

## Weaverham Parish Council Annual Assembly

Minutes of meeting held at the UPA Weaverham, Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016, 7pm.

**PRESENT:** Chairman: Cllr Peter Wilkinson, Vice-Chairman: Cllr John Freeman  
Councillors Eileen Bland, Julian Bland, Gillian Edwards, Roger Moss, William Reynolds, Lynne Baird ,  
Michelle Budden, Cyndy Lloyd, John Taylor and Paula Williams

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cheshire West & Chester Councillors Charles Fifield & Paul Williams  
Georgina Dutton, Daniel Chapman, Harry Dorsch, Peter Sayers, Roger Johnson, Christina Johnson,  
Irene Bush, Geoff Hornby, Richard Gorrill & Barbara Eames.

1. **Welcome by the Chairman** - The Chairman, Cllr Peter Wilkinson, welcomed and thanked those attending.
2. **Presentation of Councillors** - The Chairman introduced each Councillor present.
3. **Apologies for absence** - Cheshire West & Chester Councillor Harry Tonge
4. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting** - Approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Report on Weaverham Parish Council** - A copy of the Chairman's statement is attached to these minutes. Richard Gorrill raised a query regarding the removal of the taxi rank on Northwich road. The Chairman acknowledged that this matter had dragged on for some time but that it was CWAC Licensing Officers who were dealing with it and that various legal processes had to be undertaken prior to formal removal. Harro Dorsch raised a question regarding use of Lake House Field for youth football. The Chairman outlined the current position in answer to this query.
6. **Summarised Accounts, year ended 31st March 2016**  
The accounts, as per the attached report, were summarised briefly by the Chairman noting the opening balance of £59,535 and closing balance of £74,257. The chairman also referred to various savings that had accrued during the year in respect of local elections and manpower costs.
7. **Report from Cheshire West & Chester Council**  
Cllr Fifield gave a brief update on CWAC decisions taken during the year that will adversely affect the Parish. These included removal of the New Homes bonus and a 50% cut in Members' budgets. He also referred to the establishment of new District Committees and the introduction of 20mph speeding limits on residential roads.  
The Chairman offered thanks to the Cheshire West Councillors for their support.
8. **Presentation of Donation Cheques**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Weaverham Sea Scouts  
The donation will be used towards purchasing cooking equipment
  - Owley Wood BP Scouts  
The donation will be used for camping equipment
  - Weaverham Community Memorial Orchard  
The donation will be used towards replanting of trees
  - Weaverham Gymnastics Club  
The donation will be used to assist the training of gym coaches.
  - Weaverham Community Association  
The donation will be used to help with purchasing kitchen equipment.
  - St Mary's PCC  
The donation will be used towards purchasing a defibrillator.
  - Weaverham Community Youth FC  
No representative present.
  - Weaverham Community Youth Centre  
Run by volunteers and in the centre of the village the youth club continues to offer free membership to children aged 5-17. The donation will go towards running costs.
  - Friends of Owley Wood  
The donation will go towards the purchase of materials to be used in maintenance tasks within the wood.
  - Weaverham Rose Fete Committee

The Committee will be opening the field free of charge again this year thanks to the donations from the Parish Council and Cheshire West & Chester Council. It was noted that more volunteers are needed in the event is to continue in the future.

Owley Wood Recreation Club

The donation will go towards the building and equipping of a children's playground.

**10. Constituents Resolutions**

No matters were raised.

**11. Meeting Closed – 7.45pm.**

## Annual Assembly, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016, 7pm

### Item 5. Report on Weaverham Parish Council, by the Chairman, Peter Wilkinson

There have been several changes to the membership of the Council during the past year as all seats on the Council were open for election in May. As there were no more nominations in each ward than the number of seats available it was not necessary to vote, thus saving the Council the costs of a poll. There were, however, three seats that were unfilled following election day which the Council subsequently filled by co-option. Thus we have welcomed back nine former councillors and added three new members – Councillors Lloyd, Taylor and Williams.

In July I received the resignation of our Parish Clerk, Michelle Jones, after nearly eight years in the post. Michelle left us in August and, after advertising the vacancy and interviewing a number of applicants, our new Parish Clerk, Jim Stockton was appointed. Jim took up his duties during November and is settling into his new role very well. I must thank those councillors who staffed the office and ensured that business was appropriately dealt with during the period of vacancy.

The Council has slightly increased the Precept this year by 1.4% and, by keeping the increase to this modest percentage, we expect to reduce our reserves by a small amount without compromising on services. Despite this increase, the Council's total budget will remain at about the same level for next year as it was last year. The increase in precept mainly became necessary to offset a reduction in the funding we will receive from Cheshire West and Chester. We have retained all of our existing services, we are in the process of taking on some additional responsibilities and we have also been able to engage in some fantastic community events and projects which we hope the residents of Weaverham have enjoyed.

During the past year we have been pleased to:

- Continue our work with the Police, particularly in respect of incidents of anti-social behaviour in some parts of the village. We have also continued to liaise with our PCSOs and local officer regarding parking issues at several locations within the village.
- Continue funding the provision of a Youth Leader at the Community Centre which helps to keep our younger generations occupied
- Take part in the Community Pride Competition, achieving 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of six in our category, and congratulated Owley Wood Club who received a Little Gem award for their bowling green.
- Hold the fourth Community Bonfire, which was again free of charge to residents of the village and surrounding area, and which attracted our largest attendance to date
- Continue our work with the Community Safety Action Group which sees a multi-agency approach at tackling issues affecting our residents, including parking problems and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Assist the hard-working Rose Fete Committee in opening up the field free of charge for the event by putting forward some of the funds that would normally be taken on the gates
- Hold the second Christmas Lights switch on event near the Christmas Tree which involved children from our village schools in leading the carol singing
- Purchase some additional Christmas lights which were installed in the tree at the junction of High Street, West Road and Sandy Lane
- Work with Cheshire West and Chester Council's Highways Department to introduce a 40mph speed limit on part of Wallerscote Road which we hope will reduce the number of speed related incidents along this road
- Take part in Ward Walks with Cheshire West and Weaver Vale Housing Trust officers to identify issues requiring attention
- Work with Cheshire West and Chester Council's Highways Department to introduce additional parking restrictions where on-going issues have been reported
- Take part in the Clean for the Queen event in March when councillors and residents cleared litter from many parts of the village.
- Request that Cheshire West remove the rarely used taxi rank near the Co-op

Looking forward to the year ahead we have plenty to keep us busy...

We will complete the agreements for the Council to take over responsibility for the maintenance of the Weaverham Roundabout on the A49 and the island in front of the Lime Avenue shops. We hope that this transfer will enable these areas to be better maintained for the benefit of residents. The Council is also discussing with Cheshire West the possible transfer to the Council of other areas of land in the village currently owned by Cheshire West. If successful, the Council intends to use the land to improve play/recreation provision for children and young residents and to provide additional spaces for allotments or growing spaces.

The Council will install a new noticeboard at a central location of front of the Lime Avenue shops, which should be in place within the next few weeks.

We have entered the Community Pride Competition again and hope to improve on last year. We have allocated funds for new projects for this year's entry and hope to see good results. Residents are invited to enter our Hanging Basket Competition for which three cash prizes will be on offer – don't worry if you don't have baskets as such, entries for beds and planters will also be considered. We will also be running competitions for the Best Decorated House for the Queen's Birthday and for the Best Christmas Lights. Look out for the posters advertising these competitions.

There are still a number of areas where the verges are badly damaged by vehicles. We will continue to work with Cheshire West and Weaver Vale Housing Trust to achieve an improvement in parking availability and improvements to those damaged verges.

Lake House Field is being well used again with two scheduled fairground visits, one in the second week of May and one with the Rose Fete which is on 9<sup>th</sup> July; other events such as car boot sales, the Queen's Birthday Celebrations and the village bonfire on 5<sup>th</sup> November will also take place on the field. The Council is looking into the possibility of having fixed but removable goal posts on the field for informal use by residents.

On 12<sup>th</sup> June we will host a celebration of HM The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday using both Lake House Field and the Community Centre. The event will include a Walking Treasure Hunt, indoor Street Party, Royal Dog Show, Thanksgiving Service and musical entertainment (with audience participation!). Do come along and join in what promises to be a memorable occasion.

The Council is happy to welcome input from residents at any time and would be delighted to have your involvement at our various committee and full council meetings, particularly those that concentrate on community projects such as the Community Pride Competition and the Bonfire. If you are interesting in being involved please call the Clerk for an informal chat, just to find out more.

Finally, I would like to thank all those members of the public who volunteer their time and energy to the many organisations and events that take place in the village, to those unsung heroes who carryout regular work to improve our village such as litter picking etc. and to my fellow members for their efforts over the past twelve months



**Weaverham Parish Council**  
**Summarised Financial Accounts**  
**1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

	£	£
Santander Current Account	926	
Santander Deposit Account	10,821	
Nationwide Deposit Account	45,788	
Government Bond	<u>2,000</u>	
<b>Total opening bank balances as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015</b>		<b>59,535</b>
 <b>Add: Receipts</b>		
Precept (including Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant of £7,215)	66,062	
Interest	218	
Refunds	9,705	
Rents Received	750	
Other Receipts	<u>8,105</u>	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>84,840</b>
 <b>Less: Payments</b>		
Staff	9,427	
Administration	15,611	
Community Pool	10,000	
Environment	27,531	
VAT	<u>7,549</u>	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>70,118</b>
Santander Current Account	7,456	
Santander Deposit Account	10,879	
Nationwide Deposit Account	53,922	
Government Bond	<u>2,000</u>	<u>          </u>



**Weaverham Parish Council**  
**Administrative Payments**  
**1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Mileage and Travel Expenses	NIL	50
Training & Conferences	NIL	100
Subscriptions	262	1,500
Room Hire	1,370	1,000
Rent & Rates	3,000	3,000
Communications	457	540
General Administration	599	964
Postage	3	115
Insurance	1,484	2,000
Legal & Professional	NIL	1,000
Audit	717	900
Newsletter	1,200	1,500
Donations	(300)	1,360
Joint Cemetery Committee	779	900
Remembrance Service	95	150
CCTV	NIL	NIL
Youth Leader Funding	5,200	5,200
Elections-2015	245	5,000
Digital Mapping	NIL	1,000
Public Relations	NIL	500
Contingency	<u>500</u>	<u>NIL</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>15,611</u></b>	<b><u>26,779</u></b>

**Environmental Payments**  
**1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

Maintenance contracts	12,517	18,775
Christmas Trees & Decorations	1,213	890
RRPP General Repairs	60	500
RoSPA	80	100
Community Pride	717	1,000
Lake House Field Repairs	NIL	1,000
Plants & Bulbs	NIL	200
Tree Survey/Surgery	2,814	2,000
Bottom Pitch Land	NIL	NIL

Fireworks	2,300	2,000
Defibrillation Device	65	150
Plantation Fencing Repairs	480	NIL
Grass verge/Parking Improvements	7,003	2,000
Village Signage	NIL	1,000
Environmental Contingency	<u>282</u>	<u>NIL</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>27,531</u></b>	<b><u>29,615</u></b>