

# WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in Weston Village Hall at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:**, Councillor J Griffiths (Chair), Councillor D Tams, Councillor K Barber, Councillor A Hopkin, Councillor C Gilbert, Councillor D Leake, Councillor Mrs H Hart, Stafford Borough Councillor Francis Beatty, Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor C Critchlow, Councillor Mrs G Wray

## ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

**1569.** The election of Councillor Colin Critchlow as Chairman was proposed by Councillor Hopkin and seconded by Councillor Hart. **RESOLVED** - by unanimous agreement that Councillor Colin Critchlow be elected as Chairman for the coming year. Declaration of Acceptance of Office to be signed at the next Parish Council meeting as first order of business.

## ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

**1570.** The election of Councillor Jan Griffiths as Vice-Chair was proposed by Councillor H Hart and seconded by Councillor D Tams. **RESOLVED** - by unanimous agreement that Councillor Griffiths be appointed as Vice-Chair. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Councillor Griffiths and witnessed and signed by the Parish Clerk.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**1571.** There were no declarations of interest.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL - MINUTES

**1572. RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hopkins and Tams.

## COMMITTEES

**1573.** Councillor Gail Wray will continue to represent the Parish Council on the Weston Village Hall Management Committee.

## ADOPTION OF DOCUMENTS

**1574. RESOLVED** – that the Parish Council Standing Orders have been reviewed and remain fit for purpose.

**1575. RESOLVED** – that the Financial Regulations, which were updated in October 2016, have been reviewed and remain fit for purpose.

**1576. RESOLVED** – that the Register of Land and Assets have been reviewed and remain fit for purpose.

**1577. RESOLVED** – that the procedures for handling request made under the Freedom of Information Act, the Accident Reporting Procedure and the Complaints procedure remain unchanged.

**1578. RESOLVED** – that the risk assessment has been reviewed and remains fit for purpose.

**1579. RESOLVED** – that the Parish Council's Media Policy has been reviewed and remains fit for purpose.

**1580. RESOLVED** – Clerk to draft a policy for the use of Social Media to bring to the next meeting in June.

## EXTERNAL BODIES

**1581.** Councillor Tams to represent the Parish Council on the Community Speedwatch Forum.

## INSURANCE

**1582.** The insurance renewal has been received from AON with an annual premium of £1515.25. Quotes have been obtained via the Insurance Brokers Came & Co, with the most competitive being £989.92 with

Inspire. This can be reduced to an annual premium of £940.42 should the Parish Council wish to enter a 3 year binding agreement until the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020. **RESOLVED** – by unanimous decision to enter a three year agreement with Inspire with an annual premium of £940.42.

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

**1583.RESOLVED** – the PC confirmed the Clerk's membership of SLCC

## **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2017**

**1584.RESOLVED** – Future meetings will continue to be scheduled on the second Tuesday of each month. Existing timescales for publication of information remain unchanged.

## **UPDATE ON ACTION LIST**

**1585.**Action plan item 2.1 Community Speedwatch–There has been a good response from Community Speedwatch volunteers over the past month, providing an active presence on the A51 and A518. It has been noted that the presence of the volunteers has a notable effect on slowing down the speed of traffic at that time.

**1586.**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**

**1587.**Notification has been received from the Harlequin Group of their intention to apply for planning to install mobile phone network equipment, including a 15m high telecommunications tower at Weston ATE in Green Road. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to circulate information to Councillors. Some discussion was held regarding the possibility of placing the mast within the spire of St. Andrew's Church. Councillor Hopkin to look into this further and feedback via the Clerk.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**1588.** A member of the public asked if the Parish Council had received any further information regarding the application to list the Woolpack Public House as an Asset of Community Value. No further information has been received. Clerk to follow up and feed back.

## **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

**1589.**County Councillor Len Bloomer was not in attendance to provide a report.

## **REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR**

**1590.** Councillor Mrs F Beatty attended and provided an overview of activities during the past 12 months, with a clear focus having been on the developments in the town centre. A consultation paper will be forthcoming regarding the proposed Stafford Gateway development. European funding has been made available for the region, and Stafford are submitting an application to develop the area surrounding the train station. The application will be primarily for housing as well as a premium hotel with conference facilities. Applications have been received to develop living accommodation at the north end of Stafford. A number to develop apartments above existing shop premises and some to change the use of commercial premises into private dwellings.

**1591** There are concerns regarding the impact of HS2 on the County Showground as much of the current car parking facilities will be taken up by the new line. Work is underway to help safeguard the Showground and ensure it remains a viable facility.

**1592** Heritage Lottery Grant funding has been secured to deliver further improvements to Victoria Park.

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

**1593.**The Village Hall Management Committee representative was not in attendance to provide a report. An

annual report was provided to the Weston Annual Parish Meeting Prior to this meeting and key points are summarised in the Annual Parish Meeting minutes.

#### **DEVELOPMENTS**

- 1594.** Planning application reference 17/26065/HOU at 25 Saltworks Lane, Weston. **RESOLVED** -The Parish Council have no objections to this application.
- 1595.** Planning application reference 17/26019/ADV at land at London Road, Weston, Stafford. **RESOLVED** - Clerk to feedback concerns that the aesthetics of sign would not be in keeping with the rural area.
- 1596.** Planning application reference 17/26131/HOU at 3 The Orchard, Abbeylands, Weston. **RESOLVED** - The Parish Council have no objections to this application.
- 1597.** Planning application reference 17/26062/HOU at 1 The Orchard, Abbeylands, Weston. **RESOLVED** - The Parish Council have no objections to the application.
- 1598.** Planning application reference 17/26105/OUT at M McDermot Salt Works Farm, Salt Works Lane, Weston. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to feedback that whilst the Parish Council have no objections to the application and proposed development, they would like the plans modified to include some landscaping and improvements to the wharf area adjacent to the current application.

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

- 1599.** Quotes continue to be sought for signage for the skate park. Clerk to add to the agenda for the next meeting.
- 1600.** Following reports of damage to the slide on the Green, the slide was closed for a short period. Repairs have been completed and the slide is once again open. The repairs were completed at no cost to the Parish Council.

#### **FINANCES**

- 1601.** The internal audit of annual accounts was completed at the end of April by the internal auditor Christine Heelis. Feedback was good and no concerns were highlighted. Suggestions were made to include the relevant power to spend against each item in the cashbook, to list each payment authorised at each meeting in the minutes and to ensure each check stub is initialled by both signatories. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to make the relevant amendments.
- 1602.** **RESOLVED** that the PC approve payments listed below and included on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.
- Ground Maintenance work for April including Dog Bin Maintenance - £2152.56
  - Admin and Clerk Expenses - £43.95
  - Internal Audit - £50
  - Annual Insurance - £940.42
- 1603.** **RESOLVED** that the PC approve the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments
- 1604.** The governance statements for the Grant Thornton Annual Return for the year ending March 2017 were considered. **RESOLVED** – by unanimous agreement that the PC approve the Annual Return Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Governance Statement was signed by the Chair Councillor Griffiths and the Clerk
- 1605.** The Annual Accounting Statements for the year ending March 2017 were considered. **RESOLVED** – by unanimous agreement that the PC approve the Annual Return Accounting Statements for 2016/17. The completed forms were signed by the Chair Councillor Griffiths and the Clerk.
- 1606.** The PC considered a request from the Woolpack Pub to use the Village Green on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017. **RESOLVED** – To grant the request subject to the payment of the £75 fee and compliance with the rules/requirements for use of the Village Green. Clerk to contact the Woolpack with details.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 1607.** A local resident has expressed concern regarding the drop from the second style at the Weston 3

footpath at the rear of St. Andrew's Church. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to follow up with the Rights of Way Officer at Staffordshire County Council.

**1608.**A local resident has expressed concern regarding a strong smell in Shirleywich. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to find out more details and if appropriate follow up with Stafford Borough Council.

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

**1609.**Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm in Weston Village Hall.

**JAN GRIFFITHS  
VICE CHAIRMAN**