

**MINUTES OF THE WESTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN
WESTON VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 16th MAY 2012 AT 7.30 PM**

Present:

Councillor A Hopkin, Councillor A Martin, Councillor C Thorpe, Councillor H Hart, Councillor D Kirby
Borough Councillor F Beatty

A Willatt, Saracen's Head Angling Club
C Willatt, Saracen's Head, Angling Club
M Willing, Weston Table Tennis Club
M Boothby, St. Andrew's Primary School Chair of Governors
P Hayward, St Andrew's Primary School

Mrs S Tunnicliffe, Parish Clerk

Apologies: Councillor C Critchlow, Councillor C Gilbert, Councillor R Norman, Councillor Mrs C Thorpe, County Councillor L Bloomer, D Redman (See a Show), R Allen (WI), J Egginton, (Scouts and Cubs), G Hewson, Neighbourhood Watch, M Leese, Weston Senior Citizens Club, A Donaldson, Weston Methodist Church

Welcome

Councillor Hopkin welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the Weston Annual Parish Council meeting of 2011 were noted.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Report of the Parish Council

Councillor Hopkin reported that at last year's Parish Elections sadly there were insufficient candidates for a full Council. On a positive note the Parish Council were able to co-opt Rob Norman and Hilary Hart giving the council a good mix of male and female councillors and an age group spanning generations.

Councillor Hopkin introduced new Parish Clerk Sarah Tunnicliffe who has taken over the role from Judith Gilbert. The Parish Council thanked Mrs Gilbert for all of her hard work and particularly for the work that she did in getting VAT and Inland Revenue money reimbursed to the Parish Council.

Councillor Hopkin reported on the following matters of business in which the Parish Council had been involved in 2011/12:

- Held eleven full council meetings, six sub meetings, two joint meetings with the Village Hall Committee and two joint meetings with the Shop Group and the Village Hall Committee
- Had a Tree Surgeon's report on all the trees on Parish land and as a result have lost a few trees. It is hoped that if funds allow, we will be planting new trees in the Autumn
- Thanked the Shop Group for all their hard work, especially Barry Titheridge who sadly passed away at Christmas. His line drawings for an extension to the Village Hall were commissioned by the Parish Council and adopted by the architects
- Were fortunate to obtain two benches from Stafford Borough Council that were surplus to requirements. These have been refurbished and were installed during the spring tidy
- Have approached the Highways Department regarding the A518 between the County Showground and its junction with the A51 with a view to declaring the stretch of road an accident black spot. During the year several serious accidents have occurred between cars, motorbikes and pedestrians, with fatalities. Following an investigation by the Highways Department, their report shows that this stretch of road is above average for accidents within the County and is being considered for further investigation by them

- Had the opportunity to purchase Smart Water on behalf of residents on a non profit basis. A small number of residents took up the offer
- Has spent in excess of £12,000 for a fire alarm system, emergency lighting and escape/fire doors in the Village Hall

In addition to this, Councillor Hopkin formally thanked our maintenance contractor Dave Bill for all the extra voluntary work that he contributes to the village. He also thanked Borough Councillor Frances Beatty and County Councillor Len Bloomer for their assistance and support.

Reports of Parish Organisations

Reports were received in person from the following Village Organisations:

Saracen's Head Angling Club:

Mr Willatt, the Club Chairman gave details of its activities throughout the year. He gave details of a variety of special events, working parties, weekends away and a number of issues that the Club was trying address. He also discussed the pollution problem that has been particularly bad at Bramshall Pool. He also gave details of a meeting that the group had with the Environment Agency regarding possible improvements to Gayton Brook. This will be a three year project and they will be looking at applying for funding.

St Andrew's Primary School:

Mr Hayward, the school Headmaster reported that the school currently had 172 pupils over 6 classes. The school has strong links with St Andrew's Church and is developing links with the Methodist Church, MOD, Police and Travellers Groups. In the future the school are hoping to have an extension built. He stated that he felt privileged to be the head of the school and to be working with dedicated teaching and support staff and he praised the school children for their outstanding behaviour and promise.

Weston Table Tennis Group:

Mr Willing reported that the Group have had a very successful year. Young members of the group took three titles in competition; the under 15's, under 18's and under 21's, the first time in history. John Foulkes has stood down as chair and the group would like to thank him for all of his hard work and dedication.

Reports had been received from the following organisations and Councillor Hopkin read these out:

Weston Village Hall Management Committee

The Village Hall have had a successful year and now have 19 organisations using the Village Hall on a regular basis, along with weekend bookings for parties etc. Utility bills have increased steadily over the last year causing some concern, meaning for the first time in four years rates for regular organisations have had to be increased. Also, the majority of the flat roof has needed to be replaced this year costing in the region of £6500.

There are three main events planned for the year and everyone is welcome to attend these.

See a Show Group

The group has enjoyed a successful year with the Stafford U3A and has organised 8 outings during the last 12 months.

Weston Methodist Church

The church have a steadily growing congregation and have held some very successful events over the past year. They have managed to give away over £2500 to other charities and churches both local and overseas.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Neighbourhood Watch is still a low key 'operation' reacting to email and telephone messages. The group are now starting a 'recruitment drive' to increase co-ordinator coverage in Weston now that the Salt Works Lane development appears complete and to cover any other changes that have occurred

Senior Citizens

At present, the group is in contact with over 140 senior citizens and last year organised a Christmas party for over 100 guests. In the coming year the group have planned a summer event, a tea dance in the Village Hall and a Christmas party and both events will require considerable fundraising.

Best Kept Village

Councillor Hopkin stated that considerable efforts are being made for the competition. Working parties had been held prior to the start of the judging but the turnout had been small at just eight volunteers. Councillor Hopkin thanked the primary school for arranging the poster competition at short notice so that the posters could be displayed earlier than last year.

Report of Borough Councillor

Councillor Beatty reported that the Olympic torch was travelling through Gnosall, Haughton and Stafford before travelling to Stoke, warning to be aware that Stafford will be shut from 4pm and no one will be able to drive in or around Stafford during this time. She also stated that the following weekend in Stafford would be very busy celebrating the Jubilee. She also gave a reminder about the Jubilee fund which was still available to bid for money from.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 15th May 2013 at 7.30pm in Weston Village Hall

Councillor Hopkin thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting.

**ALAN HOPKIN
CHAIRMAN**