

# WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in Weston Village Hall at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Councillor Colin Critchlow (Chair), Councillor J Griffiths (Vice Chair), Councillor Mrs G Wray, Councillor K Barber, Councillor Mrs H Hart, Councillor D Leake, Councillor D Tams, Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston

2 members of the public

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor A Hopkin, Councillor C Gilberts.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 11 JULY 2017 - MINUTES

**1673.RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 11 July 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Barber and Griffiths.

### PARISH COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING 15 AUGUST 2017 - MINUTES

**1674.RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Tams and Barber.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**1675.** There were no declarations of interest.

### UPDATE ON ACTION LIST

**1676.** Action plan item 2.1 Community Speedwatch volunteers continue to provide an active presence in the parish. When the programme has been operational for six months the Parish Council can consider applying for fixed signage. Costings to be obtained and brought to a future meeting.

**1677.** A full copy of the action plan, with progress updates, is available from the Parish Clerk. Please email [parishclerk@westonstaffs.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@westonstaffs.org.uk)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

**1678.** The consultation for the review of subsidies for bus journeys in Staffordshire, closes on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The consultation can be accessed online at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/busreview](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/busreview)

**1679.** The SPCA Parish Forum will take place at 7pm on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September. **RESOLVED** – Councillor Mrs. H Hart and the Parish Clerk to attend.

**1680.** The latest edition of the Good Councillor Guide is now available at a cost of £3.75 per copy. Clerk to find out if an electronic copy could be made available.

**1681** An SPCA Training course on Budgets, Precepts and Annual Returns will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm. **RESOLVED** – Councillor Mrs. H Hart to attend.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**1682.** A local resident asked if the Parish Council had any information regarding the streetlighting works underway in Weston, and the type of replacement lights to be installed. The Parish Council did not have any specific information, but were informed that streetlighting within the borough was being routinely replaced with lighting which can be dimmed in late evening/early morning.

**1682.** A local resident informed the meeting that the overgrown footpath at the end of Cow Lane belongs to Network Rail, and recommended the Parish Council request Network Rail have it cut back.

### REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

1683. Councillor J Francis was not in attendance to provide a report.

#### **REPORT FROM STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR**

1684. Councillor Mrs F Beatty was not in attendance to provide a report.

#### **REPORT FROM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE**

1685. An update on the work of the village hall management committee was provided. Gateposts have been replaced and the possibility of installing a drop kerb for the side gate is being considered. There is a recognised need to increase the number of cleaning hours per week.

#### **DEVELOPMENTS**

1686. Planning application reference 17/26960/HOU at 25 Salt Works Lane, Weston. The Parish Council have no objections to this application.

1687 Planning application reference 17/26521/PTEL Telecommunications tower with phase 4.5 Headframe. This application has been withdrawn at the request of the applicant.

1688 A query was raised as to the status of a previous planning application in Salt Works Lane 17/26105/OUT at Salt Works Farm, Salt Works Lane. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to follow up and feedback to the next meeting.

#### **TREES AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA**

1689. The Parish Council received and reviewed the latest playground safety inspection report by John Hicks. There are some broken fence posts by the MUGA in the grounds of the Village Hall, and whilst it is unknown where the responsibility for this damage lies, the Parish Council must consider removal, which may incur a cost.

1690 The Tesco bags of help scheme have provided a plaque to display on the new item of play equipment purchased with funding from the bags of help scheme. **RESOLVED** – Councillor Critchlow to arrange for the attachment of the plaque.

1691 An update on the progress of signage for the skate park will be provided at the next meeting.

#### **RIGHTS OF WAY**

1692. The Parish Council have been successful in their recent application to the Community Paths Initiative for £695 for tools and equipment to help maintain the local networks of paths and rights of way. The initiative will require a bank of volunteers willing to take on some of the strimming/cutting back, with safety training provided by Staffordshire County Council. Anyone interested in volunteering to help keep the local paths and rights of way cut back and well maintained, should contact the Parish Clerk at [Parishclerk@westonstaffs.org.uk](mailto:Parishclerk@westonstaffs.org.uk)

#### **BUS SHELTERS**

1693. In response to the letters sent to local businesses, the Clerk informed the Parish Council that while most are unable to help with any financial support, Air and Ground Ltd have kindly responded with a donation of £100 towards the cost of a new bus shelter. Total cost of the shelter would be in the region of £3.5/£4k. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to explore the possibility of obtaining additional grant funding.

#### **HS2**

1694 The Clerk provided a brief update on the progress of HS2, as requested at the previous meeting. Key points affecting Stafford include;

- Phase 1 (London to West Midlands) The contracts for the main civil engineering works have been awarded.
- Phase 2a (West Midlands to Crewe) The consultation period on the Environmental Statement is now open and closes on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Detailed information including maps of the route, can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/high-speed-two-limited>

## **VILLAGE GREEN BOOKING PROCEDURE**

**1695** A discussion was held regarding the procedure for booking the Village Green. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to draft an application form to bring to the next meeting.

## **EXTERNAL AUDIT OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 2017**

**1696** The annual external audit of accounts for the year ending March 2017 has been completed by the external auditors Grant Thornton. No issues or concerns were raised. The statement of accounts along with the external auditor's report and the report from our internal auditor are available to view on the Parish Council website at [www.westonstaffs.org.uk](http://www.westonstaffs.org.uk).

## **CLERK REPORT**

**1697.RESOLVED** that the PC approve the below payments listed on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.

- Ground Maintenance Contract - £2391.32
- Admin and Clerk expenses - £73.84
- Grant Thornton Annual Audit of Accounts - £240
- John Hicks Play Ground Inspection - £164.90

**1698 RESOLVED** that the PC approve the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments

**1699** The EU regulation known as the General Data Protection Regulation will come into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Parish Councillors must be aware that the law is changing, and start to consider the implications for the Parish Council. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to circulate the NALC legal briefing document.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**1700** An email has been received from a resident in Pellfield Court requesting a letter be sent by the Parish Council to remind residents to park responsibly and to ensure each resident has clear access in and out of the courtyard and to their individual property. A discussion was held regarding the request, and it was felt in the first instance, that the issue be referred to the local Police Community Support Officers. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to contact the local PCSO's

**1701** The local Police Community Support Officers are hoping to arrange a street meeting on the Village Hall car park on the 30<sup>th</sup> September, between 12 and 1pm. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to forward details to the Chair of the Village Hall Committee to take forward.

## **DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

**1702.**Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7:30pm in Weston Village Hall.

**COLIN CRITCHLOW**  
**CHAIRMAN**