

# WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 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 G Wray, Councillor C Gilbert, Councillor D Leake, Councillor D Icke, Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs F Beatty, Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston  
3 member of the public

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Mrs H Hart, Staffordshire County Councillor J Francis

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 - MINUTES**

**2081.RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Wray and Hopkin.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**2082.**There were no declarations of interest.

## **REPORT FROM STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR (Moved forwards from Item 7 on the Agenda)**

**2083.** Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs F Beatty provided an update on key developments in the City Centre. The new Cinema will open in November and the take up in shops within the city centre is increasing. This will improve shopping in the north end of town where premises have been vacant for some. The new development at the Westbridge Park Leisure Centre in Stone is due to open in February 2019. The financial position of Stafford Borough Council (SBC) is sound and looks good for the next twelve months to two years.

**2086.**Concerns were raised regarding the condition of blocked gullies and drains. Councillor Beatty agreed to feed back the PC's concerns to Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis.

**2087.**Councillor Beatty discussed concerns raised at the previous meeting regarding the fumes reported from CLM Manufacturing. Two members of the public in attendance reported the issue to SBC Environmental Health. Councillor Beatty informed the meeting that when Environmental Health officers had attended the premises for testing they had passed the required standards. The residents did not feel testing had been undertaken at a time when fumes were present. Councillor Critchlow asked residents to notify him when fumes were being produced. **RESOLVED** The PC to invite Robert Simpson Principal Environmental Health Officer at SBC to a meeting with the PC and residents to discuss the issue further.

## **PARISH PLAN**

**2088.**A total of 105 completed questionnaires were received. Cllr Leake will create a database to aid with the inputting of data.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES**

**2089.**None

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**2090.** A member of the public offered thanks to the Parish Council and all residents involved in the path clearance on the A51.

## **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

**2091.**Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis was not in attendance to provide a report.

## **REPORT FROM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VHMC) REPRESENTATIVE**

**2092.** The PC were invited to attend a pre-meeting with the VHMC prior to their next meeting to discuss issues relating to the Village Hall.

**2093.** The Beer Festival made a small loss. It was well supported in the daytime but very quiet in the evening.

**2094.** The rubbish outside of the Village Hall will be collected on Thursday.

## **DEVELOPMENTS**

**2095.** None

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

**2096.** Quotes were considered to remove three trees on the Village Green. A cherry tree and a crab apple, both of which are almost dead and a diseased Ash Tree adjacent to the Woolpack Public House. The Horse Chestnut near the Woolpack with bleeding canker rot will be reduced. Four quotes were considered, two which covered all the necessary work including stump grinding and disposal, and two that were considered as a package, one for tree removal and disposal and one for stump grinding. **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to award the tree removal to JBPM at a total cost of £665 and contract Stump and Grind to remove the three tree stumps at an additional cost of no more than £350.

**2097.** Repairs to the slide are complete. There was no charge to the Parish Council.

**2098.** The reports of dog mess on the Village Green are increasing and recently included one left by the Children's play area. It was agreed that the monthly Compass magazine article include a paragraph to state that should the problem persist dogs will be required to be kept on a lead at all times when using the Village Green.

## **HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY**

**2099.** The drains along Vicarage Bank to Waddens Lane in Gayton are blocked and there is concern this will lead to standing water should there be heavy rainfall. **RESOLVED** Clerk to report to SCC Highways. It was suggested local residents be asked to clean gullies in front of their properties to help prevent flooding.

**2100.** An option of the PC, possibly in conjunction with neighbouring PC's, booking a road sweeper or gully emptier was explored. The Clerk will obtain costings to be discussed at a future meeting.

**2101.** Thanks were extended to all the volunteers who gave up their time on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September to clear the footpath on the A51 and to the volunteers from the Methodist Church who came along to provide coffee and biscuits. The PC hope to arrange another working party after Christmas. The overgrown Hedge on the A51 by the traffic lights would prevent any path clearance work extending to the A518. **RESOLVED** Clerk to ascertain ownership and contact the owner to request the hedge is cut back to the boundary of the property.

**2102.** Concern was raised regarding the overgrown hedge on Green Road. **RESOLVED** Clerk to write to the resident to request it is cut back to the boundary of their property.

## **FLAGPOLE**

**2103.** The new flagpole has arrived. Installation is in the process of being scheduled but the PC will ensure a flagpole is operational for Remembrance Sunday. The installation will therefore either be complete prior to Remembrance or put on hold until after the service.

## **CHRISTMAS PLANS**

**2104.** The provision of lights for the Christmas tree were considered. Domestic lights are not durable and do not last more than a year so two options were considered. To buy domestic lights and replace each year, which will involve an annual cost for the lights and hire of the cherry picker or buy commercial lights which should last 3 to 5 years and can be left up – these would be installed professionally as part of the

Stafford Borough Council Christmas lights installation. The quote for the commercial lights are approximately £800+VAT with professional installation a further £300+VAT. **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to purchase commercial lights and professional installation.

### **REMEMBRANCE DAY**

**2105.** Councillor Leake will be involved in conducting the service at the war memorial. This will be a longer service than usual to mark the 100 year anniversary of the First War. It is hoped young people will be involved in reading the roll of honour. The Parish Council will liaise with the Woolpack PH regarding arrangements for the day. Church bells across the country will ring at 7pm on the day, this includes St. Andrew's Church. **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to approve a total spend on refreshments of £100 plus approximately £20 for the purchase of the wreath.

### **CLERK REPORT**

**2106. RESOLVED** that the PC approve payments listed below and included on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.

- Ground Maintenance work for September including Dog Bin Maintenance - £1793.8
- SPCA Local Councillor Training - £20
- Admin and Clerk Expenses – £111.08

**2107. RESOLVED** that the PC approve the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments

**2108.** The quarterly budget statement was received and noted.

**2109.** The first draft of the 2019/20 budget was circulated for discussion. £200 will be added to the Gayton budget for footpath maintenance as discussed and agreed at the Gayton Annual Parish Meeting in March. A new budget heading for Highway repairs will be added.

**2110.** Revision of the draft Standing Orders was deferred to the November meeting. The Parish Council will meet informally at 7pm prior to the November meeting to discuss the detail of the Standing Orders, with any formal decision making to take place later in the public meeting.

**2111** The Clerk provided feedback from the recent Parish Forum. Key information included the establishment of the Community Connectors scheme to support older members in the community and help address issues of isolation and loneliness, Stafford Borough Council anti-litter campaign and preparation for the forth coming Elections in May 2019.

**2112.** The Clerk informed the meeting that an application had been submitted to the Staffordshire Safer Roads Grant fund to provide Gateway signage on entry to Weston. The Clerk will feedback to the next meeting if the application was successful.

**2113.** The Clerk requested a week annual leave in November and two in December. This was approved.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**2114.** Information had been received from the Royal Mail regarding scam mail. The Clerk will display the warning posters on the noticeboards.

**2115.** An email was received regarding land at the bottom of the embankment between the A518 and the A51. It is believed the email is referring to land owned by the Ann Shaw Trust. A tree and memorial plaque to the late John Burke have become overgrown with vegetation and the email requested the PC take more care of the Oak tree and perhaps place the plaque in a more prominent position. Councillor Hopkin to follow up with the Ann Shaw Trust.

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

**2116.** Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30pm in Weston Village Hall.

**COLIN CRITCHLOW**  
**CHAIRMAN**