

# WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in Weston Village Hall at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** 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, County Councillor John Francis, Stafford Borough Councillor Francis Beatty, Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston.

2 members of the public

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Colin Critchlow (Chairman), Councillor C Gilberts

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 12 DECEMBER 2017 - MINUTES

**1819 RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 12 December 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hart and Hopkin.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**1820.** There were no declarations of interest.

### REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

**1821** Councillor J Francis provided the Clerk with a detailed update of responses received from Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Highways to many issues raised previously, including blocked gullies and drains, notification of roadworks and the adoption of the roads within the Salt Works Lane development.

**1822** Councillor Francis agreed to follow up on progress relating to gullies and drains and informed the meeting that notice of any planned roadworks can be found by looking on [www.roadworks.org](http://www.roadworks.org)

**1823** Regarding the adoption of Salt Works Lane, work is underway by the developer to undertake the remedial work required for adoption. It is believed the developer is engaging street lighting contractors to remedy the street lighting remedial works, in addition to other works, which once completed will enable a clearer timescale for adoption.

**1824** SCC have a savings target of £40m over the next two years, resulting in many budget pressures on areas such as Highways.

**1825** Road safety is a key concern across the County. Councillor Francis agreed to consider the Parish Councils request to have the speed limit lowered on the A51 through Weston from 40mph to 30mph.

**1826** The realignment of the proposed HS2 viaduct is likely to result in an increase in heavy traffic in and around the area. Councillor Francis encouraged representatives from the PC to attend the HS2 briefing and information sessions as they arise.

### UPDATE ON ACTION LIST

**1827.** Community Speedwatch - The funding term for the People Power fund has come to an end. The evaluation report has been submitted and an extension to the end of February granted, to enable more time for the purchase of fixed signage. Whilst the Weston Community Speedwatch programme has been in a position to purchase fixed signage since September 2017, it will be part of a county wide roll out, and the supply of signs must first be agreed by SCC Highways.

**1828.** 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

**1829.** SPCA Annual Audit Training – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January. **RESOLVED** the Clerk to attend.

**1830** SPCA Local Councillor Training Course – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February. **RESOLVED** Councillor Hart to attend. Councillor Leake expressed an interest in attending if another date becomes available.

**1831** With sadness the PC were informed that former Parish Councillor Anne Brook passed away at the end of November 2017. The PC wish to extend their condolences to her family.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**1832** A member of the public raised concern regarding the pavement along the A518 from Old Road to the Church. The pavement has become very narrow and safety concerns were raised.

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

**1833** Councillor Mrs F Beatty provided an update on the progress of planned developments for Stafford Town. A growth and infrastructure bid has been submitted to develop the area around Stafford Train Station which will tie in with the plans Network Rail have to expand Stafford Station. Plans to develop the Northern end of Stafford Town are also progressing but issues with empty buildings remain, largely due to ownership by offshore companies. Flat and living space conversions are underway for 140 apartments which it is hoped will encourage a more vibrant evening economy.

**1834** The development of Stone Leisure Centre is on track for completion at the beginning of 2019.

**1835** Work to address issues of homelessness and rough sleeping over the Christmas period succeeded in providing most with either b&b or other temporary accommodation.

**1836** The university development is up and running and has a full year 1 intake. Qualifications will be accredited by either Stoke or Wolverhampton Universities. Wolverhampton University has expressed an interest in working more in Stafford and are currently working with Stafford College regarding access courses.

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

**1837** There was no report from the VHMC as no meeting had taken place.

**1838** Concern was raised regarding problems with access to washroom facilities suffered by the Post Office in the week following New Year. **RESOLVED** Councillor Wray to take back to the VHMC.

**1839** Concern was also raised regarding the size of the room for Parish Council meetings. Due to the number in attendance at PC meetings the small meeting room is not big enough and therefore not suitable. **RESOLVED** Parish Clerk to speak to VHMC.

### **DEVELOPMENTS**

**1840** Planning application reference 17/27718/HOU at 9 Old Road, Weston, Stafford. The Parish Council have no objection to this application.

**1841** Planning application reference 17/27728/HOU at 26 Ferrers Road, Weston, Stafford. The Parish Council have no objection to this application.

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

**1842** The Clerk presented one quote received for the Skate Park signage and requested the decision be deferred to February to enable further quotes to come in. **RESOLVED** – to be agreed at the next meeting.

### **HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY**

**1843** This item was covered by the feedback from County Councillor J Francis in item 1821. There was nothing further to add.

### **DRAINAGE AND GULLY CLEANING**

**1844** This item was covered by the feedback from County Councillor J Francis in item 1822. There was nothing further to add.

## **SALT WORKS LANE**

**1845** This item was covered by the feedback from County Councillor J Francis in item 1823. There was nothing further to add.

## **LOCAL PLAN REVIEW**

**1846** Stafford Borough Council (SBC) are undertaking a review of the Local Plan over the next three years. Stafford has been identified as a growth borough and as such has significant targets for housing development. To date the major part of development has taken place in the town and in Stone, with some developments in villages. It may be that more development in villages is required in the future.

**1847** The PC discussed the SBC Call for Sites consultation including the identification of certain areas within or around the village that could be considered as designated 'Green Space'. Consideration was also given to whether any sites in Weston or Gayton might be appropriate to be considered for future development. **RESOLVED** Clerk to complete a request for the Village Green to be designated 'Green Space' and a strip of land adjacent to the canal. Clerk to also ascertain whether another area of land adjacent to the Salt Works Lane development could be designated as Green Infrastructure.

## **WEBSITE**

**1848** The Clerk provided two quotations for website development and hosting. Both costing around £500. The current website has been reviewed and updated, which include additional security measures. Current hosting and development costs are considerably less than those quoted. **RESOLVED** to continue to develop and improve the existing site with a view to changing in the future if concerns persist. To add an additional £500 to the budget to be available if a new website provider is required.

## **ICE, SNOW AND GRIT BINS**

**1849** Assessment criteria provided by SCC Highways regarding the provision of grit bins is stringent and most roads in Weston do not appear to qualify. **RESOLVED** Clerk to apply for the provision of a Grit Bin at the A518 junction with Green Road.

**1850** The Clerk informed the meeting that SCC run a scheme called Ice Busters which enables teams of local volunteers to take delivery of salt/grit at key times and ensure local roads and footpaths are treated in their area. This delivery of grit is only available to ice busters volunteers, so a number of local people would have to commit to the scheme before this could be looked at further.

## **2018-19 BUDGET SETTING**

**1851** The proposed budget for 2018-19 was proposed by Councillor Hart and Seconded by Councillor Barber. **RESOLVED** following a unanimous vote to submit the annual precept request for a total of £31,104.00 for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

## **CLERK REPORT**

**1852.RESOLVED** that the PC approve the below payments listed on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.

- Ground Maintenance Contract - £667.20
- Admin and Clerk expenses - £94.75
- 34SP Website Hosting Fee - £71.40

**1853 RESOLVED** that the PC approve the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments

**1854** The quarterly budget statement was noted.

**1855** The Clerk informed that meeting that the recent bid for Lottery funding for the Bus Shelter was unsuccessful. The Clerk will continue to consider alternative funding schemes.

**1856** The Clerk informed the meeting that Google are unable to allocate a UK server to individual web based mail boxes (e.g. gmail addresses). Therefore when the General Data Protection Regulations come into force in May 2018, alternative email providers who can guarantee information is held on a UK based server will be required.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**1857** Stafford Borough Council are looking for volunteers who may be interested in becoming Community Connectors, people who will engage with isolated older adults, keep up to date with what is available in their local communities and signpost people to services and support groups. Anyone interested in becoming involved should contact Richard Upton on 01785 619675 or email [rupton@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:rupton@staffordbc.gov.uk) Clerk to forward details for inclusion in Compass.

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

**1858** Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 7:30pm in Weston Village Hall

**JAN GRIFFITHS  
VICE CHAIR**