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Minutes of Weston by Welland Parish Council Meeting held in the St. Mary the Virgin Church on Wednesday 29th November 2023 at 7.30 pm.

Members Present	Cllrs B Roberts (Chair), S Grandidge, N Garratt, A Cowling and S Emery.
Others in Attendance	Mrs J Medwell (Clerk) and one member of the public

Minute		Action
419	To receive and approve apologies: Cllrs M Whitehouse and V Score	
420	Member's declaration of interest in items on the agenda and any changes to the members Register of Interests: There were no declarations of interest in items on this agenda or changes to the members Register of Interests.	
421	To approve and sign the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 th September 2023 were agreed as a true record of that meeting and were duly signed by the Chair. Proposed Cllr Emery Seconded Cllr Cowling All in favour.	
422	Matters Arising from the last Parish Council meeting: It was unknown as to whether the outstanding works on the electricity substation had been completed. The Chair will follow this up. The Emergency Plan will be progressed in the New Year and will be presented at the Annual Village Meeting for further consultation with residents. Cllr Cowling advised that she was pursuing the River Warden position. It was noted that Cllr Whitehouse had started to distribute the Council Plan. Councillors will assist in further distribution if required.	BR
423	Open Forum and Exchange of Information: A number of complaints had been received from residents on the increased incidents of dog fouling around the village. This has been acknowledged and the matter raised in the village newsletter. The frequency of verge cutting had also been raised. A schedule had been received from NNC; this will be communicated on the various media platforms. The Council will raise whether the village would be willing to fund further mows at the Annual Village Meeting.	NG
	Specific Matters: (a) Recreation Area: Cllr Grandidge informed the Council that a new fund-raising working group had been set up to	

look solely up at fundraising. The Group had met and discussed various ideas including a dinner and an opportunity to sponsor stones. Despite being unsuccessful in some funding bids, the Working Group will continue to apply to the relevant bodies. A discussion also took place on the possibility of obtaining charitable status.

(b) Report from Environment Working Group:

Cllr Cowling advised that the new bench had arrived and was in situ at the top of Sutton Hill. She asked the Council to consider ideas for locations to plant the acorn seedlings.

(c) Report from Highways Working Group:

Cllr Emery advised that the new post for the TVAS had been ordered by NNC but was not as yet scheduled to be sited. He is also looking at devices which can be attached to any posts to record volumes and speed of vehicles. It was noted that regular updates of the speed data were shared with residents. The Council **agreed** to acquire 30 mph stickers which residents could place on their wheelie bins. Cllr Garratt undertook to source some free ones. Run-off from the farm drive on Welham Lane was raised as a potential hazard to road users, particularly over the winter. The Council will endeavour to speak to the landowner about this.

NG

(d) Village Maintenance:

The Chair advised that a works order had been raised by Keir to clear back the vegetation on The Green over the winter period. The Chair will notify the neighbours.

BR

The Council noted again that to replace the village sign with new one would be cost prohibitive. Cllr Emery had undertaken to look at refurbishing this. The Council **agreed** to meet the costs of the materials for this which would include a donation from the Community Fund.

SE

424

(e) Safety Review of Parish Assets:

The Chair will carry the asset check out and circulate before next meeting.

BR

(f) Review of Policy:

Communications Policy, Social Media Code of Practice and Communications Strategy:

These had been updated and circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The Council **agreed** to adopt these policies.

Proposed Cllr Roberts. Seconded Cllr Emery All in favour

Co-option Policy:

A new Co-option policy had been put together and circulated to all Councillors for their consideration. This policy was duly adopted.

Proposed Cllr Grandidge Seconded Cllr Garratt All in favour

The Chair thanked Cllr Grandidge for all his work with this.

(g) Welland Wanderer:

Cllr Emery reported on the Welland Wanderer service. NNC funding had been received which would secure the service to the end of March 2024. Contact has been made with CommMiniBus, a community transport 'not for profit' organisation who may be able to offer services to the parishes. It was noted that several of the parishes serviced by the bus would not be offering financial support in future.

(h) D Day June 2024:

The Chair confirmed that a beacon lighting event would take place with the possibility of a ukulele band to commemorate this occasion.

Minute		Action												
425	<p>Financial Matters:</p> <p>(i) To Approve the 2024/25 Budget (see appendix) and to set Precept: The Council Resolved to Agree the Weston By Welland Parish Council budget for 2024/25 Proposed by Cllr Grandidge Seconded by Cllr Garratt All in favour</p> <p>The Parish Council Resolved to Agree the level of precept set at £7,174.00 for the financial year 2024/25. Proposed by Cllr Grandidge Seconded by Cllr Garratt All in favour</p> <p>The Clerk will submit the Precept Demand to NNC.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Cllr Grandidge on behalf of the Council for all the work he has done with this.</p> <p>(ii) Payments The following were presented to the Council and unanimously agreed:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="240 712 1326 831"> <tr> <td>WPCC – Church Hire</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£80.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>APEX UK Ltd – Bench</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£894.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Medwell – Office Supplies</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£38.78</td> </tr> </table> <p>(iii) Financial Statement and Bank Reconciliation</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="240 898 1326 972"> <tr> <td>Current Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£7,609.34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ring Fenced Environment Grant</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£834.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Balance of Reserves</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>£6,774.46</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>The Bank Reconciliation was unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	WPCC – Church Hire	£80.00	APEX UK Ltd – Bench	£894.95	J Medwell – Office Supplies	£38.78	Current Account	£7,609.34	Ring Fenced Environment Grant	£834.88	Total Balance of Reserves	<u>£6,774.46</u>	JM
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426	<p>Planning: There were no applications to discuss.</p>													
427	<p>Correspondence: There was no further correspondence to discuss.</p> <p>Cllr Emery raised the question of whether the Council received notification of road closures and utility works in the village. The Clerk advised that the Council received weekly notification of scheduled Highways works by NNC but not always from the utility companies. It was also noted that signage was often left behind after works had finished. Cllr Emery will pursue both these matters with NNC.</p>	SE												
428	<p>New items for inclusion on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting: There was nothing further to add at this point</p>													
429	<p>Dates of 2024 meetings</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="240 1715 1326 1792"> <tr> <td>Wednesday 10th January</td> <td>Monday 18th March</td> <td>Monday 20th May</td> <td>Monday 15th July</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday 16th September</td> <td>Monday 18th November</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Wednesday 10 th January	Monday 18 th March	Monday 20 th May	Monday 15 th July	Monday 16 th September	Monday 18 th November							
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The Meeting Closed at 8.51pm.

Signed Chair **.....** Dated

Appendix

	2023/24	Actual Spend	Est Spend	Est Total	Est v	2024/25	24/25 Budget v
	Budget	April to Oct Inc	Nov to March	Spend	Budget	Prop Budget	23/24 Budget
Salary	£2,889.00	£1,685.25	£1,435.95	£3,121.20	-£232.20	£3,277.26	13.44%
Pension	£90.00	£52.50	£51.26	£103.76	-£13.76	£102.00	13.33%
Subscriptions/NCALC	£160.00	£208.41	£25.00	£233.41	-£73.41	£250.00	56.25%
Banking Chg/ Exp	£450.00	£93.30	£66.64	£159.94	£290.06	£300.00	-33.33%
Newsletter	£70.00	£35.00	£35.00	£70.00	£0.00	£100.00	42.86%
Prem Hire	£150.00	£80.00	£57.14	£137.14	£12.86	£200.00	33.33%
Rec Area	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£950.00	
Audit	£75.00	£75.00	£0.00	£75.00	£0.00	£85.00	13.33%
Insurance	£300.00	£214.02	£0.00	£214.02	£85.98	£400.00	33.33%
Training	£200.00	£0.00	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00	£150.00	-25.00%
ICO Reg	£40.00	£0.00	£40.00	£40.00	£0.00	£40.00	0.00%
Web	£360.00	£0.00	£360.00	£360.00	£0.00	£360.00	0.00%
Bus	£110.00	£110.00	£0.00	£110.00	£0.00	£110.00	0.00%
Speed camera	£300.00	£87.50	£212.50	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00	0.00%
Election Costs	£1,261.52	£1,261.52	£0.00	£1,261.52	£0.00	£250.00	-80.18%
Defib	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00	0.00%
Contingency	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00	0.00%
	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		
Totals	£6,755.52	£3,902.50	£2,683.50	£6,586.00	£169.52	£7,174.26	6.20%

Salary In 23/24 we budgeted £2,889 which was the same as the previous year as pay scales had not been agreed at the time the budget was set. Recently the pay award for 23/24 has been agreed at 8% giving a salary of £3,121 for the current year (a £232 increase). We are budgeting 5% for the 2024/25 financial year (as recommended by NCALC) which would take the salary from £3,121 (23/24) to £3,277 (24/25). We still owe the £232.20 for this year which is why we are overspent for this year by that amount (NB We are forecasting the total budget for this year will be underspent by c£169)

Recreation Area Now that we have a lease and planning permission and the fund raising has started, we will incur costs along the way. This budgeted money will not be spent unless voted on at a Council Meeting and approved by the majority of Councillors. It is envisaged that any money not spent will be accrued into a 'Maintenance Pot'.

Election Costs There are usually c £500 every 4 years.
The next election is in 2025 and we don't currently have anything in the budget so we could budget £250 for the 24/25 financial year and the same in 25/26.