

MEETING OF WEASENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 7th September 2023 AT 7PM

WEASENHAM COMMUNITY BUILDING

Councillors Present: Cllr. M. Romanovsky (Chairman), Cllr. T. McClenaghan and Cllr. C. Donachie.

Also in attendance: Mrs G. Robinson (Locum Clerk) and 13 members of the public.

Announcement: Before the commencement of the meeting the Chairman introduced Gail Robinson (Locum Clerk) who would be acting as Locum Clerk throughout this meeting and then hopefully taking on the Locum Clerk/RFO role for Weasenhams Parish Council at least on a temporary basis.

Time allocated to the public

Mr Nigel Joice, a local landowner and businessman, explained his relationship with the Village and surrounding area and then spoke of how he is in a position to help the Village in terms of building a substantial path from the playing field car park to the Community Building for free. This offer supersedes all previous versions that have been proposed by the interim Parish Council or the new Parish Council and therefore negates the need to use any part of the Parish Council's 2023/2324 budget to provide such a path. Mr Joice described how he would use a trusted building contractor (starting w/b 25th September 2023 onwards) to complete the path installation work at no cost to the village and with the expectation that it would ideally be completed within 10 – 14 days (weather dependent). The construction process could potentially allow for some of the removed topsoil to be reused (at some point in the future) to level up the car park area and fill in the void created by the removal of the existing rubber matting path.

It was also explained to the public that at the end of the installation, the path would become the property of the Village and be registered as a Parish Asset. The intended bollard lighting to illuminate the path will remain the responsibility of the Parish Council and will be paid for through the Weasenhams Parish Council budget as originally planned (proposed, seconded and carried) at the last Parish Council Meeting dated 15th August 2023. The electrical/lighting work will be put out to tender as previously proposed at the last Parish Council Meeting dated 15th August 2023.

Members of the public and Councillors expressed their thanks and gratitude to Mr Joice for his very kind offer.

Residents living adjacent to the new path will be notified prior to commencement of the building work and to notify them that in some cases overgrowing foliage would be trimmed back to their boundary to fully expose Parish Council land adjacent to the proposed path.

Cllr. McClenaghan reminded everyone in the public open session that the original replacement path proposed by the Interim Parish Council would have cost £28,000 (including £3000 interest on a seven year public works loan). Before this very kind offer was made, the Parish Council had proposed a community project to self-build a concrete path that had been costed at £10,000 to £11,000.

A description of the construction method was given (steel mesh reinforced concrete set upon a compacted crushed concrete base) and reference to how this construction method is already being used in a farm setting to support heavy machinery hence it will be a suitably robust path fit for its intended purpose for our Community Building where footfall is comparatively low.

The Parish Council went into session to make a formal proposal

- 1/. **To accept apologies for any absence:** No apologies were received.
- 2/. **Declarations of interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 3/. **To formally receive the offer** made by local landowner/businessman Mr Nigel Joice.

Councillor Mc McClenaghan proposed that the Parish Council accept this generous offer therefore accepting the construction of this steel reinforced concrete path at no cost to the village.

Councillor Romanovsky seconded the proposal therefore the motion was carried.

No other items were scheduled for this extraordinary meeting therefore the meeting was closed.

The meeting finished at 7.12pm