

Welford • Hoe Benham • Easton
Welford Parish Council
Weston • Wickham • Halfway

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 5th March 2025 at
7.30pm in Wickham Village Hall**

Present: Henry Burgoyne-Probyn (Chair), Martyne Ellard (Vice Chair), Paul Stanley and Sam Kynaston.

In attendance District Councillor Denise Gaines and Angela Boyce (Parish Clerk) and 3 MOP.

- 1. To receive apologies for absence** Apologies were received from Cllr Sam Bell and Cllr Ellard apologised as she was going to be late to the meeting due to work commitments. Apologies were received from District Councillors Dennis Benneyworth and Tony Vickers.
- 2. To receive any Declarations of Interest.**
There were none.

The Chair used his discretion to bring item 5, Open Forum forward

3. OPEN FORUM.

Standing ordered were suspended 7:34pm There was a discussion regarding the proposal for a bus shelter at Wickham. There were concerns about the style of bus shelter, potential graffiti and the number of users of the bus service in Wickham. There were residents that were in favour of the bus shelter. There was a discussion as to whether the funding can be used for a shelter in a different area within the parish. The Clerk received an email from Friends of Welford & Wickham Primary School applying for a grant to refresh our school hall. The PC agreed for this to be added to the next agenda, in May. Standing orders were reinstated 8.03pm

Cllr Ellard entered the meeting 7.51pm

One member of the public left the meeting 8.05pm

- 4. To confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 29th January 2025.**
RESOLVED the minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2025 were signed as a true and accurate record.
- 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th January 2025.**
 - 5.1 Bus Shelter.** To approve a new bus shelter and sign the terms and conditions of the bus shelter grant. The councillors took on board parishioners comments. There was a discussion, it was agreed the PC agreed to go ahead with the wooden bus shelter at Wickham. The Clerk to go back to the company to see if the colour can be changed.
 - 5.2 Speed limit along Welford Road/Park Lane in Welford.** The Clerk wrote to the District councillors. This is being looked into, the clerk will update the PC.

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5.3 WBC Service Delivery The Clerk emailed the Countryside team at WBC, about the trees in the parish. The PC felt the reply would need to be clarified. The Clerk to write to WBC for clarification of who owns the trees.

6. Reports

6.1 District Councillor's Report SO were suspended 8:19pm DC Gaines noted the budget was approved by the District Council. WBC have been approved for exceptional financial support from Local Government. The Government are discussing local councils becoming combined authorities. The Clerk read out a report from DC Benneyworth noted that it was with great sadness that The Community and Partnerships Officer Jo Naylor had passed away. Jo was a great friend to Parish and Town Councils and helped Welford over the years. The Clerk circulated a report to the Councillors prior to the meeting from DC Vickers which mentioned the River Lambourn and noted he was seeking legal advice on the gritting of roads and paths within the parish. S/O were reinstated.

6.2 Chair's Report. The Chair noted he has been in discussions with WBC regarding the state of Newbury Road.

6.3 Clerk's Report. The Clerk noted the sad news of the passing of Jo Naylor and how she was a great help to her and the PC over the years. She will be sadly missed.

7. Correspondence. There was none.

8. To discuss and approve installing a nature camera in the parish. There was a discussion, the Clerk to email WBD Countryside team for advice.

9. Planning

10.1 Applications There were none

10.2 Decisions

24/02759/COND Weston Court, Lambourn Road, Weston, Newbury
Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Condition 12 (SUDS) of planning permission 22/02302/FULMAJ - Office conversion into 3 new dwellings - **Approved**

10. Finance The following payments and receipts were approved.

11.1 Payments

31/01/2025	WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL - Hall hire	25
31/01/2025	West Berkshire Heritage Forum	50
31/01/2025	West Berkshire Heritage Library	200
31/01/2025	Thames Valley Air Ambulance	400
31/01/2025	MISS ANGELA BOYCE WAGES JAN	549.28
31/01/2025	BIBBY Financial - Dog Bins January	88.4
31/01/2025	BIBBY Financial - Dog Bins February	102

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11.2 Receipts

10 Feb 25	INTEREST	3.63
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11.3 Lloyds bank signatories The clerk is in the process of adding the new signatories.

11. Parish Assembly Cllr Ellard to speak to a resident in a neighbouring parish to see if they will come and speak to the PC about the river concerns. The Clerk has been in contact with the West Berkshire Heritage forum, who are happy to come and do a talk at the parish assembly on 28th May.

12. Parish Plan update There was a discussion. The Clerk to circulate some notes and questionnaires. Once decided, the questionnaire will be produced and delivered.

Close of meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.41pm

The Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th May 2025 at 7:30pm in Wickham Village Hall.