



EDITH WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday
30th May 2023 in Edith Weston Village Hall**

1	It was resolved to accept apologies from Councillors Gale Waller (GW) and Tim Smith (TS)
2	It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5 th May 2022
3	The past Chair of Parish Council, Juliet Stuttard (JS), gave a report as attached at Appendix 1.
4	The Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee, Andrew Lunn (AL), reported that there were a number of hold-ups last year due to changes in the Parish Council and Rutland County Council (RCC) withdrawing their Local Plan. This had given time for reflection and the draft plan had now been submitted to RCC for screening. AL expressed thanks to Hannah Barber, the consultant, for all her support and guidance. A Green Spaces consultation had been held in the village hall which will contribute to the process of having the EW Local Plan approved.
5	There was no report from the County Councillors as unfortunately neither were able to attend.
6	The Chair of the Tommy's Close Trustees presented an update of progress over the last year. Bad weather had increased cost such as expenditure had exceeded the original budget set. The external inspection had now taken place the hard play area has been signed off. There are a number of issues to be resolved with the young children's play area before this can be opened and the contractors were expected to carry out these works shortly. The Chair thanked JS for the kind words in her report relating to the work in Tommy's Close.
7	There were no questions or points raised by residents and members of the public.
	The meeting was closed at 6.58 pm.

Please note that parish council meetings may be recorded for minuting purposes.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, please let a member of the Parish Council know as soon as possible.

Edith Weston Parish Council

Chairman's Report 30th May 2023

I would firstly like to congratulate Andy on becoming our new Parish Council Chairman, as a Parish Council team we are committed to supporting you in your role and will continue to be a strong team, serving our community. Thank you for allowing me to deliver the Chairman's report for this year.

Reflecting on this time last year, we were only just emerging from the pandemic and whilst it feels on one hand like a distant memory its impact still remains, with many of our residents remaining cautious of public spaces. However, I know that it has made us come together as a community and get to know each other a little better.

Team changes

During 2023 as Parish council team, we have seen many changes, which has led to all of us pulling together to deliver on the many different agendas that we have as a Council. Both Peter and I thank you all for your commitment, support and humour, it's very much appreciated with all of us working it around our many other responsibilities.

We have had a number of long serving members leave our shores this year:

- Peter Coe retired in January after over 10 years of service with the Parish Council. Peter helped us navigate many challenges over the years with his expertise around planning and development. He was Chair of our planning committee and will be very much missed. We thank Peter more recently for getting our own local plan into a great place ready for submission.
- Neil Farmer also serviced many years with us as our lead on our environment. We appreciated the wealth of knowledge he brought to the role and his recent contribution to the local plan in protecting our green spaces and for developing our tree policy.
- Cathy Gwilliam our Parish Clerk also left us, Cathie supported us in some very challenging times, she very much loved our community and it really showed through in everything she did. She has certainly set us up well as a council and we really appreciate all of her support.
- Finally, Ken Boole decided not to take part in the elections. Ken had many, many years of service and we benefit greatly for his wise council and objective perspective. He fought alongside us through our more recent challenges on SGB and was a very active and vocal elected member. I know that we will all miss him both personally and professionally and we wish him well in his retirement - although I think he will never be far away!

Along with departures also comes some new additions to our team:

- Charlotte Cave joined us in January and we really appreciate her energy and new perspective to our team.

- Sara Glover joined us as our new Parish Clerk. Sara has really hit ground running learning the ropes so quickly. Thank you, Sara, for all you are doing - including our recent audit which we passed with flying colours thanks to your diligence
- Tim Smith joined us as Elected member, we are delighted to have Tim join our team and having worked with Tim in his PC Chair for many years we know that we can continue to work with him in both of his new roles. Congratulations Tim.
- Lastly, we are delighted that Gale Waller has not only retained her position as an elected member but she has also been appointed as Leader of our Council. Can I just offer our warmest congratulations Gale and wish you the best of luck in your new role - we know that you will perform this with the same diligence and enthusiasm as you have done in your role as our elected member. We are very pleased to still have you on our team.

So many changes but I know we have a really strong team going forward.

And so on to our progress made this year in the main areas of our agenda:

Planning and development

We have made significant progress in the development of our local plan, led by Pete and then latterly by Andy and the NHP team (Andy, Peter V and Les Allen). This has been challenging in the context of no formal RCC local plan and with the impending development of land within and surrounding Edith Weston. Thanks go to the team and also to Hannah Barber and her team for guiding us through this complex process. We hope to be able to commence community consultation on the draft plan when it comes back from RCC which is scheduled for early July.

We have also been actively engaged in the Princes Foundation consultation process on behalf of the DIO in relation to the development of the officer's mess. Thank you to our team members who have engaged in the consultation events and correspondence.

Environment and health

The Tommy's Close team are very near to completing their project to build a new play facility for children and teenagers. This has been a huge undertaking and I would like to congratulate Pete and the team for their tenacity and enthusiasm. This new play park is much needed by our community and the building of this has not been without its challenges. We hope to continue to work with Tommy's Close committee over the forthcoming year and we would like to reaffirm our commitment to the installation of a Jubilee bench and planting that was promised to the team on completion.

We have had a number of ongoing issues with our dog waste bins in the village and I am pleased to say we have had upgraded receptacles installed to limit the environment impact of these to our villagers.

Safety

We have managed to secure a place on the community speed Watch which will take place in July. The issue of speeding has been highlighted on social media recently and we will look to work with the school and the authority to secure additional speed reduction measures. Thanks to Helen for leading our community speed watch team.

We are also looking to enforce yellow lines on Normanton Road which is circular in the run up to the summer months. We will also continue to work with Anglian water to increase signage on Gibberts Lane and at the entrance to the carpark.

Community and engagement

Even with a depleted council team we have still actively participated in the local forums including the Rutland Water Partnership (thanks to Peter) and Patients Participation Group (thanks to Sara). Our regular newsletter is I know welcomed by resident - thanks to Peter for his stewardship of this.

We have taken on payment of the Village Hall Broadband so that this may be secured for our community and their use at the Memorial Hall.

Helen continues to be our eyes and ears in the community and we thank her for the role that she plays within our community

I would like thanks everyone for their support to me as Chair and for the immense support I have felt in undertaking the role. I know that we will continue together as a PC team.

Juliet Stuttard
Chair