



# EDITH WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 22nd April 2025 in Edith Weston Village Hall

1	Apologies received from Charlotte Cave (CC) and Councillor Tim Smith (TS).
2	It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2024.
3	The Chair of Parish Council, Andy Lunn (AL), gave a report as attached at Appendix 1.
4	There were no questions or points raised by residents or members of the public.
	The meeting was closed at 7.20 pm.

### Appendix 1

#### Edith Weston Parish Council

#### Chairman's Report 22 April 2025

I would firstly like to thank Sara Glover for her continued good work and invaluable support as Parish Clerk for the PC and on a personnel note her guidance to myself over the past 12 months.

I would also like to thank Peter Vickers for his council, and support has vice Chair for the past 12 months.

#### Team changes

At the end of last year Helen Wood resigned from the Parish Council after 6 years of service. Her insight and knowledge will be missed; however, we can just pop into the shop to ask! Although I thanked her at the time, I wanted to mention her in my report and to thank her again for her work, support and enthusiasm.

However, this gave us the opportunity to bring in a new team member, Laura Stephens, who I am sure will bring a new perspective to the team and help us support the village in the coming months and years.

#### Neighbourhood Plan

As you all aware the Neighbourhood Plan has been ongoing for 3 years or so by various people and chairs. This year we finally got it over the line. The referendum was held on 20th February where the villagers were asked;

“Do you want Rutland County Council to use the Neighbourhood plan for the Parish of Edith Weston to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood area?”

On 21st February the result was announced and published by RCC that we had a resounding yes vote. 108 voted yes and 6 no. Almost 20% of the eligible villagers who could vote turned out. A very pleasing result and I thank all those people who worked on it including those who are no longer part of the Parish Council. Also, special thanks go to our consultants Urban Vision.

The Edith Weston Neighbourhood Development Plan 2023 to 2041 has been 'made' (adopted) by Rutland County Council on 28 March 2025 - this means it has become part of the area's development plan that all planning applications will be assessed against. EWPC Chairs Annual Report 2024-25.

### **Community and engagement**

We continue to support Tommys Close by covering the cost of grass cutting the field except for the play area. I also believe we have a better working relationship now between the Tommys Close Trustees and the Parish Council and I hope this will continue for the years to come.

We will be supporting the Village Hall again this year by providing a grant for the work to install heating in both toilets.

I would also like to think we can and would support the church in a similar way if a project came along that was within the new rules. It's an important historical building that needs to be kept and used.

I would like to thank both Joe and Sara for helping us come to agreement with Emery that helps us to cover some of our costs incurred when they pulled out of the grass cutting contract. Its important that companies who are in a contract realise they can't just walk away from their obligations.

### **Future**

In last year's report I said "being Chair for the last 12 months has been a steep learning curve" well that continues to be the case, especially over the past few weeks dealing with Solicitors and Barristers on the appeal to the inspector's decision on the 62-house application on Normanton Road. The Parish Council quite rightly in my opinion decided to hire a Barrister and make a claim against the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and Rutland County Council in the High Court. This was filed on April 7th 2025. It could take the Judges around 2-3 months to decide whether we have a case to proceed or not. I hope this will be the only speculative application we receive in the next 12 months or so while RCC do not have a 5-year housing plan in place due to the government changing the NPPF housing numbers.

There are further challenges ahead for the Parish Council, there is the officers mess site, which they have until the end of 2027 to submit a full planning application. Then there is the main St Georges Barracks site that continues to hang over the village. There is still uncertainty on what the MOD will do and when and what will be applied for if they do move out. We wait to see what impact the local government changes will have on Rutland and our Parish. There are certainly interesting times ahead.

There is also more we could do as members of the Parish Council. There are times when Sara has not had a response to her emails asking for approval or feedback, we need to be more responsive so we can help Sara in her role. I ask that we check the PC emails a little more frequently than we seemingly are doing now. I would also like us to better engage with the village going forward. I don't have the answers on how we do this, but I would like to start looking into this with some volunteers from the PC but for instance I believe we could do better on social media and our website.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their support given to me over the past year as Chair.

Andrew Lunn  
Chair