MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Weston Village Hall

4.00 pm Monday 15 September 2025

Present: Lori Weber (Chair), Katie Lewis, Karen Scott, Chris Chowney, Velda Kemp

Apologies were received from: Peter Brookes; Fiona Leathart, José Wilson and Kate Howle

Minutes of the AGM of 16 October 2024 were approved. Proposed Chris Chowney, seconded Karen Scott.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

Annual Reports

Secretary's report (in lieu of chair's report): On behalf of the team, Katie Lewis thanked the other committee members: Lori Weber for producing the editions, Karen Scott for handling the finances and the process of advertisement renewals and invoices, Chris Chowney for the website, Peter Brookes for distribution, and Velda Kemp for general support. The Reverend David Howle's support has also been welcome, and we'd like to thank the contributors and advertisers, and particularly those who distribute the magazine.

Editor's report: Lori expressed gratitude to the regular writers, providing articles on gardening, cooking, and farming. This year we have also had more wildlife and will be running an additional winter gardening article series. Lori would still like more choice of images for the front cover. The make-up of the magazine is largely unchanged, and the removal of planning and police information has not prompted any response from readers. The layout is also remaining consistent so that readers know where to expect to find regular features. Advertising pages are regularly rotated within the magazine to give maximum benefit. We have several new advertisers, and half-page ads seem to be increasingly popular. Lori had sold some advertising space to the Phoenix Theatre during the year and will suggest to them that they regularly promote productions in this way (being now on their committee). Lori remains keen to keep more than 50% of the magazine editorial. This year we have mostly had magazines of 20 or 24 pages. Lori thanked Katie Lewis, who continues to support her with proof-reading and sense-checking and helps to produce a good magazine. She also thanked her husband David Weber, who continues to provide graphic design free of charge. She looks forward to another year of editing Weston News and to bringing the popular magazine to the expanding readership. She is open to any feedback or suggestions of how to do this more effectively both from her Weston News colleagues and our readership.

Treasurer's report: Karen Scott reported that the magazine continues to be informative for local residents, that advertisers remain loyal and Lori has attracted some one-off advertising entries. Notices of local and charity events still appear free of charge. The volunteers who distribute the magazine to local residents should also be gratefully acknowledged.

Karen reported only a small operating loss for the year of £43.62, aided by a number of one-off advertisements and a £250 discretionary contribution from the Weston under Penyard Parish Council. Printing costs had not risen and our financial situation was healthy. At the end of our financial year we had £1157.95 in Lloyds Bank and £1843.55 in the Coventry

Building Society. This year Lloyds had started to take bank charges from Community Accounts of £4.25 a month.

Karen informed all the regular advertisers in July that the annual charges for advertising remained the same, and there were no negative responses, so she was optimistic that everybody had been retained.

Karen pointed out that the look of the magazine is largely down to the expertise of Lori and her husband David, whose services are given freely, which makes a huge difference to the level of our advertising charges. She said that we were starting the new financial year in a healthy and comfortable position, but we must continue to encourage local businesses to use the magazine.

Karen said she had enjoyed her role as treasurer to Weston News, but said she was aware that we would prefer an experienced bookkeeper and understood there was such a person keen to take on the role, so she would stand down as soon as the new volunteer [Kate Howle] was available.

Lori responded that we had thought Karen was not happy in the role, which was why we had advertised in the magazine for a bookkeeper. Karen agreed to remain on the committee and we would discuss the division of tasks later. Lori thanked Karen for all she had done over the year and reiterated that we had been very happy with the execution of her role.

Nigel Stewart had checked the accounts as usual. Chris Chowney proposed that we accept the accounts and Velda Kemp seconded.

Elections:

Officers: There was only one candidate for each post, and so the election/re-election en bloc of the following was proposed by Chris Chowney and seconded by Velda Kemp.

Chairman	Lori Weber
Editor	Lori Weber
Secretary	Katie Lewis
Treasurer	Karen Scott

Committee members: The following were the only candidates and their election/re-election en bloc was proposed by Katie Lewis and seconded by Lori Weber.

Website manager	Chris Chowney
Distribution	Peter Brookes
General support	Velda Kemp

Any Other Business

We gave a vote of thanks to Lori Weber for being our chair and editing the magazine. The meeting closed at 4.45pm.

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