

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on 14 June 2023

**Attendance:** There were a total of 28 parishioners and councillors in attendance.

- 1 **Welcome and introductions:** Cllr Christine Hamilton, Chair, welcomed those present and took the opportunity to introduce those parish councillors present. Cllr Hamilton reported with sadness that longstanding Weeley Parish Councillor Mike Brown had recently passed away.
- 2 **Apologies:** were received from Cllr Vicky Cauvain.
- 3 **Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 3 May 2022 circulated publicly in advance of the meeting were agreed.
- 4 **Matters arising from the last meeting:** No matters raised.
- 5 **Report from the Chair, Councillor Christine Hamilton:** The Chair of the meeting presented her report, which is attached as an Appendix to the minutes.
- 6 **Reports from local organisations:** a representative of each of the organisations listed below provided brief verbal reports of the activities of their respective organisations. The Chair noted that Weeley is very lucky to have such a diverse range of voluntary organisations and hard working volunteers.

Weeley in Bloom (WiB)
Weeley Residents Association
Weeley Village Hall
Plymouth Brethren
Weeley Carpet Bowls Club
Speedwatch Team
Weeley W.I.
St. Andrew's Parish Church
Petanque Players
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Rail Station Adoptor (WiB representative)
WPC Tree Warden
TDC Cllr Peter Harris
ECC Cllr Dan Land
Weeley Walking Group

- 7 **Presentation of the Weeley Community Recognition Awards:** The following people were recognised for their efforts in making Weeley a better place to live and work.
  - a) Pearl and Derrick Byford: nominated by Cllr Hamilton. She read her citation, which highlighted their stalwart contributions to St Andrews Church over many years.
  - b) Weeley in Bloom: nominated by Cllr Liz Fitzpatrick. She read out her citation, which referred to a dedicated team effort that goes the extra mile making a huge difference to the appearance of the village.
- 8 **Questions and Answers:** No issues were raised and so, the Chair thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting. She noted how impressed she is by the amount of largely unnoticed voluntary work that people offer to help to make Weeley such a lovely place to live. With that she closed the meeting and invited all those present to join her for refreshments.

**Chairman's Report – Annual Parish Meeting  
June 14<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for making time to attend the village Annual Parish Meeting tonight.

I think it might be helpful if I just explain the two most important meetings in our calendar – the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Tonight's meeting, the Annual Parish Meeting, which the Parish Council hosts on behalf of the village, gives the opportunity for local community groups to share news of their achievements over the previous 12 months and details of any plans or projects they are working on which they would like to share.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which this year was held on May 15<sup>th</sup>, is a rather more formal affair, and it essentially follows the agenda items of our normal monthly meetings but is preceded by the election of the Chair and Vice Chair.

Tonight's meeting will run along the same lines as last year's. As you can see the Parish Councillors are scattered among you! Once the agenda items have been covered, we will be announcing the names of those individuals who have been nominated to receive a Certificate of Appreciation to recognise their contribution to the lives of the residents. These will be presented by our Ward Councillor, Peter Harris, after which we invite you to stay to enjoy some light refreshments with us.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of the voluntary organisations in the village and the vital work they do. It is *these* organisations, and the residents who run them, more than anything else help to build cohesion within communities. They help provide people with direction, a sense of purpose and social activities. Weeley is blessed with a strong voluntary network, and this helps to vastly improve the quality of life for villagers. Weeley Residents' Association, Weeley in Bloom, the Speedwatch team, the Trustees who run the Village Hall, the PCC, the scouts and the petanque groups spring to mind immediately.

I would like to thank Weeley Residents' Association and Weeley in Bloom for their continued generous efforts for the community, and apart from the now established annual displays of daffodils and crocuses at Spencer Way and Clacton Road, the baskets and containers at the bus stops, the memorial, the village hall, Loop Green and around the village and heath, are very much appreciated by everyone.

Weeley Residents' Association have a very full agenda for 2023/24 with all kinds of activities and outings planned and we encourage everyone to take a look at their events schedule to see if anything takes your fancy!

We must also thank Pearl and Derek Byford for their dedication over many years to keeping St. Andrew's Church open and functioning. The work they do along with the rest of the PCC and the volunteers who clean the church and arrange the flowers should not be underestimated.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help any of our local organisations, I know that the Trustees of the Village Hall are always on the lookout for extra members and I'm sure Weeley in Bloom and the Residents' Association amongst others would be grateful for any help. Members of all these organisations are here this evening so feel free to approach them to offer your services! Thanks must also go to our Ward Councillor, Peter Harris and Essex County Councillor Dan Land for their help and guidance to the Parish which is always very much appreciated. Cllr

Harris has also just completed a very busy year in his role as Chairman of Tendring District Council.

As always, I want to thank our Vice Chair, Danny Botterell and fellow councillors Jenny Beady, Liz Fitzpatrick, Gilliane Foster, Kevin Green, Terry Spong, and of course our Clerk, Kevin Harkin, for their support over the past year. Special thoughts and good wishes must go to our previous Vice Chair, Mike Brown, who is currently unwell and undergoing treatment. We also welcome our newest parish councillor, Vicky Cauvain.

It's always interesting to reflect on achievements over the last 12 months, items which are still ongoing and our plans for the next few months.

- Our speed watch team headed up by Jenny and Fraser Beady is back in action on a regular basis. More volunteers would help share the load so if anyone is keen to help them fight this modern menace then I am sure Jenny and Fraser would be delighted to hear from you. Just an hour here and there by each volunteer is all that is required and would make a big difference.
- In December 2022, the Christmas tree at Loop Green was dedicated to Nick Alexander, a resident of Weeley who was killed in the Bataclan terrorist attack in Paris in 2015. It was heartening to see so many of the residents brave the cold that evening and we all enjoyed an hour or so of carol singing, hanging decorations and dedications on the tree, a visit by Mrs. Christmas and welcome hot drinks provided by Green Cow Catering. We will hold a similar event on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm when the lights will be switched on with more carol singing etc. Please put the date in your diaries.
- As we all know, the Coronation of King Charles III took place on May 6<sup>th</sup> this year and the Parish Council hosted a 'Party in the Park' event on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May from 1pm-4pm. I am pleased to report that many residents came along and enjoyed a nice sit down and some musical entertainment provided by the Tendring Brass Band in the marquee. The NAWT provided a dog show and there was plenty of food and drink on offer alongside a face painter, stalls run by the scouts, Weeley in Bloom, RNLI, the fire truck was here, twice, and the weather – unusually for a British Bank Holiday – was kind to us!

Our plans this year include:

- The thorny subject of waste bins. We have a plan to install new bins, mostly in Weeley Heath which currently has a distinct lack of bins but many more residents with dogs these days. The litter pickers organised by Weeley in Bloom do a fantastic job in the fight against litter around the village, so a big thank you to them, and to all the other residents who fight a lone battle with litter in their areas.
- We will continue trying to get the signage in the village tidied, upright and updated where necessary although that relies on Essex Highways so, again, this could take a while!
- The Parish Council is still awaiting formal release of funds for the new play equipment. We are very keen to get this project under way as soon as possible but we are in the hands of TDC Finance Department.
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I am sure there will be fresh challenges to face over the next 12 months and I encourage residents to come along to our monthly meetings to get involved with what is happening in and around the village and to raise any issues they feel need to be given airtime.

Thank you for coming this evening and if you can, please stay after this meeting to have a drink and some nibbles with us.

Cllr Christine Hamilton  
Chair, Weeley Parish Council