



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th May 2025 held at Weston Turville Village Hall.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: R Blackmore (Chair), M Collins, L Cook, G Lait, M Robertson and C Terry
Parish Clerk: Mrs S Copley

1	<p>WELCOME, APOLOGIES, ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>Cllr Blackmore welcomed everyone to the meeting, Cllrs Baylis, Dawkins and Popovici-Birkby, had sent apologies.</p>	
2	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held in April 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record.</p>	
4	<p>PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</p> <p>The Chairman's report on the work of the Parish Council was read out to the meeting, a copy of the report is attached to these minutes as appendix 1.</p>	
5	<p>VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE</p> <p>Cllr Cathy Terry, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee had provided a report on the village hall, a copy is attached to these minutes as appendix 2.</p>	
6	<p>WIDOW TURPIN CHARITY</p> <p>Mr Hugh Chamberlain the local Trustee & Hon Treasurer provided a report on the activities of the Charity. The charity derives a small income from the rent of a field left to the charity, the income is used to distribute food vouchers to people in need in Weston Turville or they can arrange delivery of food. Anyone who knew of someone in need were urged to contact the Charity for help.</p>	
7	<p>OPEN FORUM AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS</p> <p>There were no matters raised under this item and the meeting was closed and followed by a buffet and informal networking.</p>	

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Appendix 1 – Parish Council Chairman’s report

Intro

Good evening, and thank you all for attending the Annual Parish Meeting. Lovely to see you all. I’m Rachel Blackmore and am enjoying being part of a great team WTPC and would like to share what we do, what we have done over the past year and plan for the future.

We are trying a **new format this year** less talks and having tables for different organisations in the village, giving you an opportunity to meet with them and ask questions.

We are very fortunate living in this beautiful, green, bushy area with our public footpaths, recreational facilities, reservoir, canal, open countryside, Chiltern Hills and woods nearby.

Councillors

I am delighted to say that we currently have our full count of 10 councillors, and have welcomed George Lait and Michala Robertson this month and Chris Popavici-Birkby and Peter Routledge in 2024 since our last APM. Many thanks to all our councillors for all their hard work and commitment to our whole growing parish community. You may know our parish extends up New Road and over the A41 to Aston Reach and Woodlands developments and up the A413 up to Hampden Hall. We will be welcoming more people into our parish in the near future to our Hampden Fields development, as we in turn were welcomed here, when we were born here or arrived later.

How often do we meet?

Once a month on the third Thursday, except August and December, time for breaks. **We advise of the dates and agenda** on our 6 notice boards around the parish and on our pc website. Minutes are posted on our website.

Residents are welcome to attend our monthly pc meetings, bring their suggestions and feedback at the start and find out more about what we do.

There is a lot to cover in our meetings with all the facilities we are responsible for, street lights, verges, trees, bins, recreation facilities etc so we are helped by:

2 sub committees:

- Planning and highways
- Finance, governance and personnel

and 2 working groups.

- Our **Neighbourhood Plan Review group**, thank you to Laura’s enthusiasm leading this
- Our **Climate Working Group**, where representatives from Climate Action Weston Turville liaise with the parish council.

New amenities

The Parish Council has delivered several new amenities this year to enhance community wellbeing and recreational opportunities:

- Outdoor Gym Equipment installed at Jubilee Park, encouraging health and fitness for all ages
- A Permanent Table Tennis Table now available for community use in the park
- A Café Space The Village Retreat created within the Village Hall through the conversion of an unused area, providing a welcoming hub for residents and support I’m sure you will all know it has been a huge success with popularity exceeding our expectations, very busy, and a great location with all of the activities available on the Rec and the Café team organising future community activities.

These additions were guided by community feedback and funded by S106 recreation money.

We are proud to work alongside many local groups— several of which are here this evening. U3A, Lunch Club, WI, Warm Community Spaces, Historical Society and more. These organisations contribute significantly to the life of our village and offer many opportunities to get involved in community initiatives, environmental projects, wellbeing events, and more.

New Initiatives

We are pleased to see exciting ideas developing locally, supported by the pc including:

- Our **CAWT Repair Café** in the village hall running on the first Saturday of each month from 10-12. So if any of you are good at repairing things or have things to repair do visit our Repair Café table.

Possible New Initiatives

- A community play being planned by the **Weston Turville Theatre Group**
- **Flicks in the Sticks** – film screenings in the Village Hall to raise funds for WTWT

The Parish Council supports and hosts a range of community events throughout the year. Recent and upcoming highlights include:

- Children's Easter Activities, held at Jubilee Park and the Village Hall and Aston Reach
- VE event at The Chandos with Military Wives choir enjoyed by many
- Summer Play Sessions, to be held on the Recreation Ground or in the Hall
- Support for Street Food Events, running the first Friday of each month (March to October) – thanks to Mandi Simons who started this initiative and continues to support it as a volunteer
- Christmas Tree and Carols, with mince pies in December

Working with other residents and organisations:

We now have a **Weston Turville Wombles group**, gathered by Laura, meeting once a month on the 4th Sunday of each month. They have been litter picking keeping our village tidy, planting bulbs and wildflowers etc. We have entered the best kept village for 2025.

Our **Climate Working Group** works closely with residents and with **Chiltern Society's Community Wildbelt** on biodiversity, and we have Amanda Barnicoat from that project with a stall here tonight and happy to talk to you.

We are keen to have **monthly events in the Village Hall** and are encouraging local groups or individuals with ideas to speak to Laura Cook. All these events bring us together as a community and are very well attended and the feedback positive.

We would like to thank our Clerk, Sarah, and her assistant, Francesca, for their dedicated and amazing work across numerous projects and the day-to-day management of the parish. From ensuring trees are safely maintained to coordinating repairs, equipment, and public amenities, their contributions help keep our parish running smoothly.

Do come and talk to us about your interests or concerns over refreshments.

The next Full Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 19th June at 7pm.

Meetings are typically held in the back room of the Parish Council Office, better acoustics, and residents are always welcome to attend. If there are more than 8 of you planning on coming because there is a particular relevant issue do let us know and we will hold it in here.

Appendix 2 – Weston Turville Village Hall Annual Report 2024-25

The village hall is run by the Weston Turville Village Hall charity of which the Parish Council is the sole trustee.

The objectives of the charity are to provide a community-owned venue for a range of activities for all ages, from tiny tots through to senior citizens. This includes clubs, classes, early education, entertainment, parties and celebrations. The charity raises the majority of its income through hire of its premises for such events.

Bookings

Regular weekly bookings remain steady, although there is still some availability on Monday and Thursday mornings. All evening slots are taken with a waiting list for availability.

Weekends are kept available for children's parties and other one off events/activities and there was rarely a day without any hires at weekends.

We continue to refuse bookings for evening events due to previous noise complaints although still support the annual barn dance and charity quiz nights.

The 'Street Food' events continued to be very popular in 2024 and returned at the start of March for the 2025 season. Street food takes place at the hall on the first Friday of each month and has been a welcome source of income for the hall.

The village hall also supports other community events by providing the venue for these – including the annual Easter event for families, Christmas carols and summer play sessions.

Finances

Our total income for 2024-25 was £54,037

Our total expenditure was £57,330

Lettings income was £29,538 (last year £25,345)

Grant from HS2 - £22,736

Maintenance

Last year the hall was repainted. we replaced the curtains and had the windows at the end of the hall bricked up.

HS2 Grant

The HS2 grant has been used for a replacement piano, new chairs and tables, a replacement cooker, a shed and shelving for storage and a bin store in the car park.

Now that the shed has been installed we will be purchasing the other items approved including table tennis table and badminton net. We will also be looking at lighting and sound equipment.

Caretaker

Our caretaker left after a number of years and a new caretaker started on 10th March.

Cafe

The Village Retreat opened in February. It was about three years in the planning but is proving very popular.

Cllr Cathy Terry
May 2025