

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 12th JANUARY 2021 at 7.00 pm**

Present: Councillors: Mr Neil Anthony, Mr George Atkinson, Mrs Jill Cooke, Mr Tony Crease, Mr Keith Crouch, Mrs Fiona Edwards, Miss Libby Hart, Mr Austin Havell, Mr Jim Mantz, Mrs Fiona Thomas
Members of the public: Two members of the public present
District Councillor Johnnie Amos present until after the public forum.
Apologies received and accepted from: Mrs Ann Ranshaw

6.45 pm. Cancelled, re-arranged for February.
7.00 pm. PC meeting commenced.

Chairman Mr Tony Crease

Item No

Action

- 779.0** Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct: Nothing declared.
- 780.0** **Public Forum.** Two members of the public had come along to show their major concerns regarding planning breaches on application DA/2020/0954.
One member of the public also voice concerns regarding the Dodford applications in and those that were subject to enforcement and requested the PC write in regarding the enforcement issues on Stowe Hill site.
District Cllr Amos advised of the issues relating to many planning sites in Dodford. He also said that the District Cllrs were struggling to get information across at Daventry DC as the only contact they now have is the Monitoring Officer. He would keep us informed.
- 781.0** **To accept the minutes of:**
The Virtual, Meeting of the Parish Council held on 1st December 2020. Minutes were signed as a true and accurate record. NA/JC
- 782.0** **Matters arising or updates on items that do not require any decisions.**
- Thank you letter from Pocket Park. Noted
 - Meeting dates for 2021. Noted
- 783.0** **GENERAL MATTERS**
- 783.1 Police Liaison Representative: Mr Steven Edwards, resident is willing to be the liaison for the parish. Councillors agreed that this was satisfactory, knowing of Mr Edwards police career. Clerk
- 783.2 Handyman. Cllr Hart will investigate and speak to some contractors to see whether they would be willing to undertake the small jobs we have in the village. February agenda
- 783.3 Tree inspection Report: Noted. There is nothing urgent mentioned, a lot of ivy on trees that need cutting at the roots, possibly a job for the handyman. A branch is laying on the ground from a tree in Croft Way. Cllrs Anthony and Havell will remove. Cllrs Anthony/Havell
- 784.0** **INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP**
- 784.1 Bus shelters: Replacement Perspex required for two notice boards, only available in large sheet which will do four boards. Cllrs Anthony and Havell to collect, repair the boards and Cllr Havell will look after the spare Perspex. New posters needed for the shelters. Clerk
Resolved: To purchase Perspex and accessorise to install the covers on the bus shelter notice boards - £314.28. (retrospective) TC/AH
- 784.2 Removal of trees behind changing rooms: Currently there are two large trees behind the changing rooms one Conifer and one Pine. The Conifer definitely needs removing, the other is ok but tall so will be susceptible to wind once the protection of the first is removed. Further quotes to be received and to be discussed in February. February agenda
- 785.0** **OPEN SPACES PLAY AND RECREATION**
- 785.1 Play area inspections: Report has been received from Kompan regarding the quarterly inspection of all sites with play equipment. Only low-level issues raised, nothing major noted. All sites ok.
- 785.2 Section 136 Grass cutting notice.
Resolved: Council agreed to accept the £1001.90 from the County Council in respect of providing grass cutting in the village. KC/LH Clerk
- 786.0** **CEMETERY & ALLOTMENTS**
- 786.1 Riverside Drive Allotments. Removal of tree and trimming of hedge
Resolved: Cost £250 to remove and trim this area of the allotments. LH/JM
- 787.0** **PLANNING**
- 787.1 **To consider applications:**
- a DA/2020/0980. Land at Weedon Lane, Dodford. Change of use of land to use as a residential

caravan site for one traveller family with one mobile home and one touring caravan, laying of permeable hardstanding and installation of new septic tank.
Weedon Bec Parish Council strongly objects to this application, which is yet another traveller's site in the vicinity of our village.

The application is full of inconsistencies:

- Most particularly with regard to provision of toilet facilities
- The building size has contradictory statements on the actual number of bedrooms
- Reference is made to one family: we have grave reservations on the interpretation of this, as on the traveller's site on the A5 at Stowe Hill, 9 children are present. What is to prevent extended family use? Within the travelling community it is standard practice for grandparents and other close relatives to live together.
- Although the Design Statement refers to Weedon, the site is in Dodford parish. There are no facilities within Dodford village,
- so schooling, surgery, shops, dentist, etc would need to be provided by Weedon. Again, misleading distances are quoted.
- A major concern is the disposal of sewage.
- Inconsistencies in wording do not inspire confidence.
- The Dodford Brook runs close to the site, as does the Grand Union Canal. We note no mention of the Environment Agency, who would need to be consulted on this issue.
- The site is very close to the GUC Conservation area, separated by a hedge, and we note that a gate has already been put in, giving access to the towpath. We would ask that all access by pedestrians would be via the existing trackway.
- Statements concerning road access are misleading.
- A hump bridge over the GUC is less than 10 metres from the entrance, giving very limited visibility. We would expect that all heavy traffic would approach from the A5, as the Dodford village roads are very narrow.

Weedon Bec Parish Council fully support Dodford Parish Council's stance on this application. With the inconsistent and inaccurate information provided in the application, we feel it would be difficult to make a fair decision.

- b **DA/2020/0982. Jubilee Field, Bridge Street.** Replacement of existing changing unit with new changing room unit, welfare facility and toilet/shower block and erection of 2 metre fencing enclosure, access ramp with railings and other car park alterations. The Parish Council feel they cannot respond to this application as it was submitted jointly with WSA.
- c **DA/2020/1053. 23 New Croft.** Construction of log cabin outbuilding. The council has no objections to this application as it will not affect the street scene.
- d **DA/2020/0954. 30 South Street.** Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission DA/2019/0756 (two storey and single storey rear and side extensions) to increase scale for first floor rear Weedon Bec Parish Council objects strongly to the alterations in building construction which have taken place, contrary to the amended plan approved by Daventry District Council. The increase in scale and massing is totally out of place and has a negative impact on neighbouring properties. We share the concern of neighbours, who have expressed their disapproval to the Parish Council.

Planning consent was refused some years ago to a former owner, and an application submitted by the new owner was almost a carbon copy of that, this was also refused. The revised amended plan, approved by DDC, has seemingly been blatantly ignored, and many unacceptable features of the earlier applications have been adopted in the present building.

South Street is now in a conservation area, making it even more important that new or extended buildings blend in with their surroundings. We note for instance that the specified matching brick has been replaced with breeze block, will it be rendered? The extension of this building obtrudes on all neighbouring houses, reducing light, and makes unacceptable changes to the street scene in a conservation area.

Weedon Bec Parish Council share the concerns sent to you by residents, and fully supports them. We fail to see why conditions clearly set out in the amended application have been consistently ignored. In the unlikely event that these unauthorised amendments are approved, we ask that we (and neighbours) be provided with a reasoned explanation.

787.2 To note planning decision

- a DA/2019/1058. Newnham Turn Farm. Lawful Development Certificate (Existing) for siting of single caravan for residential use. Refused. Noted

787.3 To note planning withdrawal

- a DA/2020/0295. Land at Weedon Lane, Dodford. Change of use to 5 pitch touring caravan site, 1 no. holiday chalet with decking; storage building with shower and toilet facilities, storage shed, play area; extended access driveway and parking area; and works to maintain/expand earth bund on eastern boundary. Noted

787.4 To note the updates from DDC enforcement regarding the Stowe Hill site and to consider the enforcement issues at Dodford. A letter will be sent to the Monitoring Officer regarding Stowe Hill and Dodford enforcement issues.

788.0 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE

788.1 To report the financial figures for December 2020, including income. There were no comments received.

Income received.	Interest	£ .18
	Grass cutting S136 fund	£1,001.90
	Pocket Park Committee	<u>£1,510.90</u>
	Total	£2,512.98

Total amount in Bank accounts as at 31st December 2020

Unity – current account	£ 29,516.69
Lloyds – current account	£ 65,810.75
HSBC – savings	<u>£ 20,805.88</u>
Total	£159,251.62 of which £28,213.16 is earmarked

788.2 **Budget - Precept for 2021/22.** After discussion, it was agreed to accept the F&GP Group's proposals for the Budget and Precept for 2021/22. *A full copy of the F&GP minutes with a full breakdown of figures and proposals, presented to Council, is attached to these minutes.*

New Items included for this budget:

- Cemetery – Lychgate/Shed repairs: £7,500
- Cemetery – Replacement front gates – to be costed but money to be used from the Improvement works pot
- IG – Phase 2 street lighting - £5,000

Resolved: To accept these as new items: FT/TC

Transfer of unspent budget pots to other pots at the end of the financial year:

- Cemetery – £2,000 from drainage to Improvement works

Resolved: To accept the proposal: GA/JM

Staff:

- Clerk to receive Scale point 30 on the new NCALC pay scales.
- Litter pickers to be paid £9.05 per hour.

Resolved: To accept the proposal. LH/TC

Budget figure.

Resolved: It was agreed that the Council's budget for 2021/22 would be £143,430.00. TC/AH all in favour

Precept amount.

Resolved: It was agreed that the Council's Precept request would be £133,430.00 which is an increase of 3.59%. Reserves of £7,500 and an estimated income of £2,500 would be used to offset the difference. TC/AH all in favour

788.3 **Membership to ACRE:**

Resolved: to pay the subscriptions of £35. NA/JC

788.4 To approve invoices for payment:

The following invoices were approved and cheques signed. Proposed Cllr Hart, seconded Cllr Crease.

To whom paid	Reason	Amount
S Massingham	Salary	442.50
M Davies	Salary	309.75
S Halkett	Salary	1,477.64
HMRC	PAYE	422.62
Local Government Pension Scheme	Pension payment	578.15
S Halkett	Office rent £37.50, Newsletter £15, speed camera clips £7.80	60.30
Eon	Street light electricity	161.84
Pure Clean	Bus shelter cleaning	36.00
Amber Screen & Print	Allotment signs £50.40, speed signs £216.00	266.40
SLCC	Subscriptions	262.00
Kompan	December play area inspection report	356.40
Bowden Construction	Survey report, lychgate	550.00
PWLB	Loan repayment	5,182.46
Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges	27.00
Amber Screen & Display	Perspex for bus shelter	314.28
All payments in this block are retrospective and paid December 21st.		10,447.34

Invoices received after agenda published – agreed to pay

To whom paid	Reason	Amount
RJ Graves	Work to trees in Pocket Park	1440.00
ACRE	Subscriptions (if agreed)	35.00
RGS Services	Tree inspection report	690.00

RJ Graves	Work to trees in Puddlebank	648.00
	Sub total	2813.00
	Monthly total	13,260.34

789.0 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- 1 SWN Upcoming census. Pre-meeting
 - 2 Pocket Park Thank you letter. 782
 - 3 NCALC Police Liaison Rep. 783.1
 - 4 Kompan Play area inspection report. 785.1
 - 5 NCC Grass cutting contribution. 785.2
 - 6 DDC Planning applications x4, notification x 1, withdrawal x1. 787/1.2.3
 - 7 DDC Comments on Stowe Hill Site 787.4
 - 8 Resident Lack of enforcement on Dodford sites. 787.4
 - 9 DDC Budget & Precept request. 788.2
 - 10 Northants Budget consultation (emailed around to Cllrs as deadline before meeting)
- PFCC
NCALC Updates
The Clerk magazine

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AFTER AGENDA PUBLISHED

NCALC – Training. Sent to Cllrs.

Harry Burr requesting speaking to the Council regarding his plans for a new station in Weedon – agreed to fit in with rep from Census

ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA.

Handyman

Tree removal behind changing rooms

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS: 2nd February, 2nd March, 6th April

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Dec-20

Weedon Bec Parish Council: Financial 2020/21

Receipts			Total receipts
	Nov	Dec	
Precept			128,805.00
CIL			2,619.90
Bank Interest	0.17	0.18	8.08
Grants			0.00
VAT refund			17,342.89
Newsletter			0.00
Wayleave			8.45
Grass Cutting		1,001.90	1,001.90
Cemetery fees	816.00		2,362.50
Allotment rents			1,307.60
Other	33,304.96	1,510.90	34,910.48
Total	34,121.13	2,512.98	188,366.80

Capital spend only

Payments	Annual Budget	Monthly payments		Total payments
		Nov	Dec	
F&GP				
Clerk's Salary incl tax/NI/pension	22,300.00	1,853.04	1,853.04	16,677.36
Clerk Office Rent	450.00	37.50	37.50	337.50
Litter Picker Salary	8,500.00	752.25	752.25	6,433.95
Employer's Nat Insurance contributions	2,000.00	154.50	154.70	1,392.13
Employers Pension Contribution*	4,000.00	470.67	470.67	4,236.04
Chairman Allowance	200.00			200.00
Subscriptions	1,500.00		297.00	1,272.47
Insurance	950.00			1,048.76
Stationery	500.00			53.88
Telephone	550.00			528.77
Audit	1,000.00			745.00
Bank charges	125.00		27.00	79.95
Section 137	0.00			0.00
Grants*	1,000.00			800.00
Elections*	0.00			0.00
Training*	350.00			25.00
Meetings - rent	400.00			0.00
Computer/hardware/website/online accounts/meetings*	800.00			444.92
Legal advice*	0.00			0.00
contingency	500.00	7.79	7.80	86.56
Village Fete*	500.00			0.00
Handyman/Misc Maintenance *	1,500.00			0.00
PWLB (loan)*	10,365.00		5,182.46	10,364.92
Total Finance & General Purpose	57,490.00	3,275.75	8,782.42	44,727.21
MEDIA				
Newsletter*	1,800.00	235.00	15.00	845.00
Publicity leaflets/Walks booklets*	0.00			0.00
Annual Parish Report*	400.00			383.00
Survey monkey (online questionnaire)	400.00	384.00		384.00
Contingency	200.00			0.00
Anniversary commemorations	0.00			0.00
Total Media	2,800.00	619.00	15.00	1,612.00
INFRASTRUCTURE				
Street light - supply/maintenance *	8,500.00	372.48	154.13	5,766.63
Street light loan repayment *	8,000.00			0.00
Tree maint (incl C&A budget)*	2,000.00		1,115.00	2,215.00
New Bins/seats/signs/boards	500.00		261.90	311.90
Highways general maintenance Ver	1,500.00			1,500.00
Bus Shelters new and maintenance	500.00	36.00	36.00	360.00
Contingency	400.00		180.00	241.49
Total Infrastructure	21,400.00	408.48	1,747.03	10,395.02
Street lighting replacement (Reserves)	0.00	24,580.00		70,298.18
OSPR				
Grass Cutting Verges	8,800.00			6,615.00

Grass Cutting Playing fields	5,000.00			3,455.00
Maintenance PF	400.00			200.00
Maintenance Contract (Verges/Highways)	4,600.00	190.00		4,290.00
Maintenance Contract (playing fields)	1,600.00	80.00		885.00
Inspections	150.00		297.00	774.00
Jubilee Field car park re-development	4,500.00	249.20		1,531.20
Play equipment maintenance*	2,000.00			0.00
Croft Way barrier* (money in reserves)	0.00			0.00
Rent	700.00			700.00
contingency	200.00		1,200.00	1,332.00
Pitch maintenance (SE conditions)*	2,000.00			2,716.00
Playing field development*	10,000.00			0.00
Total Open Spaces	39,950.00	519.20	1,497.00	22,498.20

CEMETERY

Hedge Cutting	160.00			160.00
Grass Cutting	5,720.00	181.00		5,274.24
Maintenance	2,100.00	328.00		1,113.50
Contingency	200.00			68.70
Drainage*	250.00			0.00
Tree work *	500.00			600.00
Mower/Equipment incl maintenance*	400.00			421.44
Total Cemetery	9,330.00	509.00	0.00	7,637.88
Extra work, gatehouse/insurance	0.00		550.00	2,994.00

ALLOTMENTS

Maintenance contract	1,120.00	190.00		960.00
Rent	15.00			0.00
Contingency	200.00		42.00	312.23
Improvement works*	500.00			0.00
Total Allotments	1,835.00	190.00	42.00	1,272.23

Total budget 132,805.00

Net	30,101.43	12,633.45	161,434.72
VAT	5,082.50	626.89	18,460.16
Gross	35,183.93	13,260.34	179,894.88

Estimated monthly budget	20,922.45	12,704.95	107,471.38
Actual spend net	30,101.43	12,633.45	161,695.20
Variance	-9,178.98	71.50	-54,223.82

Earmarked funds as at 1st April 2020	
F&GP	
Elections	3,967.00
Handyman	4,150.00
Legal advice	1,000.00
Computer hardware/printers/website	376.00
Employer Pension Pot	3,311.00
Grants	50.00
Media	
Newsletter	686.00

BALANCES	
Lloyds Bank	65,810.75
HSBC	20,805.88
Unity Trust	29,516.69
TOTAL	116,133.32

Publicity leaflets/Walks Booklets	599.00
Information boards	1,121.00
Infrastructure Group	
Tree surgery	3,785.00
Street lighting	0.00
Cemetery & Allotments	
Mower equip/maint	136.61
Trees	523.70
Drainage	1,750.00
Allotment improvement works	1,610.00
Open Spaces	
Redevelopment of play areas	2,440.00
Pocket park	595.90
Volunteer Groups	100.00
Pitch maintenance	1,296.95
Croft Way barrier	1,500.00
TOTAL	28,998.16