Green.

GB has been sent a Thames Valley Safer Roads newsletter which provides numbers of offences in Cherwell including Speedwatch information and was asked by them if it was useful. GB responded yes and requested further feedback on the Speedwatch scheme. For information on Monday 5th August 7.00am - 8.30am: over 1000 vehicles went past the Speedwatch team on B430. BL also highlighted the offer of a community police officer to attend speedwatch sessions in the village.

Bus stop: GB has raised the re-painting of the bus lines on the road on Fix My Street and has received confirmation that remarking will be actioned.

Community bus: GB highlighted that the van is short of volunteer drivers and has placed an advert in the Village News. In terms of usage the bus has been used 15 times in July, 11 in June and 9 bookings so far for August.

24.412.11 Resolution: To Approve the following invoices for payment (BL)

BL requested approval of the following invoices detailed in the table below.

PC Ref	Payee	Purpose	Total (incl VAT)	Budget Line	Amount Remaining in 2024-25 Budget
436*	Slade Estate Services Limited	Monthly maintenance of playing field – June	£424.28	Village Works/Playing Field Maintenance	£1,997.16
437*	Bicester Tree Services	Parish tree management plan	£540.00	Village Works/Village Tree Works	£750.00
438*	Oxford Edens	Grass cutting 01/07/24 (playground, stocks/Ben Jonson)	£286.65	Village Works/Village Contractor Grass Cutting	£2,089.78
439*	Oxford Edens	Stocks tree pruning 02/07/24	£192.00	Village Works/Village Tree Works	£210.00

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440	CPRE	Annual membership renewal 2024-25	£36.00	Subscriptions/CPRE	£36.00
441	Clerk (J Mullane)	Key cutting	£11.00	Sundries/Administration & printing costs	£275.60
442	Slade Estate Services Limited	Monthly maintenance of playing field – July	£424.28	Village Works/Playing Field Maintenance	£1,572.88
443	WotG Memorial Village Hall	Village Hall hire for PC meetings (Oct-Dec 24)	£45.00	Meeting Costs/Hire of Village Hall	£195.00
444	RoSPA Play Safety	Annual inspection of playground	£112.80	Village Works/Playground annual RoSPA inspection	£110.00
445*	Oxford Edens	Grass cutting 12/07/24 (Church Close/Church Lane)	£54.00	Village Works/Village Contractor Grass Cutting	£1,803.13
446	Clerk (J Mullane)	Planter noticeboard Gigaclear village meeting posters A1 (Instant Print)	£36.85	Sundries/Administration & printing costs	£264.60
447*	Oxford Edens	Grass cutting 24/07/24 (playground, Stocks/Ben Jonson)	£286.65	Village Works/Village Contractor Grass Cutting	£1,749.13
448	Graham Barnett	Fuel for community van (Sainsburys)	£58.36	Village Works/ Community bus scheme	£1,796.80

* invoices requested to be paid already

It was noted that invoices PC Ref 436-439, 445 and 447 have already been paid. The resolution to approve the invoices detailed in the table was proposed by BL and seconded by TR. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to update invoice log with approvals.

Action: Clerk to initiative request for payments from Councillors and ensure payments authorised.

24.412.12 For Information: Gigaclear update (DB)

A village meeting was held with Gigaclear on 23rd July 2024 and the list of issues to sort out was discussed. These included resident issues, business issues including the Forge Works and The Manor along with drop outs in service. DB has heard back from some people saying that issues have been fixed, the outstanding issues will continue to be monitored and feedback requested.

There is also an issue over service to Mill Lane. Gigaclear will not be building over the Openreach work which served the initial houses in the lane as well as the Village Hall and indicated residents would need to contact Openreach. The Openreach network will reportedly not go further as there is an issue with a pole which Openreach has said they will not replace. The issue will continue to be discussed.

Gigaclear have agreed that St Marys Church can be made a community hub. Councillors discussed asking for a grant request via Councillor Simpson from the OCC Councillor Priority Fund to aid the set up costs within the Church. This will be discussed further with Councillor Simpson.

24.412.13 For Information: Update on oak tree footpath (OCC/CDC Councillors)

No Councillors were present to provide a verbal update.

24.412.14 For Information: Oxfordshire County & Cherwell District Councillor updates (OCC/CDC Councillors)

No Councillors were present to provide a verbal update.

24.412.15 Next Parish Council Meeting Date: Wednesday 4th September 2024, 7.30pm (DB)

Meeting Closed: 21.25

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