

WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 11th September 2018 in Weston Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT:, Councillor C Critchlow (Chairman), Councillor J Griffiths (Vice Chairman), Councillor K Barber, Councillor A Hopkin, Councillor Mrs H Hart, Councillor Mrs G Wray, Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston
1 member of the public

APOLOGIES: Councillor C Gilbert, Councillor D Leake, Councillor D Icke, Staffordshire County Councillor J Francis

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 10th JULY 2018 - MINUTES

2050.RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 10th July 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hart and Barber.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2051.There were no declarations of interest.

PARISH PLAN

2052.62 completed questionnaires have been received. The closing date stated on the form is the 16th September. Over 500 questionnaires were delivered with the Compass Magazine to households in Weston and Gayton. The Parish Council would like to encourage anyone who has not yet done so, to make their views known by completing and returning the surveys as soon as possible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

2053.SPCA are offering two training courses on VAT and Budgets, Precepts and Annual Returns. The Clerk will make enquiries with regard to the VAT course to determine suitability of content.

2054.The Community Council of Staffordshire has now closed. The Village Hall Advisory Service will now be provided by Support Staffordshire.

2055.Stafford and Rural Homes AGM will be held on the 20th September.

2056.The M6 Motorway will be closed in both directions between J14 and J15 on the 22nd September. It is hoped the road will reopen at some point on the 23rd September.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2057. A member of the public noted the welcome reduction in the speed of traffic on the A518 when the Police Speed Van was parked outside St. Andrew's Church. The presence of the Community Speedwatch team is noted to have a similar impact.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

2058.Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis was not in attendance to provide a report.

REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

2059. Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs F Beatty was not in attendance to provide a report but had provided some correspondence regarding a report of smoke and fumes experienced by residents in the Saltworks lane area, believed to be originating from CLM Manufacturing. The Chairman will visit CLM within the next week to discuss the issue.

REPORT FROM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

2060. Quotes are being obtained to move the door in the bar area that leads towards the changing rooms further along the corridor to enable ease of access to the toilet from the bar area and to refurbish the toilets and add baby changing facilities. A suggestion was made that if some extra room could be taken from one of the adjacent rooms, it may be possible to get a grant to redesign the toilets to enable disabled access. The fire doors will also be replaced to enable direct access from the outside of the building. This will provide a self contained room that can be used during the day without any impact on Wombats play group.

2061. The Beer Festival will be held on Saturday the 15th September. Flyers have been distributed throughout the area.

DEVELOPMENTS

2062. 18/29091/PAR Prior Approval - Change of use of agricultural buildings to three dwelling houses at Lower Hartley Green Farm Barns Hartley Green Loop Road Gayton Stafford Staffordshire ST18 0HJ. The following two concerns will be fed back to Stafford Borough Council Planning Department

- The only access to what will be four properties appears to be an unmade narrow farm drive
- The land around the farm floods often. Three additional septic tank systems will add to this problem. There is already a significant issue with flooding and drainage in Gayton.

TREES AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

2063. Quotes were considered to remove the cherry tree on the Village Green which is in a state of decline and a horse chestnut tree near the Woolpack public house, which has been diagnosed with bleeding canker rot. A number of companies had been asked to quote with two quotes received for the removal of the trees and two for removal of the stumps. Stafford Borough Council (SBC) had been contacted for the opinion of their Tree Officer, but no response had been received. **RESOLVED** Clerk to follow up contact with SBC for a quote and to gauge their opinion on the impact of bleeding canker rot, and whether or not the horse chestnut tree requires removal. Including ascertaining the risk of the spread of infection to other horse chestnut trees on the green.

2064. A welder will be coming to fix the chute on the slide shortly. Formal costings have yet to be obtained but costs are expected to be minimal, and easily met within the allocated repair and maintenance budget.

HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

2065. The Chairman and Clerk met with a member of SCC Highways to walk the footpath along the A51 to discuss the condition of the path and options for path clearance or repair. It was confirmed that no funding or support to improve the condition of the path would be available from SCC Highways, but the Parish Council could look for volunteers to form a working party to clear the path. Any debris could be left under the hedge, negating the need for any waste disposal. **RESOLVED** to advertise for volunteers to join a work party to be held on Saturday 29th September between 10.30 and 12.30 and 1pm and 2pm. Anyone who able to spare some time in either the morning or afternoon session should contact the Parish Clerk at parishclerk@westonstaffs.org.uk. High Viz jackets will be provided but volunteers will need to bring their own spades. A few brushes will also be required.

2066 The issue of a crossing point on the A51 was also discussed. SCC Highways confirmed that no funding can be made available from SCC for work of this nature. They would be willing to carry out a formal assessment to determine the viability of a crossing point on the A51 near the end of Green Road, but there would be a cost of £2000 to complete the assessment. If the assessment proved the location was viable there would then be a further cost of between £25,000 and £70,000 purchase and install the crossing. It was agreed to take no further action.

FLAGPOLE

2067. Quotes for a replacement flagpole were considered. **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to contract Harrisons to provide the new flagpole. This was not the cheapest quote, but much consideration was

given to both quality and length of guarantee. Clerk to confirm the order. Installation is hoped to take place prior to Remembrance Sunday.

2068. Consideration was also given to installation; which Harrisons have quoted at £385. It was felt the PC would be able to arrange installation to the manufacturer's specification locally for considerably less. The Chairman will take this forward.

WESTON VILLAGE HALL

2069. It was agreed that a meeting is required between the PC and VHMC to define clear responsibilities in relation to assets on Village Hall land such as the MUGA and Skate Park. Councillor Wray to take this back to the VHMC and agree a date in early October.

FOOTBALL

2070. Concerns were raised at the end of last season regarding the use of offensive language and cars parking on the village green. Clerk to write to the football club to ask they re-emphasise the importance of ensuring only inoffensive language is used by players and supporters at all times. Also to ensure supporters are considerate when parking, do not park on the village green and use the village hall car park if at all possible.

HEDGE CUTTING

2071. It was noted that several hedges in the area have become overgrown, with some causing an obstruction to footpaths and rights of way. **RESOLVED** Councillor Barber to provide the Clerk with a list of properties requiring a formal letter from the PC requesting their hedges are cut back to the boundary of their property.

CLERK REPORT

2072. RESOLVED that the PC approve payments listed below and included on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.

- Ground Maintenance work for July and August including Dog Bin Maintenance - £1101.90
- Mazars External Audit Fee - £240
- Admin and Clerk Expenses – £47.85
- 34SP Domain Name Renewal - £67.50
- Civic Amenity Visits 2018/19 x 3 – 285.00

2073. RESOLVED that the PC approve the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments

2074. Revision of the draft Standing Orders was deferred to the October meeting.

2075. REOLVED – The proposed amendments to section 11.1 a (v) and b, f, g and h of the WGPC Financial Regulations were approved by unanimous vote.

2076 The Clerk informed the meeting that the external audit of accounts had been completed by Mazars and no comments or recommendations were raised.

2078. The Clerk provided feedback on the SLCC Staffordshire Branch meeting held earlier in the day in Weston.

CORRESPONDENCE

2079. An invitation from the Mayors Office at Stafford Borough Council had been received to attend the Remembrance Day Service and Parade to begin at the Civic Centre.

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

2080. Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 9th October at 7:30pm in Weston Village Hall.

COLIN CRITCHLOW
CHAIRMAN