

WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Gayton Annual Parish Meeting held in Gayton Village Hall on Tuesday 13th March 2018 at 7pm.

1. Welcome

The Chairman of the Parish Council Councillor C Critchlow welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Present

Councillor C Critchlow (Chairman), Councillor Mrs. H Hart, Councillor C Gilbert, Councillor Mrs G Wray, Councillor K Barber, Councillor A Hopkin, Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston.

6 Members of the public

3. Apologies: Councillor J Griffiths, Councillor D Leake, Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs F Beatty, Staffordshire County Councillor J Francis.

4. Minutes

That the minutes of the Gayton Annual Parish Council meeting of 14th March 2017 were approved and signed by the Chair of the Parish Council as proposed and seconded by Councillor Mrs H Hart and Councillor K Barber.

5. Matters Arising from the minutes of 14th March 2017

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6. Footpaths, Rights of Way and Highways

The Parish Clerk presented some information regarding the current funding pressures facing Staffordshire County Council and the reduction in available funding for future maintenance to the local footpaths and rights of way network. Staffordshire County Council are keen to encourage volunteers to take on basic maintenance roles to enable the upkeep of the rights of way network and will be producing some guidance in the near future. Parish Councils are also being encouraged to work closely with local land owners to assist with basic maintenance. A full copy of the presentation can be obtained by emailing the Parish Clerk at parishclerk@westonstaffs.org.uk

Councillor Gilbert provided an overview of ongoing work with Staffordshire County Council Highways to address the issues of potholes and flooding on Gayton Lane. Work is currently underway by SCC Highways to identify all the drains in Gayton and assess their condition. It is hoped those that are blocked or damaged will then be scheduled for repair. The pothole problem will continue to reoccur until the flooding is and drainage issues are dealt with.

Councillor Gilbert emphasised the issues and concerns for the future sustainability of our roads and rights of way network given the on going reductions in funding for SCC and asked if the Gayton residents in attendance would support a small increase of a few pounds per year in the Parish Council precept to enable the Parish Council to undertake more of the general upkeep and routine maintenance. The response from those present was very much in favour. This will be considered by the Parish Council for the financial year 2019-2020 and further information will be provided to Gayton residents prior to any final decision.

7. Report of the Parish Council

Councillor Gilbert gave an overview of Parish Council activity over the past 12 months including:

- 7.1 The Parish Council has seen one local councillor step down over the past year resulting in one vacancy in the Parish of Weston. The vacancy is advertised on noticeboards and the website. The Parish Council would like to encourage applications from both Weston and Gayton residents.
 - 7.2 Work has continued towards the delivery of the Parish Plan and the Parish Council have established the Community Speedwatch programme, with the support of volunteers from both Weston and Gayton.
 - 7.3 The Parish Council continues to represent the views of villagers regarding possible improvements to Cherry Lane
 - 7.4 Work is ongoing with both the Borough and County Councils on a range of issues from the speed of traffic and highway maintenance, to blocked drains and dog fouling. This continual dialogue and liaison with key officers at both Councils accounts for a significant proportion of the work of the Parish Council and ensures issues of concern in both Weston and Gayton are addressed as swiftly as possible.
 - 7.5 Civic Amenity Visits have been requested for the forth coming year and details will be displayed on the Notice Board and on the Website, once available.
 - 7.6 The Parish Council has provided the grass cutting at Gayton Village Hall and at the Church.
8. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**
Tuesday 12th March 2019 in Gayton Village Hall at 7.00pm

**COUNCILLOR COLIN CRITCHLOW
CHAIRMAN**