

Minutes of the meeting of Weeley Parish Council held on 18 September 2023

Present: Cllrs C. Hamilton (Chair), V. Cauvain, T. Spong, J. Beady, L. Fitzpatrick, D. Botterell, K. Green and G. Foster. Also in attendance were K. Harkin Parish Clerk, ECC Cllr D Land and three members of public.

PART A

09/23.001 **Apologies:** were received from TDC Cllr P. Harris

09/23.002 **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2023 were proposed by Cllr Botterell, seconded by Cllr Green agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

09/23.003 **Declarations of Interest:** The Chair invited members to make any relevant declarations of interest. None were offered.

09/23.004 **Clerk's Report:** The Clerk presented his previously circulated report, which is attached as Appendix A.

Cllr Hamilton agreed to deliver sticky speed limit signs to all properties of Thorpe Road. Cllrs Fitzpatrick and Botterell agreed to cover Clacton Road and Cllrs Cauvain and Beady agreed to cover Colchester Road.

09/23.005 **Public Participation:** The Chair invited members of the public to raise any issues.

- Clarification was sought and provided about the speed limit on Clacton Road.
- The most recent planning application on Gutteridge Hall Lane was raised.
- It was reported that part of the fence on Gutteridge Hall Lane by the residential park has been removed allowing vehicular access/egress. Agreed to notify TDC planning enforcement.

09/23.006 **Tendring District and Essex County Councils:** ECC Cllr Land advised the meeting about the progress being made on devolution in Essex. He also, provided an update on the progress fixing potholes on Bentley Road and the commitment to fix a collection of potholes in the vicinity of First Avenue and Thornberry Avenue.

09/23.007 **Correspondence:** the following correspondence has been received;

- TDALC; National Grid "Norwich-Tilbury" pylons proposal.
- TDC upcoming grant and funding opportunities
- TDC; new measures to tackle irresponsible dog owners consultation.
- Thank you letter for the work developing a management plan for Reed Pond.

09/23.008 **Co-option of a parish councillor:** The Chair explained that a casual vacancy that arose on the death of Cllr Mike Brown was duly advertised as per TDC's approved procedure. When the advertisement solicited no interest, an advertisement to coopt someone to fill vacant role was placed.

Following an application process, the Council is now in a position to coopt someone to the role of parish councillor. Mr K. Millar was proposed by Cllr Hamilton, seconded by Cllr Botterell and it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To coopt Mr Kevin Millar to fill the casual vacancy on Weeley Parish Council.

09/23.009 **Reed Pond:** The Clerk advised the meeting that Essex Ecology has submitted its survey report and management plan relating to Reed Pond and Reed Green. The report will be published on the Council website. It provides valuable information about the habitat, invertebrates and aquatic plants. Importantly, the report provides the Parish Council with recommendations about how to manage the Pond and Green responsibly into the future.

The Council agreed to accept the report. The Clerk was asked to obtain an indication of the cost to install a suitable chlorine filter on the water stand pipe and an indication about the cost to dredge the pond as per the recommendation in the report. He was also asked to speak with Mr Ransom about the surveys the report recommends.

- 09/23.010 **Litter and Dog Bins:** The Clerk reported that a number of complaints have been received from parish councillors and members of public over the summer about overflowing litter bins on the playing field and these have been reported to TDC.

The Clerk can only assume that TDC has yet to complete its survey relating to the Parish Council's additional litter bin proposals in Weeley Heath as no response has been received to progress enquiries.

- 09/23.011 **Planning Applications:** Councillors considered and made judgements on the planning applications set out in Appendix B.

- 09/23.012 **Finance and Budget:** The schedule of monthly payments were proposed by Cllr Botterell, seconded by Cllr Hamilton and **RESOLVED:** To approve the monthly payments set out in Appendix C.

- 09/23.013 **Weeley Parish Council Reports:**

- a) Street Lighting: Cllr Green advised that the 3 streetlights on Thornberry Avenue have yet to have power reinstated.
- b) Tree Warden: Cllr Green reported that the contractor agreed to remove a dead tree outside the Spinney. Notwithstanding his meeting with the Forestry Commission, he has yet to determine if the Council will need a tree felling licence before it commences work on The Spinney.
- c) Playing Field: No issues currently.
- d) Children's Play Area: This item was dealt with in the Clerks Report.

- 09/23.014 **Other Reports:**

- a) Highways and Footpaths: Cllr Beady presented her report, which is attached as Appendix D.
- b) TDALC: Cllr Botterell advised that the next TDALC meeting is next week.
- c) Rural Policing: Nine crimes were reported in Weeley last month.
- d) Speedwatch: Cllr Beady presented her report, attached as Appendix E.
- e) Weeley Residents Ass: Mrs D Miles had sent her apologies for not attending advising that there would be no WRA report this month.
- f) Weeley in Bloom: The meeting was advised that the results of the in-bloom competition will be announced on 20 September.
- g) Petanque Rink: Mrs B. Holt having given her apologies for non attendance provided a brief report (attached as Appendix F) for publication in the minutes.

- 09/23.015 **Public Participation:** The Chair invited members of the public to raise any issues.

- a) It was noted that the main road in the village of Tendring has been resurfaced with road markings displaying the speed limit.
- b) The planning application relating the the proposal to build three bungalows in Verity Gardens was raised.
- c) The Council was asked to consider installing a lifebelt at Reed Pond particularly if it is to be dredged to make it deeper.

- 09/23.016 **Exclusion of the Public:** In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, Part A of the meeting was closed and the Chairman invited the public to leave prior to the commencement of Part B of the meeting.

PART B	
09/23.017	<p>Play Area Tender Submissions: The Clerk reported on the tender process and presented the submissions received, providing clarification and answering a number of questions from councillors.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Hamilton, seconded Cllr Botterell and unanimously RESOLVED: To accept the tender submission made by Playdale Playgrounds Ltd.</p>
	The Chair closed the meeting at 10pm

APPENDIX A

Clerks Report – 18 September 2023

Topic	Action/issue	Who	Status
New Children's Play Area	Place order	KPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDC has confirmed the S106 monies to fund 100% of the project. The preferred contractor to be selected at the Sept meeting
Emergency Plan	Annual update.	Cllr H	Final amendments are being made.
Litter Bins	Reassessment of provision.	TDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDC will complete a survey of WPC's proposals for additional bins and provide an indicative costing for purchase and installation. The Clerk is chasing progress.
Scout Hut	Prepare a new lease.	KPH	The council's requirements have been reviewed and a simpler less expensive option is now being pursued subject to agreement with the Scouts.
Weeley bypass	Determine options for the avenue of poplars		Awaiting ECC Place Services proposal for how many and what species trees to plant.
Traffic Calming	Source a supplier for 30 mph speed limit sticky signs for use on residents wheely bins	KPH	600 self adhesive vinyl 30 mph speed limit signs have been delivered
Reed Pond	Complete a survey and management plan	EWT	The draft report has been received.
Bank Signatories	Two additional signatories required	KPH	Arrangements to appoint an additional two signatories is outstanding.
Electricity Supplier	Appoint an electricity broker.	KPH	Outstanding.

1. A request has been received from a resident on Mill Lane to erect signs indicating that there is 'hidden CCTV in operation.
2. Consultation is being held by TDC on a planned new measure to tackle irresponsible dog owners in Tendring. An area-wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is being proposed by TDC, targeting dog fouling and nuisance dogs off leads. If it goes ahead, the PSPO would allow authorised council officers to request a dog is put on a lead; and issue fines to owners who do not comply. It also allows officers to issue increased on the spot fines – of £100 – to those who do not pick up their pet's mess. The PSPO would

cover all public land – including TDC and town and parish council land – in the Tendring district. The 12-week consultation is now live, and people can take part, consultation documents and forms attached. These documents will also be available on <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/consultation> Please send any comments/responses direct to dogspspo2024@tendringdc.gov.uk

3. ECC has published a Statutory Notice proposing to expand Great Bentley Primary School, Tendring, with effect from 1 September 2024. Any person may object to or make comments on this proposal by writing to Director, Education, c/o School Organisation, Capital Investment & Delivery, Infrastructure and Environment, Essex County Council, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH, or via email to: school.organisation@essex.gov.uk The closing date for representations will be 5 October 2023.
4. The 30mph sticky speed limit signs have been delivered. I have a volunteer to deliver to the houses on both sides of Thorpe Road. That just leaves Colchester Road and Clacton Road. I think we will need four volunteers to do the delivery's one for each side of the two roads.

APPENDIX B

Planning Applications for month to 18 September 2023

Application No.	Details	Address	Judgement/ Comments
23/01095/FUL	Proposed change of use of land to equestrian involving the erection of stables building comprising 3 stable boxes, tack room, and feed store, alongside the formation of hardstanding to facilitate access.	Land on the south side of Gutteridge Hall Lane, Weeley, Essex	Proposed Cllr Hamilton, seconded Cllr Cauvain and RESOLVED: To object to the application
23/01148/DETAIL	Reserved Matters Planning Application (Appearance and Landscaping only) for 4 No detached three bedroom bungalows.	Land East of Freelands Thorpe Road Weeley, Essex	Proposed Cllr Hamilton, seconded Cllr Botterell and RESOLVED: to object to the application as the development is too dense and not in keeping with the street scene.
22/00979/DETAIL	Reserved matters application with details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the development of 277 dwellings, commercial floorspace (B1 Uses), railway footbridge, attenuation basins, open space, play equipment and associated infrastructure pursuant to outline permission 19/00524/OUT (Outline planning application)	Land to The South of Thorpe Road Weeley Essex	Proposed Cllr Hamilton, seconded Cllr beady and RESOLVED: To object to the application as there is insufficient school staff and parent parking
22/01332/FUL	Proposed 3 dwellings and associated ancillary buildings, drainage systems, boundary treatments, hard surfacing with vehicular access from Thorpe Rd	Land South of Verity Gardens Weeley, CO16 9FA	No evidence of consultation with emergency services Proposed Cllr Hamilton, seconded Cllr Botterell and RESOLVED: to object to the application.

APPENDIX C

MONTHLY PAYMENTS:

Invoice Date	Invoice No.	Cheque No.	Payee	Service	NET £	VAT £	GROSS £
29/08/23		DD	Castle Water	Reed Pond Water Charge	6.18	0	6.18
29/09/23		DD	Castle Water	Reed Pond Water Charge	6.18	0	6.18
03/08/23	IN07922984	DD	NPower	Street Lighting Electricity	348.88	17.44	366.32
05/09/23	IN08223749	DD	NPower	Street Lighting Electricity	346.18	17.31	363.49
31/07/23	INV-0332	103315	Goldacre Contracting	Playing Field 6 th Cut	415.00	83.00	498.00
10/08/23	INV-0343	103315	Goldacre Contracting	French Drain Repairs near The Spinney	400.00	80.00	480.00
10/08/23	INV0342	103315	Goldacre Contracting	Hedge Cutting 1 st Cut	500.00	100.00	600.00
31/08/23	INV-0357	103315	Goldacre Contracting	Verges & Reed Pond 7 th Cut	415.00	83.00	498.00
02/08/23	SI-19853	103316	AD Mitchell	Remove street light & replace with LED Fitting	225.00	45.00	270.00
03/08/23	68579	103317	GCS Fire and Security	Call out and investigate camera image and restore	85.00	17.00	102.00
02/08/23	2023/130	103318	Suffolk.cloud	Domain registration and mailbox package	375.00	75.00	450.00
31/07/23	7511178	103319	Tendring DC	Playground Annual Inspection	54.95	10.99	65.94
31/08/23		103320	K Harkin	August Salary	661.84	0	661.84
31/09/23		103320	K Harkin	Sept Salary	661.84	0	661.84
		103320	K Harkin	Mileage and Expenses	174.03	19.41	193.44
				TOTALS	4675.08	548.15	5223.23

Bank balances as at 1 September 2023; current account £22,702.80; deposit account £84,202.96.

APPENDIX D

Highways and Footpaths

The 30mph sign in Crow Lane has once again been righted. The deep pothole at the junction of The Street and Hilltop Crescent have been filled well but cracks and small potholes at the corners were ignored.

The problems with cracks and potholes in The Street were lumped together and classed as 'not reaching investigation levels' as was the pothole at the bottom of Hilltop Crescent/notice board side.

The ruts/cracks at the junction of Bentley Road/Clacton Road have finally been filled in. The big gash outside the Village Hall car park has finally been scheduled to be fixed.

Although the 'Orange' spray paint has disappeared from some of our problem areas they have now been added to with more spray paint on the Southside of Colchester Road and notably the area just before the roundabout.

The other big developing pothole/gash at the big Weeley roundabout has again been missed out.

No problems in Hilltop Crescent or First Avenue which are bad have been included in the spray paint but two drains in Second Avenue have. The kerbstones in Hilltop Crescent continue to worsen (again no spray paint) and outside number 20 is particularly dangerous

APPENDIX E

Speedwatch Report

In July and August we logged 156 speeding vehicles, 2 were untaxed and the fastest was driving at 46mph in a 30mph area. 1 was speeding home to share the bad news that the vehicle had failed its MOT just that morning. In a record-first since 2019, there were no repeat offenders in July or August.

Since late June speedwatching has been seriously hampered, not just in Weeley but in a lot of the groups in Essex. This has been caused by the issue of new electronic forms of which since then there have now been six. Four would not accept site codes making them impossible to fill in and one would not even open bringing us to Version 9. Version 9 was far from perfect but it worked for us, although still other groups were having trouble with it.

Unfortunately last week Version 10 arrived. Once again the form would not even open. All would be fine if we could pick the form that worked and stick to it but the Police will not (or cannot) process the old forms, making our collected information useless. So once again I have had to halt our speedwatching sessions until a new, (hopefully working) form is sent to us.

APPENDIX F

Petanque Report

Petanque going extremely well, especially as the weather has been particularly good, with hardly any days being rained off. We are coming to the end of our competition with one semi-final still to be played and then the final. Trophies for this competition will be given out at our Christmas dinner in December.