

MINUTES OF THE WESTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN WESTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 8th MAY 2018 AT 7PM

Present:

Councillor Colin Critchlow (Chairman), Councillor J Griffiths (Vice Chair), Councillor A Hopkin, Councillor D Icke, Councillor C Gilbert, Councillor Mrs H Hart, Councillor Mrs G Wray, Councillor K Barber, Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs F Beatty.

Mrs A Kingston, Parish Clerk

4 members of the public

Apologies: Apologies were received from Stafford County Councillor J Francis, the Headmaster of St. Andrew's Primary School, Ian Knott, Neil Jennings, Lisa Goring, Mike Davies, Irene Winter, Bill Perrett and Eileen Barber.

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the Weston Annual Parish Meeting held at 7pm on the 9th May 2017 be confirmed as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hopkins and Barber.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Footpaths, Rights of Way and Highways

The Parish Clerk provided an overview of the issues and pressures affecting the rights of way network in Staffordshire. Funding for footpath maintenance, upkeep and repair will be allocated on a priority basis. Most footpaths and rights of way in Weston are low priority and as such minor work to keep vegetation cut back or make simple repairs may need to be undertaken by volunteers. Alternatively, the Parish Council could, in the future, consider providing some contract maintenance if parishioners were happy with an increase in the annual precept to cover costs. A full copy of the report can be obtained from the parish clerk at parishclerk@westonstaffs.org.uk

Report of the Parish Council

The Parish Clerk presented the annual report covering the key activities and achievements of Weston with Gayton Parish Council during 2017/18. In addition to the usual running of the council, monthly meetings (for 11 months of the year) and attendance on other local groups, the council has;

- Continued to work towards the delivery of the Parish Plan, including the establishment of the Community Speedwatch programme, with the support of volunteers from both Weston and Gayton.
- Worked with both the Borough and County Councils to address a range of issues including the speed of traffic and highway maintenance; blocked drains and gullies (including the recently completed repairs to the drain on the A518) 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.
- Arranged Civic Amenity Visits for the coming year, the details of which are displayed on Notice Boards and on the Website at www.westonstaffs.org.uk

- Repaired a section of footpath along the edge of the village green.
- Purchased and installed new signage at the Skate Park at the rear of the Village Hall.
- Continued the Weston Dog Poo initiative and became part of the Stafford Borough Council anti-litter campaign.
- Applied and were successful in having the Woolpack Public House listed as an asset of community value.
- Applied to Stafford Borough Council to have the Village Green designated as 'Green Space'.

The Parish Council have also seen one Councillor step down over the past year and were pleased to welcome Councillor Icke onto the Parish Council.

Report of Stafford Borough Council

Councillor Francis Beatty provided a detailed report of the work of the Borough Council over the past 12 months, including the transfer of leisure services to an arms-length trust and the change of contractor for refuse and collection services to Veolia. The report covered the work of the Borough Council to support the homeless and rough sleepers over the winter period, details of planned major developments including the northern end of town, Eastgate Street and the transformational opportunities presented by HS2 for major development of the land on the far side of Stafford Station. The full report can be obtained by contacting the parish clerk at parishclerk@westonstaffs.org.uk

Public Participation

Following the presentation on Rights of Way, a member of the public asked if it would be possible to have a map displayed on village noticeboards detailing the local rights of way in Weston. The Clerk will make some enquiries.

A member of the public also wanted to thank the angling club for doing a great job with the stretch of footpath they voluntarily maintain.

Concerns were expressed regarding the safety of the footpath at the back of the church where there is currently a Bull in the field.

An update was provided by St. Andrew's Primary School, to say that they have received an outcome of 'good' following a recent inspection by the diocese. The SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) report said many positive things including that *Pupils' excellent behaviour and caring relationships spring from the core Christian values. As a result, the school is a happy place to learn and work where pupils are encouraged and nurtured.*

The School currently have vacancies for School Governors and would welcome applications from Parents or other members of the community who have an interest in the school. Details have been provided in the latest edition of the school newsletter and anyone interested in learning more should contact the school office.

The Thursday badminton club is now at full capacity with 13 members.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 14th May 2019, 7pm in Weston Village Hall

**COLIN CRITCHLOW
CHAIRMAN**