

WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 13th February 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 Tams, Councillor C Gilberts, Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston.

1 member of the public

APOLOGIES: Councillor C Critchlow (Chairman), Councillor D Leake, Councillor A Hopkin, Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs F Beatty

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 9 JANUARY 2018 - MINUTES

1859 RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 9 January 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hart and Wray.

CASUAL VACANCY

1860 Councillor Tams resigned as Parish Councillor for Weston, as he will shortly be moving away from the village. The PC extended their thanks to Councillor Tams for his work during his time on the council with particular focus on the establishment and successful delivery of the Community Speedwatch programme.

1861 The resignation will now be formally reported to Stafford Borough Council and the vacant post advertised on both PC noticeboards and on the website at www.westonstaffs.org.uk.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1862. There were no declarations of interest.

PARISH PLAN AND UPDATE ON ACTION LIST

1863. Action 2.1 Community Speedwatch – The provision of fixed signage is awaiting scheduling from Staffordshire County Council Highways and should be installed shortly. One of the Community Speedwatch volunteers has agreed to take over as the lead for the Community Speedwatch programme and it is hoped more volunteers could be recruited. Councillor Tams requested that the PC continue to campaign for a reduction of the speed limit on the A51 to 30mph.

1864. A full copy of the action plan, with progress updates, is available from the Parish Clerk. Please email parishclerk@westonstaffs.org.uk

1865 Planning for the five-year review of the Parish Plan was discussed, with a view to amending the questionnaire to reflect the additional concerns resulting from the reduction in government funding for local services such as Highways, Street Cleansing and Rights of Way. **RESOLVED** Clerk to send copy of the original questionnaire to all Councillors. Councillors to consider which questions to include in the new questionnaire for detailed discussion at the April meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

1866. The annual subscription to Staffordshire Playing Fields Association was considered. It was agreed not to subscribe for the coming year.

1867 SLCC Branch Meeting Thursday 16th March 2018. **RESOLVED** Clerk to attend.

1868 Mazars Limited Assurance Audit Briefing Tuesday 27 March 2018. **RESOLVED** Clerk to attend.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1869 A member of the public provided feedback that the vegetation has been cut back along pavement on

the A518 by St Andrew's Church, and extended their thanks to Councillor Hopkin for the swift action taken.

REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

1870 Councillor J Francis was not in attendance to provide a report.

REPORT FROM STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

1871 Councillor Mrs F Beatty was not in attendance to provide a report.

REPORT FROM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

1872 The Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) have had a few issues with someone turning off the hand dryer in the toilets by the master switch and turning the lights from the energy saving setting to permanently on. This has caused concern particularly with the hand dryer which has subsequently been reported as being broken. The VHMC hoping this will not continue, however if it does alternative methods for isolating the switch may have to be explored. There are some issues with the clocks on the heating system. These will be replaced shortly.

DEVELOPMENTS

1873 There were no planning applications for consideration.

TREES AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

1874 The Clerk provided the meeting with three quotes for signage for the skate park. **RESOLVED** by unanimous agreement to contract Signs 2000 to undertake the production and supply of the signs.

HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

1875 The condition of the footpath and rights of way network in Gayton is an area of local concern. It was agreed to include this issue on the Agenda of the Gayton APM in March, with a view to explaining the increasing pressures in relation to funding and maintenance and ask if residents would consider an increase in the precept to address these concerns in the future.

1876 The standing water and increasing pothole problem in Gayton lane is causing damage to vehicles and encouraging drivers to swerve into the centre of the road on the bend to miss them, thus increasing the risk of an accident. Whilst the potholes have been formally reported via the usual channels, the repairs do not last, and a long-term solution is required. **RESOLVED** a letter to be sent to Councillor Francis requesting further consideration and a more sustainable solution.

1877 Concerns were raised regarding the condition of the pavement in Ferrers road, the tarmac is in a poor condition and in urgent need of repair. The footpath would also benefit from the introduction of a drop kerb to enable easier access particularly to wheelchair users and those on mobility scooters.

TREE FELLING

1878 Some Gayton residents have expressed concern regarding the felling of two trees. The Clerk has confirmed neither of the trees were subject to a tree preservation order. **RESOLVED** to approve the £6 approx. cost of a land registry search to determine the ownership of the land. Councillor Gilbert to take this forward.

DOG FOULING AND LITTER

1879 Following concerns of dog fouling in Gayton signs and leaflets have been distributed.

1880 Concerns have been expressed regarding the amount of litter in Weston. **RESOLVED** Clerk to speak to Stafford Borough Council and express the need for urgent road sweeping.

BUS STOPS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

1881 Concerns have been raised regarding the distance walked by some elderly and less able residents to the bus stop on the A518, and a request that the PC explore the possibility of a bus stop in the centre of the village. **RESOLVED** Councillor Hart to speak with D&G Bus Services, and feedback.

GAYTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1882 The format of the Gayton APM was discussed with the suggestion of a change in format for this year with a section covering an issue of interest or concern for the Parish. **RESOLVED** To amend the format of the Gayton APM to include a presentation on Rights of Way and potentially other Highways issues. Clerk to draft. **RESOLVED** Councillor Gilbert to provide the Clerk with an invite list and new text for the invite. **RESOLVED** to change the format of the Weston APM to a similar format.

CLERK REPORT

1883 RESOLVED that the PC approve the below payments listed on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.

- Ground Maintenance Contract - £559.20
- Admin and Clerk expenses - £45.25
- Land Searches – Village Green - £98.36
- SBC Civic Amenity Visit - £90
- SPCA Audit Training and Local Councillor Training Courses - £40

1884 RESOLVED that the PC approve the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments

1885 The Clerk had circulated a new draft policy for internal controls. **RESOLVED** by unanimous agreement to adopt the policy for Weston with Gayton Parish Council and to review annually.

1886 The appointment of an Internal Auditor for the 2017/18-year end accounts was discussed. **RESOLVED** by unanimous agreement to appoint Christine Heelis as Internal Auditor.

1887 Civic Amenity dates for the forthcoming year were discussed. **RESOLVED** Clerk to request two visits for Weston in June 2018 and January 2019, and one for Gayton in July 2018.

CORRESPONDENCE

1888 A booklet has been received from the Canal and River Trust.

1889 A letter has been received from a local resident regarding future potential planning developments. The letter requests that the PC consider the need for suitable accommodation for elderly residents wishing to remain living within the village, when considering planning applications for major developments. The PC will keep the letter on file and refer back should a major development be put forward for Weston or the surrounding area. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to respond

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

1890 Gayton Annual Parish Meeting, Tuesday 13th March 2018 at 7pm in Gayton Village Hall, followed by the Parish Council Meeting at 7:30pm in Gayton Village Hall.

**JAN GRIFFITHS
VICE CHAIR**