

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

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 6th November 2024 at 7.00pm in
Wickham Village Hall**

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

In attendance Angela Boyce (Parish Clerk), District Councillor Dennis Benneyworth and one member of the public.

The meeting started at 7:17pm

1. **To receive apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Sam Kynaston, Sam Bell and District Councillors Denise Gaines and Tony Vickers.
2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest.**
There were none.
3. **To confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 4th September 2024**
4. **RESOLVED** the minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2024 were signed as a true and accurate record.
5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th September 2024**
 - 5.1 **Easton Noticeboard To discuss and approve a replacement.** The Clerk circulated quotes from suppliers, there was a discussion, the PC agreed to purchase a new noticeboard to replace the old one at Easton. The Clerk has submitted a members bid.
6. **OPEN FORUM.** There was nothing to report.
7. **Reports**
 - 7.1 District Councillor's Report – Councillor Benneyworth noted that members bids opened on 1st November. He noted that the Household Support Fund is available to anyone who is struggling financially.
 - 7.2 Chair's Report – The Chair mentioned the Parish Plan and how he would like the PC to set up a local photo gallery on the website.
 - 7.3 Clerk's Report – The Clerk circulated a link to a survey to the PC regarding remote access. It was noted that Councillors should go onto the NALC website to access the survey. The Clerk noted HALC are hosting a Councillor training course. The Clerk to circulate the details.
8. **Correspondence**
 - 8.1 WBC proposed budget for the 2025/26 financial year. The Clerk circulated an email from WBC regarding their proposed budget for 2025/26. There will be a consultation for residents to have their say on the budget. The clerk will update the website with details.
 - 8.2 To discuss the Speed limit along Welford Road/Park Lane in Welford. There was a discussion, the Clerk will contact the resident to discuss further.
9. **Bus Shelter** To discuss a new bus shelter at Wickham. The Clerk noted that WBC are doing a new campaign to install bus shelters within West Berkshire. The Clerk has applied to WBC for the grant.
10. **West Berkshire Library Grant** The clerk circulated a donation request from WBC Library service. The PC approved a donation of £200.00
11. **Air Ambulance** The Clerk noted that the PC had budgeted a donation to the Air Ambulance but this had not been paid for this year or last, there was a discussion, the PC approved a donation of £400
12. **Remembrance wreaths** The Clerk ordered two wreaths. The PC agreed a donation of £66 for two wreaths.
13. **Welford Park Cricket Club** To discuss and approve a grant request from Welford Park Cricket Club. There was a discussion, the PC agreed a grant of £200 in addition to the £300 previously agreed.

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14. **West Berkshire Heritage Forum** - To discuss and approve a funding request from West Berkshire Heritage Forum. There was a discussion, the PC approved a grant of £50 and request that the Heritage forum come to the next Parish Assembly in 2025.
15. **Budget 2025/26** To discuss and approve the Budget for 2025/26. There was a discussion, it was agreed to defer this until the next meeting.
16. **Precept 2025/26** To discuss and approve the Precept for 2025/26. There was a discussion, it was agreed to defer this until the next meeting.
17. **Clerks salary increase 2024/25** The Clerk distributed a notification from National Association of Local Clerks (NALC), advising Parish Council of the pay review increase which is to be backdated from April 2024. The PC agreed the change from immediate effect.
18. **Planning**
 - 18.1 **Applications**

24/01838/LBC Weston Mill, Weston. Construction of replacement outbuilding and proposed extension to residential curtilage. There were no objections

24/01837/FUL Weston Mill, Weston, Construction of replacement outbuilding and proposed extension to residential curtilage. There were no objections.

24/01520/FUL Halfway Cottage, Bath Road, Halfway. Proposal to replace existing equestrian buildings. There were no objections.
 - 18.2 **Decisions**

24/00552/FUL Welford Park, Welford. Conversion and extension of existing dilapidated cart shed to form a new estate office. APPROVED

24/00553/LBC Welford Park, Welford. Conversion and extension of existing dilapidated cart shed to form a new estate office. APPROVED

19. **Finance** The following payments and receipts were approved.

a. Payments

30/09/2024	Angela Boyce – Wages September	477.91
30/09/2024	BIBBY – Dog Waste collection September	81.6
30/09/2024	MISS GROUP LIMITED – Email Subscription	21.59
28/10/2024	D K GARDENING SERV Grounds Maintenance MUGA Sept & Oct. Common October.	235.00
28/10/2024	Angela Boyce – Wages October	554.88
28/10/2024	BIBBY – Dog Waste collection October (5 Weeks)	102

b. Receipts

07/10/2024	West Berkshire Council – Precept 2 nd instalment	5974.72
09/10/2024	Interest Received	3.39
09/09/2024	Interest Received	3.50

- c. **Lloyds bank changes** To discuss new changes coming into effect. Lloyds bank will be starting to charge an account fee of £4.25 per month.

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20. Parish Plan update The Clerk has been sent some sample surveys by WBC. The clerk will circulate them and ask members to clarify which questions they would like to add to the survey and will request a quote for printing the surveys, with a view to do a letter drop in the new year.

Close of meeting

There being no further business, the Vice Chair declared the meeting closed at 8:21pm

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th January 2025 at 7:30pm in Wickham Village Hall.

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Signed..... Date.....