

MINUTES OF THE WESTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN WESTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 10th MAY 2016 AT 7PM

Present:

Councillor C Critchlow, Councillor A Hopkin, Councillor J Griffiths, Councillor D Tams, Councillor C Gilbert

Mrs A Kingston, Parish Clerk

3 members of the public, two of which were representing the following local groups; the Angling Club and the Methodist Church.

Apologies: Apologies were received from the following groups; the Women's Institute, Wombats, Mums and Babies, Guides and Brownies and the Headmaster of St. Andrew's Primary School.

Welcome

Councillor Critchlow welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the Weston Annual Parish meeting of 2015 were approved.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Report of the Parish Council

Councillor Critchlow presented a report covering the key activities and achievements of Weston with Gayton Parish Council during 2015/16. In addition to the usual running of the council, monthly meetings (for 11 months of the year) and attendance on other local groups, the council;

- installed and opened a new Skate Park at the rear of the Village Hall.
- worked with developers to install crossing points and traffic calming measures in Green Road.
- printed and distributed a parish plan outlining the priorities of the council to every household
- arranged Civic Amenity visits for the forth coming year
- provided an extensive ground maintenance service maintaining the public areas in the Village and keeping our village looking well maintained throughout the year.
- Purchased a number of new litter bins and launched a high profile successful campaign against dog fouling.
- Submitted a successful application for external funding to replace the Slide on the Village Green.
- worked with the Police and Staffordshire County Highways department to help address the issue of speeding traffic in and around the Parish.

More recently the Parish Council have taken over the day to day management of the village hall following the resignation of the village hall committee in April.

Reports of Parish Organisations

Reports were received from the following Village Organisations:

Angling Group

Neil Jennings attended the meeting to provide an update on behalf of the Saracens Head Angling Group. Over the past year the Angling Group have had a healthy membership of 99 members of which 78 are seniors and 21 Juniors. The committee, which has 9 members, organised 18 events of the past year.

Their water portfolio consists of the Canal in Weston, One Acre Pool in Hixon, Bramshall Pool, River Blythe and Gayton Brook. Sadly pollution in Gayton Brook at the end of last year killed the fish but some are now beginning to return. The club are looking to get the fishing rights on the stretch of the River Trent passing through Weston.

Thanks were offered to the Parish Council for their support to the Junior Section of the Club over the past year. The Junior section is still going strong and in addition to competitions and events, the Junior AGM received an educational presentation on habitat restoration by a Fisheries Doctor and member of the Environment Agency.

St. Andrews Church

Councillor Hopkin provided an update on the work of St. Andrew's Church over the past year. The Church are pleased to report an increase in attendance and the continuing success of Messy Church.

The Grade II listed building of the Church is subject to regular inspection, and while the most recent survey did not identify any serious issues of concern, the building will require around £14k of general upkeep and maintenance work over the next few years.

The Church organise work parties to help with the upkeep and maintenance of the grounds which are well attended by both church goers and members of the local community who do not frequently attend church. The Church would like to thank the Parish Council for their continuing support.

Weston Methodist Church

Les Overton attended the meeting to provide an update on the work of Weston Methodist Church. The Church organise a number of regular activities including their Sunday service which takes place at 10.30 am each week and is followed by refreshments in the church hall. Holly Communion is administered once a month and there are monthly Prayer meetings and Bible Study. Other regular events in the annual calendar include the Harvest Festival, Carol Service, Covenant Service and the Easter Service. They are also currently holding an Alpha Course which provides an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.

The Church also provide community visits and community activities including tea and cake, Christmas fair, carol singing and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Brunch.

The Church hall is also available for hire and is regularly used by the Weston WI, an Art Group, Dance groups and Keep fit/Zumba class.

Contact details for the church are available from the Compass Magazine or via the website www.westonmethodistchurch.org.uk

Brownies and Guides

An update on the work of the Brownies and Guides was submitted prior to the meeting. There are now approximately 40 girls involved, with around 20 in each group. They are involved in a wide range of activities over the year. There is currently no waiting list and new applicants are welcome.

They are keen to attract volunteers who would like to help with either the Brownies or Guide groups and are looking to provide a Rainbows group for younger children, if sufficient volunteers can be found.

Mumsnbabes

An update on the work of the Mumsnbabes group was submitted prior to the meeting. Mumsnbabes is a baby and toddler group which runs from the Village Hall term time on Fridays between 9:30 and 11:30am. The group provides parents, grandparents, carers and childminders with an opportunity to meet together and socialise whilst playing with their children.

They provide a wide range of age appropriate toys and games, and the group session is finished off with a song and music time. The group also provide drinks and snacks in the session for parents and children.

The cost is £2 per family per session and all money goes back into the running of the group. Mumsnbabes is a community led group and run by volunteers.

Fund raising events are organised once or twice a year and the money raised goes back into the group to replace broken toys or towards the general running of the group.

The group is attended by between 12-20 parents each week and local organisations will occasionally attend to offer demonstrations or activities. A Christmas party is held annually including a visit from Father Christmas. A teddy bears picnic and party is planned for June.

The group wished to express their thanks to the Village Hall Committee for part funding a new storage shed which provides secure, dry storage for the toys and equipment.

They are keen to attract volunteers who may like to assist in the running of the group, and now have a facebook page providing regular updates on their activities. Anyone requiring further information can contact Claire Perkin on 07786264943 or email mumsnbabes@outlook.com

Wombats Pre-School

An update on the work of Wombats Pre-school was provided prior to the meeting. The number of children attending Wombats Pre-school remain steady at the moment and the children seem to enjoy attending. At Christmas all children had the opportunity to see Father Christmas and visit play barn, in addition to Father Christmas visiting them in the hall. All staff have undertaken first aid training early this year. Two members of staff will be attending the village fete to run a stall on behalf of wombats.

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School

An extract on the work of St Andrew's Church of England Primary School was provided in advance of the meeting by the Head teacher Mr. Paul Hayward, who writes as follows;

The past twelve months at St Andrew's Church of England Primary School has been challenging, exciting, funny, sad, beautiful, disappointing and lovely: every human emotion. Our purpose is to educate children but also the grown-ups too. We strive to learn better ways to help our children learn more things about themselves, about their class mates, about the world in which they live and about God. We share our learning journey with the children.

This year our journey has led us to convert to an academy. We have partnered with Colwich and St Peter's Church of England Primary Schools to form the Mid-Trent Multi Academy Trust. We have chosen this path because we believe, in the long term, it will benefit the children in our communities. The newly formed board of directors has met recently to establish roles and responsibilities. We are slowly starting to think of ourselves as a single entity rather than three separate primary schools. This is a challenge because loyalty in each school runs deep.

At St Andrew's we currently have 175 pupils on roll. This number is made up of three main groups; traveller children, forces children and children who live in or near to Weston. There are 29 traveller children (17%) in school and 38 forces children (21%). Therefore, 38% of children in school come from relatively transient backgrounds. This said, most families are settled and attend school full time.

In the past year we have celebrated many things, school values week, British values, Shakespeare, dance and many other things. We are currently growing seeds that have been in space and have received an email from Tim Peake. Reverend Daniel and Reverend Steven (up until his retirement) have been regular visitors to the school. They mostly lead assemblies and worship but will also help us with short projects. Reverend Daniel is a school governor and a director of the Mid-Trent Multi Academy Trust.

I would like to thank the school governors for the work they do. I can think of very few things that could compare to what has happened to governance in the last twelve months at St Andrew's. Conversion to an academy is no small feat. The governors have been very supportive through the conversion process, whilst at the same time, keeping an eye on what is happening to the children and staff at St Andrew's.

Our PTFA, STAA (St Andrew's Association), continues to support the school in many ways. Apart from raising funds, STAA also strives to enhance the children's experience at school. STAA arrange discos, Ready, Steady Grow! (growing vegetables and flowers), a magician for the new entrants, reduce the cost of travel for school visits, supply extra equipment which enhances learning in school further and much more. They are great!

We are privileged at St Andrew's to have such hard working staff. Our five core values are embedded into everything we do: happiness, respect, achievement, family and confidence. They are the drivers for the way we behave. There are 30 plus members of staff teaching, cleaning, looking after finance and pupil records, caretaking, cooking, assisting; all working together to achieve one aim – to educate our children.

Lastly, but not least, I would like to mention the children and their families. They continue to surprise us, enlighten us and make us realise that the future is in good hands. We are really proud of the children at St Andrew's because they are hard-working, cheerful, adaptable and trustworthy. They embrace life and are a reflection of everyone around them.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 9th May 2017, 7pm in Weston Village Hall

**COLIN CRITCHLOW
CHAIRMAN**