

# WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 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 A Hopkin, Councillor D Tams, Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston.

8 members of the public

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor C Gilberts

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 10 OCTOBER 2017 - MINUTES

**1747 RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 10 October 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hart and Leake.

### EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 17 OCTOBER 2017 – MINUTES

**1748 RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Extraordinary PC Meeting held at 7pm on the 17 October 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Tams and Hopkin.

### EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 23 OCTOBER 2017 – MINUTES

**1749 RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Extraordinary PC Meeting held at 7pm on the 23 October 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hart and Wray.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**1750.** There were no declarations of interest.

### UPDATE ON ACTION LIST

**1751.** During the two most recent outings, the Community Speedwatch team recorded 54 drivers that were over the speed limit. Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis has discussed the PC's concerns with Highways and will be following up the site audit. The PC will continue to campaign to have the speed limit along the stretch of the A51 in Weston dropped to 30mph.

**1752.** 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

**1753.** The application made by the PC in December 2016 to have the Woolpack Public House listed as an Asset of Community Value has been accepted by Stafford Borough Council. The Woolpack Public House will now be included in the list of assets of community value maintained by Stafford Borough Council under section 87 of the Localism Act 2011.

**1754** Staffordshire County Council have launched a new website entitled 'Highways and Rights of Way - Your Choices'. This provides a range of information about the relatively small and aesthetic tasks local communities can undertake, that help neighbourhoods look good and work well. The website also contains the information local councils need to consider before making an informed response to the County Council's Rights of Way consultation. Responses to the consultation must be made before the 25<sup>th</sup> December. **RESOLVED** – All Councillors to review and respond to the Clerk prior to the December meeting. Clerk to add to the Agenda of the December meeting for final review and submission.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**1755** Appreciation was expressed for the Remembrance Service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November, and thanks

extended to the organisers.

**1756** Concern was expressed regarding the leaves blocking drains in Old Road. This was discussed further in the relevant agenda item at 1771.

**1757** A number of residents expressed their concern regarding the planning application for the proposed mobile phone mast at the junction of the A51 and Old School Close. Of the six members of the public in attendance to discuss this issue, only one had received formal notification from the Borough Council, despite all living near the proposed site. Some have made personal responses to the application via the Stafford Borough Council planning portal, and expressed key concerns regarding health implications and the proximity of the mast to both residential properties and the school. Whilst it was clear some would prefer not to have the mast within the village at all, there was a feeling that moving the mast further along the A51 away from residential properties would be an improvement on the current plan. This was discussed further in the relevant agenda item at 1764.

**1758** The footpath Weston 6 which runs alongside the railway and has been reported previously to the PC as being overgrown, has been cleared by Network Rail. Thanks were extended to Network Rail.

**1759** Thanks were extended to the Parish Council for their work in listing the Woolpack Public House as an Asset of Community Value.

#### **REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

**1760** Councillor J Francis was not in attendance to provide a report.

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

**1761** Councillor Mrs F Beatty was not in attendance to provide a report.

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

**1762** The new gates have not yet been fitted but it is hoped they will be completed soon.

#### **DEVELOPMENTS**

**1763** Planning application reference 17/27298/HOU at Bridge House, London Road. The PC have no objection to this application.

**1764** Planning application reference 17/27488/PTEL at land off London Road/Old School Close, Weston. The Parish Council submitted a number of concerns to Clarke Telecom prior to the submission of the formal planning application and invited a representative from Clarke Telecom to attend the meeting. This offer was declined. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to respond to the planning department expressing concern that the mast will dominate the skyline and detract from the view of the church for those entering the village via Weston Bank. In addition to request that Clarke Telecom consider siting the mast further along the A51 towards Sandon. The Clerk will also request the application is 'called in' by the ward Councillor.

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

**1765.** The signage for the Skate Park is yet to be completed. **RESOLVED** –Councillor Hopkin to inform the current supplier if the signage is not finalised in the next two weeks the order will be cancelled, and another supplier sought.

#### **RIGHTS OF WAY**

**1766** Quotes have been obtained to repair the section of footpath on the Village Green affected by tree roots. Of the four suppliers contacted only two produced formal quotes, which were significantly different in value, and only one was within the original estimated cost of repairs. **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve MAC Groundwork to complete the repairs at a cost of £1750.

**1767** A hedge has become overgrown in Ferrers road and is overhanging the footpath. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to write to the home owner and request the hedge is cut back to the boundary of the property.

**1768** The Clerk informed the meeting that the Rights of Way team at Staffordshire County Council do not

now have the capacity to meet with the Parish Council regarding the footpaths in Gayton. They are looking to PC's to encourage the voluntary offer, not just in undertaking some of the cutting back of vegetation but also in liaising with landowners to ensure they meet their obligations and to see if they are able to support the village further in maintaining the rights of way network. This could be a key issue for the PC in the future and consideration should be given as to how best maintain the rights of way network going forward. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to circulate the new self-help guidance once available and to clarify how the legal challenge to landowners who are not willing to fulfil their obligations will be handled in the future.

## **FLAGPOLE**

**1769** The temporary works on the flagpole have been completed at a cost of £80 plus VAT.

**1770** A group of residents have volunteered to establish a fundraising group to raise money to purchase and install a new flagpole for the Village Green. The Parish Council would like to formally thank them in advance for their time and effort in supporting this cause.

## **DRAINAGE AND GULLY CLEANING**

**1771** Concern has been expressed with many drains in the parish that look to be blocked with leaves. In addition, the drain outside St. Andrew's Church appears to have collapsed. **RESOLVED** – All Councillors to provide photographs and details including road names and locations to the Parish Clerk. Parish Clerk to report to Highways.

## **CLERK REPORT**

**1772.RESOLVED** that the PC approve the below payments listed on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.

- Ground Maintenance Contract - £2164.56
- Admin and Clerk expenses - £166.97
- Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association Finance Training - £20
- Ironmongery Direct Flagpole repairs - £96
- Remembrance Day refreshments and wreath - £35

**1773 RESOLVED** that the PC approve the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments

**1774** The proposed budget for 2018/19 was discussed including two additional budget lines for registration with the Information Commissioner and potential costs for compliance with the Data Protection regulations which will come into force in 2018. The approximate costs will be reviewed following the data protection briefing on the 21<sup>st</sup> November which will be attended by the Clerk and Councillor Hart.

**1775** The Clerk informed the meeting that a funding application has been submitted to the Big Lottery Fund to cover the estimated cost of a new bus shelter. If the Parish Council are successful in their application they should be notified within 12 weeks.

**1776** The Clerk informed the meeting of some feedback from Eon regarding the questions raised previously relating to the street lighting works in Old Road. Eight street lights in Old Road have been replaced with white light LED's. These will dim to 75% of the maximum light output between the hours of 8pm and midnight, then a further 50% between the hours of midnight and 6am. This will however be unnoticeable to the naked eye and is purely for energy saving purposes.

**1777** A meeting has been arranged at 9:30am on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, with Stafford Borough Council to discuss the Call for Sites consultation. Councillor Leake and the Parish Clerk will attend.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**1778** An invitation has been extended to the PC from the Mayor and Mayoress to attend the Gala Performance of the Rock 'n' Roll pantomime on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets are priced at £20 per person.

**1779** An invitation has been extended to the PC from the Mayor and Mayoress to attend a 'Night of Horse Racing at its Best' on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Tickets are priced at £8.50 per person.

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

**1780** Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7:30pm in Weston Village Hall

**COLIN CRITCHLOW  
CHAIRMAN**

DRAFT