

Weekley Parish Council



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Minutes of Weekley Annual Parish meeting (meeting for parishioners). Weekley Annual Parish Council meeting & Weekley Full Parish Council Meeting, held on **Tuesday 14th May 2024** at **7.00pm** at **Weekley Village Hall**, Church Lane, Weekley, Kettering NN16 9UP.

Present:

Councillors: Cllr M Smith, Cllr S Rees, Cllr G Attwell

Public: Chris Hills - Church Warden, Beth Ring - Lavender Bee Tea Room,
Lisa Tartaglia - Village Hall, 2 other

Clerk: Ruby Cole

MINUTES

Annual Parish Meeting

24/028	Cllr Smith introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting, confirming this part of the meeting is for the electorate of Weekley to have their say with any views/concerns.
24/029	Apologies were received from Andrew Bussey, Jill Hope, Charlie Scott.
24/030	<p>Parish Council Chair Report: Cllr Smith read out his report on the Parish Councils' activities for the year.</p> <p>He thanked all councillors for everything they do and departing councillors Clare Cuckson and Mark Hales for their hard work and service to the Council.</p> <p>He outlined:</p> <p>Increase in police patrols. The defibrillator is checked monthly. The village sign is almost complete. The village newsletter will be resuming. There are approximately 40 members on the village Facebook group. Looking into sources of funding for</p>

	traffic calming measures including a 2 nd VASID. Wooden crosses now in place for Remembrance occasions. New location signage in place. Hanwood Park development. He will be attending the next meeting. <i>Full report - Appendix 1</i>
24/031	Parish Council Finance Report: Clerk read out the finances detailing the income & expenditure for the year. <i>Full report - Appendix 2</i>
24/032	Annual Report from North Northamptonshire Council: No councillor attended. No report provided.
24/033	<p>Annual Reports from Village Groups:</p> <p><u>Weekley & Warkton Cricket Club:</u> Andrew Bussey was unable to attend and provided a report summarising the activities of the Cricket Club for the year and future projects. Cllr Smith read out his report. <i>Full report - Appendix 3</i></p> <p><u>Boughton Estates:</u> Sam Rees reported that the post is in place in readiness for the village sign. New gates have been placed at the Cricket Club. The nets will be moved without compromising access. There are various wall repairs being undertaken around the village. The hedge works on the right side of the road towards Kettering have now been completed. The 20mph advisory signs have been erected around the village.</p> <p><u>Lavender Bee Tea Room:</u> Beth Ring advised that the tea room is open Wednesday to Sunday 10.30 to 3.00. They are very busy and are pleased with its success, receiving various awards and 5* ratings. The tea room is used for events such as Weddings, Baby Showers etc. They have seating and eating areas in the front and back gardens. Everything is home-made, from cakes to chutneys. However, it was felt that there was not much support coming from within the parish and they would like to see more local people.</p> <p><u>Montagu Club:</u> Jill Hope was unable to attend and provided a report summarising the activities at the club. <i>Full report - Appendix 4</i></p> <p><u>Village Hall:</u> Lisa Tartaglia reported that the dance classes are going very well. These are held Mon - Thursday with Fri, Sat & Sunday being open to bookings. During the summer, hirers would like to be able use the outside space, but are reluctant to due to the area not being safe. It was suggested that a fence would be erected. Cllr Rees will investigate and liaise with Lisa. She explained the heating costs were quite high, due to the hall being so cold. The cold temperature in turn puts potential hirers off from hiring the hall. She also suggested that the kitchen floor could benefit from an upgrade. Cllr Rees will investigate options. Lisa also felt that there was not much support coming from within the parish. <i>Full report - Appendix 5</i></p> <p><u>Church - St Mary the Virgin:</u> Chris Hills (Weekley Church Warden) relayed apologies from Vicar Gillian Gamble. There are Church services held every week in the parish and every Friday in the Old Vicarage. There has been a decline in attendance since 2019. Again, there is not much support from within the parish. The lack of a servery and toilet facilities were also having an impact on attendance. It was suggested that they could possibly use the toilet facilities at the Cricket Club. Cllr Smith will make enquiries. Chris also mentioned areas around the church which do not appear to have been mowed recently. Cllr Rees will report these areas on FixMyStreet. The Church</p>

	would benefit from some funding to help maintain areas that are in need of repair eg church bells. To help promote and engage with parishioners, Cllr Smith will add Chris to the email group he has created for local village groups. He will also promote in the village newsletter. <i>Full report - Appendix 6</i>
	<u>Planning:</u> Notices and application. <i>Full report - Appendix 7</i>
23/034	Questions from the floor. There were no questions.

MINUTES

Annual Parish Council Meeting

24/035	Election of Chair: Cllr Attwell proposed Cllr Smith. Seconded by Cllr Rees. Resolved: Cllr Smith accepted the position and Chaired the meeting.	
24/036	Declaration Of Acceptance of Office: Resolved: Cllr Smith and Clerk signed form at meeting.	
24/037	Apologies: There were no apologies.	
24/038	Election of Vice Chair: Cllr Smith proposed Cllr Attwell. Seconded by Cllr Rees Resolved: Cllr Attwell accepted the position.	
24/039	Adoption of Policies: The majority of policies were reviewed September 2023. Clerk had previously circulated 'Scheme of Delegation to Clerk' to be re-adopted. Resolved: The Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk was re-adopted and approved. Chair & Clerk signed at meeting. Clerk to place on website. Action 24/039.1	Clerk
24/040	Year End Accounts Summary: The year end accounts and year end bank reconciliation FY2023/24 were presented to Council for approval. Resolved: Chair signed at meeting. Clerk to place on website. Action 24/040.1	Clerk
24/041	AGAR 2023/24 Certificate of Exemption: Council to certify themselves as exempt from external audit and approve and sign the Certificate of Exemption form for submission to PKF Littlejohn. Resolved: Approved. Chair & Clerk signed at meeting. Clerk to submit and place on website. Action 24/041.1	Clerk
24/042	AGAR 2023/24 Intermediate Review: To note the council has been selected for an intermediate review (5% sample). Resolved: Noted. Clerk to notify PKF Littlejohn of Exemption. Action 24/042.1	Clerk
24/043	AGAR 2023/24 Annual Internal Audit Report: Internal audit completed by Nigel Searle. No issues found. Resolved: Received and noted. Clerk to place Audit report on website. Action 24/043.1	Clerk
24/044	AGAR 2023/24 Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement: To approve and sign the annual governance statement form. Resolved: Approved. Chair & Clerk signed at meeting. Clerk to place on website. Action 24/044.1	Clerk

24/045	AGAR 2023/24 Section 2 - Accounting Statement: To approve and sign the annual accounting statement. Resolved: Approved. Chair signed at meeting. Clerk to place on website Action 24/045.1	Clerk
24/046	AGAR 2023/24 Exercise of Public Rights: Council to agree to set dates as commencing Monday 3rd June 2024 and ending on Friday 12th July 2024. Resolved: Dates agreed. Clerk to place on website. Action 24/046.1	Clerk
24/047	Councillors Roles: Appointment of parish councillor roles & responsibilities. Strategic Town & Parish Forum - tbc. Cllr Attwell: Police Liaison Representative. Village allocation - Church Lane. Cllr Smith: Newsletters. Village allocation - Weekley Wood Lane. Cllr Rees: Boughton Estates. Village allocation - All other areas. Resolved: Clerk to place on website with contact details. Action 24/047.1	Clerk
24/048	Meetings: Full Council meeting dates for the year June 2024 - May 2025 as Tuesdays: 6 th August 2024 12 th November 2024 4 th February 2025 13 th May 2025 Resolved: Dates agreed. Clerk to book Boughton Estates Office 7:00pm. Action 24/048.1	Clerk

MINUTES

Full Parish Council Meeting

24/049	Apologies: None.	
24/050	Public address to the council: Beth Ring advised that one of the electric scooters from Kettering has been abandoned by the bungalows in Washwell Lane. Cllr Smith advised the scooter program is run by Voi and this should be reported via the operator's website. Cllr Smith agreed to log the report on the Voi website. Action 24/050.1	MS
24/051	Councillor Resignations: To note resignations of Cllr C Cuckson & Cllr M Hales 01/04/2024. Resolved: Noted.	
24/052	Casual Vacancy: To note the two vacancies have been posted on NNC website with notification due 07/05/2024 for the viability of commencement of co-option. Resolved: Noted.	

24/053	<p>Co-option: Confirmation received 14th May 2024 to say that no election has been called and Council are able to proceed with co-option. Nominations were received from Beth Ring and Charlie Scott. Beth Ring was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Attwell. Charlie Scott was unable to attend the meeting. In his absence he was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Attwell.</p> <p>Resolved: Ms Ring accepted the position and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, Code of Conduct form and Electronic Service of Summons Consent form at meeting. Clerk to send further details and relevant forms for completion. Action 24/053.1. Clerk to send forms to Mr Scott to complete and sign. Action 24/053.2.</p>	Clerk Clerk
24/054	<p>Minutes: Full parish council meeting held on Tuesday 6th February 2024.</p> <p>Resolved: Minutes were approved and signed by Cllr Rees at meeting.</p>	
24/055	<p>Declarations of interest: Under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda.</p> <p>Resolved: None.</p>	
24/056	Actions Outstanding: See end of minutes for full update.	
24/057	<p>Correspondence:</p> <p>07.03.2024 24/00390/LAPVAR Weekley & Warkton Cricket Club Weekley NN16 9UN. Noted.</p> <p>11.03.2024 Two traffic mirrors available - Clerk Geddington Parish Council. These would not be suitable for mounting.</p> <p>09.04.2024 Kettering Energy Park Masterplan - NNC. No comment from Council. The main area is Cranford and Burton Latimer.</p> <p>12.04.2024 Northamptonshire ACRE newsletter. Clerk has registered to receive updates.</p> <p>18.04.2024 NNC Planning Advisory Service Review 2024. See notes when published on NNC website.</p> <p>22.04.2024 Strategic Town & Parish Forum Meeting 14th May 2024. This meeting coincided with parish council meeting this evening. Await outcome.</p> <p>24.04.2024 Do you have your Parish ready for D-Day 80? The Council are not aware of any plans going ahead. However, Lavender Bee tea room may mark the occasion.</p>	
24/058	Email Group: Cllr Smith has set up an email group between Weekley Village Hall, Montagu Club, Lavender Bee, Weekley & Warkton Cricket Club for ease of communication. He will also add Geddington/Weekley Church.	
24/059	Planning: Planning Application NK/2021/0292 Hanwood Park. This application will be put to North Northamptonshire Planning Committee for a decision to be made at its meeting on 20/05/2024. Chair has requested permission to speak at this meeting.	
24/060	<p>Community Governance Review: To note email received from Kettering Town Council regarding Weekley Hall Wood 29/04/2024. An area of concern is whether the North Kettering Business Park and land to its east at Weekley Wood should be incorporated into the Kettering Town area. Kettering Town Council were seeking the views of Weekley Parish Council.</p> <p>Resolved: Due to the urgency of this, Council agreed to email the views of the Council opposing this idea straight away. This has been acknowledged.</p>	

24/061	Bus Shelters: NNC have not received an update from the contractor regarding the replacement of the bus shelter at this time and will advise as soon as they hear.	
24/062	Weekley Village Sign: The artwork has been approved and once received it will be mounted onto the post.	
24/063	King Charles III - Official Portrait: The portrait has been received. Resolved: It was agreed that the village hall will be best placed for display.	
24/064	I.T. Requirements: The website domain is to be looked into. The webpage is to be revamped. The laptop is presently 1/3 owned by Weekley Parish Council. Resolved: Clerk to supply Cllr Rees with website password so he can investigate further. Action 24/064.1	Clerk
24/065	Greenbelt Festival: Thursday 22 nd - Sun 25 th August 2024. The organizers have made it easier for those who are travelling to the event on foot. Resolved: Cllr Rees to enquire on ticket distribution/allocation/price. Action 24/065.1	SR
24/066	Boughton Estates: The works to Star Pond are almost complete. There are tree works taking place along The Avenue. Wall repairs and various refurbishments are being undertaken around the parish. Boughton House will be open to the public during August. In mid July there is an Open Air cinema event taking place.	
24/067	Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr Attwell is receiving some notifications, but nothing to relay at present.	
24/068	Police Liaison: Cllr Attwell will be attending the next meeting 25 th June 2024.	
24/069	VASID: Clerk reported that Steve Barber is still waiting to receive quotes for the post. Cllr Attwell will lead this project and liaise with Clerk on device/installation options. Cllr Smith suggested that now that the Weekley Hall Wood S106 monies would not be available, the Council should pursue the idea of moving the 30MPH signs on the Geddington side, closer to the village. Cllr Smith to progress this. Action 24/069.1	MS
24/070	Bank Signatories: Mark Hales to be removed as bank signatory. Cllr Rees and Cllr Attwell to be added on. Resolved: Clerk to implement with Unity Trust Bank. Action 24/070.1	Clerk
24/071	Insurance: Quotes received. Clear Councils - £265.91. Zurich - £214 Community First - £224.75 (3 year contract £213.51) Resolved: It was agreed to go with the cheaper one offering a 3 year contract. Clerk to obtain a price from Clear Councils for 3 years. Expenditure approved. Action 24/071.1	Clerk
24/072	Payments: Payments and receipts since last meeting £3875 NNC Precept. To approve payments since last meeting £645.93. To approve current payments £906.13. Insurance £213.51. Total £1765.57. Resolved: Receipts noted. Payments approved. Cllr Smith signed invoices at meeting.	

Payments

Ref	Payee	Description	Date	Method	Amount
63	Clerk	March Salary	20/03/2024	S/O	£152.55
64	Unity Trust Bank	Quarterly Bank Charge	31/03/2024	Online	£18.00
65	Clerk	April Salary	20/04/2024	S/O	152.55
66	Information Commissioner	Annual Renewal - Data Protection	20/04/2024	Online	40.00
67	Holcot Parish Council	50% Annual Microsoft Share	20/04/2024	Online	33.33
68	Mike Smith	WordPress Reimbursement	20/04/2024	Online	62.40
69	Northants Calc	Annual Membership Fee	20/04/2024	Online	187.10
70	Swarco	3 Year Maintenance Contract	20/05/2024	Online	703.58
71	Clerk	May Salary	20/05/2024	S/O	152.55
72	N J Searle	Internal Audit	20/05/2024	Online	50.00
73	Community First Trading	3 yr Insurance	20/05/2024	Online	213.51

£1,765.57

24/073	Future Payments: To note and approve, via the Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk, that annual administration payments before the next meeting will be implemented accordingly. Resolved: Approved.	
24/074	Bank Balance: Bank balance 30/04/2024 £6773.31. Resolved: Approved. Cllr Smith signed bank reconciliations for February, March and April 2024 at meeting.	
24/075	Next Agenda: None.	
24/076	Next Meeting: Tuesday 6 th August 2024 - Boughton Estate Office. 7.00pm.	

Meeting Closed: 20:34

Appendices 1 - 7 from pages 9 to 20

Action Points for Tracking

Ongoing Actions

23/018.1	MS	Defibrillator: To enquire on defibrillator training. Ongoing
23/030.1	SR	Notice Boards: To look into possibility of Boughton Estates carpentry dept refurbishing the notice board and what the cost would be. Ongoing

New Actions This Meeting

24/039.1	Clerk	Adoption of Policies: Scheme of Delegation to Clerk. To put on website
24/040.1	Clerk	Year End Accounts Summary: To put on website
24/041.1	Clerk	AGAR 2023/24 Certificate of Exemption: To submit and place on website
24/042.1	Clerk	AGAR 2023/24 External Audit: To notify PKF Littlejohn of Exemption 5%
24/043.1	Clerk	AGAR 2023/24 Annual Internal Audit Report: To place on website
24/044.1	Clerk	AGAR 2023/24 Section 1: To place on website
24/045.1	Clerk	AGAR 2023/24 Section 2: To place on website
24/046.1	Clerk	AGAR 2023/24 Exercise of Public Rights: To place on website
24/047.1	Clerk	Councillors Roles: To place on website with contact details
24/048.1	Clerk	Meeting Dates: To book Boughton Estates Office 7:00pm
24/050.1	MS	Public address to the council: To log the report (scooter) on the Voi website.
24/053.1	Clerk	Co-option: To send further details and relevant forms for completion
24/053.2	Clerk	Co-option: To send relevant forms for completion to Charlie Scott
24/064.1	Clerk	I.T. Requirements: To give Cllr Rees website password
24/065.1	SR	Greenbelt Festival: Thursday 22 nd - Sun 25 th August 2024. To enquire on ticket distribution/allocation/price
24/069.1	MS	VASID: To pursue the idea of moving the 30MPH signs
24/070.1	Clerk	Bank Signatories: Mark Hales to be removed as bank signatory. Cllr Rees and Cllr Attwell to be added on
24/071.1	Clerk	Insurance: To obtain a price from Clear Councils for 3 years

Actions Outstanding: Meeting Tuesday 6th February 2024

23/015.a	SR	Signage: To design a sign marking directions to Village Hall, Cricket Club & Church. Cllr Rees to create draft design. Complete
23/015.b	MS/GA	Signage: To check with Village Hall, Cricket Club & Church. Complete
23/018.1	MS	Defibrillator: To enquire on defibrillator training. Ongoing
23/030.1	SR	Asset Register: To obtain quotes for notice boards. Cllr Smith & Cllr Attwell will look into refurbishing current notice board. Cllr Rees to look into possibility of Boughton Estates carpentry dept refurbishing the notice board and what the cost would be. Ongoing
23/109.2	SR	Road Safety/Highways: Signage - To design and contact the tenant of Willowstack re installing the new sign on their wall. Part of ongoing action 23/015a. Complete
24/009.1	SR	Weekley Village Sign: To collect from school before the Easter break. Complete
24/010.1	SR	20 mph Advisory Signs: To position at agreed locations. Complete
24/015.1	Clerk	Annual Parish Meeting: APM 14 th May 2024. To contact Cricket Club, Village Hall, Montagu Club, Lavender Bee Tea Room, Church and Boughton Estates. Complete
24/017.1	Clerk	VASID: To respond to Mr Barber for quotes for the VASID, installation, etc. See agenda item 24/069
24/017.2	Clerk	Existing VASID: To request Cllr Attwell download data. See agenda item 24/069
24/018.1	Clerk	Swarco: To confirm renewal. Complete

Chairman's Annual Report to the Parish for the Year 2023-24. Delivered at the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 14th May 2024

1. We have seen an increase in the frequency of police patrols along Weekley Wood Lane which seems to be having a positive impact. There has been a significant reduction in the instances of anti-social behavior at the end of the Lane.
2. The village defibrillator has been in place in the Montagu Club car park for over a year now and thankfully there has been no need to use it. It is being checked monthly by North Northants First Responders.
3. The replacement of the village sign which was damaged in a road traffic accident is almost complete. The metalwork has been refurbished and powder coated, attached to the new post and installed on the village green. The design for the new artwork is awaiting final approval. Once approved, we will get the artwork printed and have it installed in the frame.
4. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, I was unable to produce the village newsletter during 2023. I hope to re-instate this for 2024
5. The Weekley Village Facebook group is ticking along in the background with the occasional post being added. The group now has 40 members. There is not a lot of traffic on the group, but it gives an additional route of communication to the village.
6. I met with representatives of the Highways authority to discuss what options we have for traffic calming in the village. A number of options were suggested, but the total cost of those options was in excess of £40,000. We are now exploring how we might be able to fund some of these improvements with the aid of grants
7. The planning Inspectorate rejected the planning application for Weekley Hall Wood. As a result, there will be no S106 monies available via this route to help with the traffic calming.
8. We are in the process of applying for funding for a second speed warning sign for the Geddington side of the village and are very optimistic that we will secure the funds.
9. Tailor Made Joinery of Warkton kindly donated a solid oak cross to replace the poppy wreaths that have been used in the past for Remembrance Sunday. The cross now sits proudly on the cenotaph by the Church.
10. Boughton Estates have replaced the old signs for the village hall, cricket club and church with nice new signs that are more in keeping with the village architecture.
11. We always thought that both bus shelters in the village were owned by Weekley Parish Council. After conducting research, we discovered that the shelter opposite the Montagu club is actually owned by North Northants Council. We have reported that it is in a dangerous condition and it is now scheduled for repair by them.
12. A revised planning application has been submitted by the developers of Hanwood Park which includes the removal of the Weekley Warkton Avenue. I attended a meeting with the developers, Philip Hollobone and two councilors from NNC. Following that meeting, the Council lodged strong objections to this amendment on the grounds of increased traffic volumes through the village if the road is not built. I have registered to speak at the upcoming planning meeting where this application is due to be considered.
13. Councilors Hales and Cuckson have resigned from their position as councilors I would like to express my thanks for the work they have put in on behalf of the council for many years and the help they have given me since I took over as Chairman.

FINANCE REPORT - APPENDIX 2

Weekley Parish Council					
Year End Accounts Summary 31/03/2024					
		2022/23		2023/24	
		£		£	
Receipts					
Precept		3,100.00		3,600.00	
VAT Reclaimed		0.00		272.20	
Insurance Claim - Village Sign		1,228.80		125.00	
Grants for Defibrillator		1,241.00		0.00	
Total Income		5,569.80		3,997.20	
Payments					
Remembrance Day - Wreaths		20.00		0.00	
Insurance Renewals		158.10		201.64	
Internal Audit		50.00		50.00	
ICO		40.00		40.00	
VASID Maintenance		0.00		169.95	
Northants Calc Memberships		168.81		187.00	
Training		219.17		48.00	
General Administration/Stationery		16.31		44.54	
Laptop/Software		74.22		74.22	
Salaries		1,736.12		1,820.61	
Election Expenses		0.00		0.00	
Maintenance - Village Sign		350.00		763.00	
Defibrillator		1,241.00		0.00	
Misc - Filing Cabinet		0.00		200.72	
Bank Charges		20.35		72.00	
VAT		0.00		267.88	
Total Expenditure		4,094.08		3,939.56	
Surplus (Deficit) for the Year		1,475.72		57.64	
Bank Reconciliation					
	Balance b/f 31.03.2022	1,840.33		Balance b/f 31.03.2023	3,316.05
Add Receipts		<u>5,569.80</u>			<u>3,997.20</u>
		7,410.13			7,313.25
Less Payments		<u>4,094.08</u>			<u>3,939.56</u>
Balance of Receipts & Payments		3,316.05			3,373.69
Unpresented Cheques		0.00			0.00
Unity Trust Bank Bank Statement 31.03.2023		3,316.05		Bank Statement 31.03.2024	3,373.69
Note: 23/24 are net payments					
Note: 23/24 VAT Reclaim - 01.10.2021 - 30.06.2023					

WEEKLEY & WARKTON CRICKET CLUB - APPENDIX 3

REPORT FROM WEEKLEY & WARKTON CRICKET CLUB FOR WEEKLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 14TH MAY 2024

An update from WWCC.

On the playing front we have three adult sides playing on Saturdays. All in the Northamptonshire Cricket League and our Australian overseas player, Alex is back for a second season to assist. We have youth teams at under 11, 13, 15 & 17. Club training is still on Weds and youth games are Sunday mornings and evenings in the week. Under 11 membership is a struggle and if anyone knows any keen juniors push them our way please.

The ground and facilities are in good shape. The wet weather held up preparations but things have now dried out. We are working with the estate on new nets (where the existing ones are located) and some modifications to the entry gates and fencing to help with safety and security. We have a new artificial pitch being installed at the bottom of the square.

The pavilion has been subject to some maintenance work over the winter and improved baby changing facilities, etc. We applied for a revised bar licence to suit revised playing times and bar usage but in essence the facility will remain for minor social usage around all things cricket.

We have a beer festival weekend 10th August. This comprises a junior competition on the Thursday, memorial game on the Friday, league game on Saturday and live band, then a Hundred competition on the Sunday. It's our major fundraiser for the season.

Hopefully that provides a flavour of where we are at.

Andrew

MONTAGU CLUB - APPENDIX 4

**REPORT FROM MONTAGU CLUB
FOR WEEKLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 14TH MAY 2024**

List of the events that will be taken place at the club this year,

27TH JULY

DISTRACTION 8PM START

16TH -18TH AUGUST BEERFEST

16th BREAD AND DRIPPIN 7-30PM-10PM

17TH THE WALTZERS 8PM -10PM

18TH ANDY COX ON DECKS

19TH OCTOBER

BREAKOUT 8PM START

24TH DECEMBER

ANDY COX

31ST DECEMBER

VICKI AND KARA 8-30PM-12PM

Also we have Bingo nights 18th/25th of May and once a fortnight after that, we may also have other entertainment

Everybody is welcome to attend; we would love the support of the village so we can maintain the club viability.

Weekley Village Hall

DANCE CLASSES

Dance classes continue to be really popular. Children's club were also well attended during 2023. We haven't done any clubs yet this year, but plan to do some more in the Summer.

New classes for adults and children will be starting in the coming months. Any residents of Weekley & Warkton will get the first class free.

OTHER BOOKINGS

Bookings have proved to be a challenge at times. People hiring the hall who have not looked after it.

People are interested in using the outside area, but with it being used as a car park for the Cricket Club, this has not been practical. It was agreed that a temporary fence could be put up to make it secure for Childrens parties, which I bought and put up, to find that someone had taken it down 2 days later – I don't know who did this and it has never been returned.

There are no regular users of the hall anymore, due to the increase heating costs during the winter months.

CHALLENGES

Heating costs have been extortionate. Grants are available to help reduce carbon footprint, but they won't allow me to apply as I am a business.

Car parking in the village hall car park can cause problems sometime. Residents or people visiting residents use the car park, which then cause my customers to park on the street, causing some residents to complain to me. If anyone needs to use the car park at certain times, if you could just let me know, I can let you know times to avoid – thanks!

WHAT'S NEXT...

Looking to replace flooring in the kitchen, as it's worn and hard to clean.

Many thanks, Lisa



**St Mary the Virgin, Weekley
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

Administrative information

St Mary the Virgin Church is situated in the village of Weekley, three miles north of Kettering. It is part of the Benefice of Geddington with Weekley within the Diocese of Peterborough of the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 25 West Street, Geddington, Northants NN14 1BD.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Membership of the PCC

A list of members who have served at any time between 1 January and 31 December 2023 is shown below:

Ex Officio

Chair:

Reverend Gillian Gamble

Churchwarden:

Mr Chris Hills

Members

Mr Brian Giles, Lay Worship Leader

Mrs Ann Giles

Mr Clive Bevitt, Treasurer

Mrs Mary-Ellen Bevitt

Mrs Penny Griffin, Reader and Lay Pastoral Minister for the benefice and co-opted special adviser to the PCC for Safeguarding

Mr Chris Hills, Secretary

Mrs Val Peel, co-opted Licensed Evangelist

Mrs Natasha Vonhof, Electoral Roll Officer

Structure, governance, and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the PCC are to co-operate with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The parish vision is to encourage the development of a ministry for younger people and residents of all ages. Our principal activities include regular public worship open to all and centred around the Eucharist, pastoral care, and the provision of a welcoming space for young children.

The PCC convened four times during the year. The meeting in March was conducted online via Zoom, thereafter attendance at PCC meetings was in person in July, September, and November. In April, the Annual Parochial Church meeting was held in church.

Sub-committees of the PCC: the fundraising subgroup

The shadow of the pandemic disrupted the implementation of general fundraising initiatives although a scaled-down Easter egg hunt was revived and an online Christmas Hamper Raffle with electronic and non-electronic ticket purchase. These both worked well and were appreciated.

Eco-Church: Net Carbon Zero by 2030 and Environmental Policy

Weekley church holds an advantage of not being reliant on fossil fuels. Other energy efficiencies, for example, the infrared pew heaters instead of whole church heating, considering eco-aware building maintenance and designating areas of the churchyard to nurture biodiversity and protect

the natural habitat all contribute to our Eco Church credentials of having a negligible level of CO2 emissions.

Annual Review of the Year 2023

Worship

We continued to offer regular services of Holy Communion at 11:15 each week, except on the second Sunday of the month when we celebrate Morning Prayer. We alternate with Geddington to hold a service for the benefice when a fifth Sunday falls in the month; and we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent with a special candle-light carol service for the benefice.

Pastoral support for congregation and parishioners

We provide pastoral support and care to our congregation, their families, and village parishioners through visits, phone calls and prayers for all of those who may be in need. We continue to offer regular monthly visits with Holy Communion to the Old Vicarage Nursing Home; and provide home Communion on request.

Church membership and attendance in 2023

There were twenty-four names on the Electoral Roll most of whom are not resident within the parish.

We completed the 2023 Statistics for Mission return to the Diocese and reported the composition of our worshipping community as follows:

Attendance Summary, 2019-23	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Number of people	22	26	30	36	35
New data field for 2023 (age 0-17)	8				
Children (age 0-10)		4	8	11	9
Young People (age 11-17)		6	3	5	5
Adults (age 18-69)	8	10	11	12	13
Adults (age 70+)	6	6	8	8	8

The average all-age Sunday service attendance was 11 (which is the same number as 2022 and 2021). Variations above the average were most marked at the major festivals of Christmas and Easter where attendance was 23 and 17 respectively.

Baptisms, marriages, and funerals

There were no baptisms in 2023, just one wedding service and three funerals.

Safeguarding

The PCC exercised its duty of care of children, young people, and vulnerable adults through the adoption of diocesan safeguarding policies and practice guidelines. The Benefice Safeguarding Policy was adopted by the PCC at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April 2023.

Safeguarding is discussed at every PCC meeting to review training requirements, monitor the Safeguarding Action Plan Level 3, and ensure safeguarding carries a high profile in the parish.

We joined churches across the country to mark safeguarding with a special service on Sunday 19 November which highlighted our commitment to ensure that Weekley is a welcoming and safe place.

Fabric

In February 2023 we received the delayed Quinquennial Inspection Report (QIR) for the inspection conducted on 14 January 2020. In line with Diocesan guidance, the QIR was sent to the Archdeacon's office for assessment to identify any potential queries or issues which the PCC would need to address. In June we received confirmation from the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (known as the DAC) that their review found nothing of concern.

In terms of routine care, the Geddington Voluntary Fire Brigade completed an annual check on roof and guttering clearance.

In August, Ecclesiastical Insurance conducted a risk assessment survey and produced a risk management report to the PCC. Only two recommendations were made about the maintenance of portable electrical appliances and the reapplication of forensic security marking.

In the late summer we experienced an invasion of wasps in the stonework of the external wall north aisle/west elevation at high level, just beneath the roof. Wasp activity was mainly outside but the windowsill at the west end of the north aisle was invaded. Pest control treatments were applied several times, but the wasps returned through the loose pointing. This problem disrupted several services (both Sunday services and a funeral which had to be relocated to Geddington). In September the Archdeacon gave List B approval for the re-pointing of the external northwest area with matching lime mortar to prevent wasps using the cracks in the damaged masonry as a nest site.

In October, a Statement of Significance and Statement of Need was submitted to the DAC to support a proposal to instal an accessible composting toilet in a new wooden building to the northwest of the tower. A visit from the DAC is pending in the hope that we will be granted Faculty.

In November, the PCC appointed Henry Sanders as our new Church Architect following the retirement of John Barker.

Churchyard

We have kept up basic standards of maintenance of the churchyard to enable burials to take place, allow for the tending of graves and the interment of ashes.

In June 2023 the Northamptonshire Churchyard Conservation Scheme (NCCS) gave us a glowing report on biodiversity in the churchyard which led to the PCC approving a conservation plan. The objective is to maintain the churchyard in order to encourage wildlife diversity and create a peaceful natural environment for visitors, mindful of the churchyard's special status as consecrated ground.

Outreach, mission, and fundraising

We were able to run the popular easter egg hunt and distribute harvest festival baskets for residents in the bungalows.

Financial Review of the Year 2023

Overall Position

Total ordinary receipts in 2023 was £10,209, a decrease of £517 on 2022.

Our total payments were £11,217, an increase of £138 on 2022. Of this figure £10,680 was spent to provide the Christian ministry from St Mary's Church including £3,000 towards our parish share. The net result for the year was a deficit of £1,008.

General Fund

The General Fund showed a deficit of £1,008, however because we had a shortfall of £8,607 in our payments to the Parish share and some outstanding monetary liabilities shows a true position of being £8886 short of meeting our financial obligations.

Bell Fund

The Bell Fund currently has a balance of £439.60.

Key points of significance

- Planned giving increased by £116 compared to 2022
- Sunday Collections decreased by £608
- Fees for Funerals and Weddings fell by £654
- Church running costs rose by £1,082. (This, however, did include a fee for quinquennial inspection of £1,170)
- We paid 26% of our Parish Share in 2023 compared to 52% in 2022

Looking forward to 2024

Our Parish Share contribution will reduce to £10,421 from £11,607 but we face a challenge to meet our full contribution.

PLANNING NOTICES - APPENDIX 7

Planning Notices Weekley Parish Council to 31st March 2024

Application: NK/2024/0129 29 February 2024 Weekley Parish Council Decision North Northamptonshire Council Decision	35 Washwell Lane, Weekley, NN16 9UR Front porch, single storey rear extension, two storey side extension and change of use of land south from agricultural to residential None submitted Approved 27/04/2024
Application: NK/2024/0071 08 February 2024 Weekley Parish Council Decision North Northamptonshire Council Decision	The Fairview, Weekley Wood Lane, Weekley, NN16 9UX T1 and T2 Lime – fell No notification received No objection 21/03/2024
Application: NK/2023/0770 13 December 2023 Weekley Parish Council Decision North Northamptonshire Council Decision	22 Main Street, Weekley, NN16 9UP Replace 2 no. first floor windows to front elevation with timber framed None submitted Refused 12/12/2023
Application: NK/2023/0707 12 December 2023 Weekley Parish Council Decision North Northamptonshire Council Decision	22 Main Street, Weekley, NN16 9UP LISTED: Replace 2 no. first floor windows to front elevation with timber framed None submitted Refused 04/12/2023
Application: AOC/0617/1901 03 October 2023 Weekley Parish Council Decision North Northamptonshire Council Decision	12 Church Lane, Weekley, NN16 9UW Condition nos. 2 (sample profile of wooden frame/glazing bars) and 8 (staircase details) of KET/2019/0617 None submitted Approved 12/10/2023
Application: AOC/0616/1901 18 September 2023 Weekley Parish Council Decision North Northamptonshire Council Decision	12 Church Lane, Weekley, NN16 9UW Condition no. 2 (sample panel) of KET/2019/0616 None submitted Approved 12/10/2023
Application: NK/2023/0401 19 July 2023 Weekley Parish Council Decision North Northamptonshire Council Decision	Red Barn Cottage, Stamford Road, Weekley, NN16 9UN T1 Sycamore - crown thin by 30% and trim 12 no. branches to bottom out the tree No notification received No objection 25/08/2023

<p>Application No: NK/2023/0170 14 March 2023</p> <p>Weekley Parish Council Decision North Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>The Coach House, Weekley Wood Lane, Weekley, NN16 9UX T1 Oak – reshape. Notification of Works to Trees in Conservation Areas None submitted No objection 24/04/2023</p>
<p>Application No: NK/2021/0292</p> <p>Weekley Parish Council Decision North Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>Hanwood Park, Cranford Road, Kettering Outline Application (EIA): This application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment. All matters reserved for the erection of up to 3,386 dwellings, including associated schools, district and local centres, hotel, healthcare, employment, formal and informal open space, including play facilities, roads and associated infrastructure Objection 08/12/2023</p>
<p>Application No: KET/2020/0121 Re-notification 9 Dec 2022 Subsequent application in respect of which was accompanied by an Environmental Statement</p> <p>Weekley Parish Council Decision North Northamptonshire Council Decision Appeal Ref: APP/M2840/W/23/3325758</p>	<p>Weekley Wood Lane (land at), Kettering 5 no. B8 warehouses, 1 no. B2 general industry building, service yards, parking, drainage, landscaping and 3 no. substations</p> <p>Objection 04/01/2023 Dismissed 08/01/2024</p>