

WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 13th November 2018 in Weston Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor J Griffiths (Vice Chairman and Chair of the meeting), Councillor Mrs H Hart, Councillor A Hopkin, Councillor Mrs G Wray, Councillor C Gilbert, Councillor D Icke, Staffordshire County Councillor J Francis, Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston
3 members of the public

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 9th OCTOBER 2018 - MINUTES

2117. RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 9th October 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Gilbert and Hopkin.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2118. There were no declarations of interest.

PARISH PLAN

2119. The database to collate the results of the parish survey is nearing completion. Initial findings will be presented to the PC in the new year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

2120. The SPCA Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 3rd December 2018 at 7pm. The clerk made copies of the Annual Report and Accounts available to members of the PC.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2121. A member of the public thanked the PC for clearing an overgrown stretch of footpath on the A518.

2122. A query was raised regarding a discussion at the previous meeting which included a suggestion that dogs could be banned from the village green. The agreement of the council was that in the first instance all dogs be kept on a lead, as detailed in the minutes of the 9th October 2018 paragraph 2098.

2123. Two members of the public raised concerns regarding HS2 and the proposed route for construction traffic along the A518. Concerns were raised that a significant increase in HGV traffic along the A518 would cause notable disruption to Weston residents. The A518 is a narrow stretch of road with a narrow pavement.

2124. Councillors were asked if representation had been made to HS2 regarding the proposed development by the PC. The PC confirmed representation had been made and provided documentation detailing the current HS2 plans.

HS2 (moved at the agreement of the Chairman from item 11 on the Agenda)

2125. A lengthy discussion was held regarding HS2 and the current proposals. **RESOLVED** The PC to write to HS2 asking for a response to seven questions posed by the members of the public in attendance. The PC to determine whether Green Road could be made an access only/no through road considering the expected increase in traffic along the A518 and A51. **RESOLVED** any further key information relating to HS2 to be added to PC website at www.westonstaffs.org.uk

2126. The Clerk informed the meeting that HS2 Ltd. are intending to deposit an Additional Provision (amendment to the hybrid Bill) to Parliament in January. This will be a substantial document containing a range of changes to the scheme. It may be useful for Councillors to read up on the petitioning process in advance: <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/high-speed-rail-west-midlands-crewe-bill-select-committee-commons/petitioning->

REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

2127. Staffordshire County Councillor J Francis provided an overview of the position of Staffordshire County Council (SCC) in relation to HS2 including confirmation that the preferred route would not include the A518 through Weston.

2128. Councillor Francis informed the PC that other local Parish Councils are looking to establish a joint working group to collectively address Highways concerns. An email will be forthcoming.

REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

2129. Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs F Beatty was not in attendance to provide a report.

REPORT FROM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VHMC) REPRESENTATIVE

2130. The VHMC have invited regular users of the village hall to their next committee meeting. Work to the heating system is complete and new thermostats have been installed. The joint meeting with the PC will be rescheduled to early in the New Year.

2131. The VHMC are keen to attract more volunteers to join the committee.

DEVELOPMENTS

2132. None

TREES AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

2133. The latest independent Playground Inspection Report dated 22nd October 2018 was received and noted.

HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

2134. SCC Highways have reviewed their gully cleaning strategy and based on evidence of accumulated silt levels over the past few years, are to introduce a three-tier approach to gully cleaning. A and B roads will be emptied annually, rural class C and D roads (country lanes) every two years and D class estate roads every three. The clerk has contacted several companies providing gully emptying and road sweeping for approximate costings should the PC wish to contract extra services.

2135. The date for the next path clearance working party will be set at the December meeting.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

2136. The 2018 Service for Remembrance to mark the 100th anniversary of the First War was a lovely service and very well attended. An application for a road closure notice for Green Road and Old Road was submitted by the Parish Clerk prior to the event, to enable the safe gathering of people during the service. The cost for the Road Closure notice was £108.

CLERK REPORT

2137. RESOLVED that the PC approve payments listed below and included on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.

- Ground Maintenance work for October including Dog Bin Maintenance - £2201.75
- Road Closure Order - £108
- Admin and Clerk Expenses – £141.41
- Christmas Tree lights and installation - £1321.80

2138. RESOLVED that the PC approve payments listed below which were tabled at the meeting.

- Two poppy wreaths - £36
- Refreshments for the Remembrance Service - £22.50

2139. RESOLVED that the PC approve the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments

2140. The draft 2019/20 budget was circulated for discussion. It was agreed to budget for a 2% increase in salary costs. An additional £375 will be added to the training budget to enable the Clerk to undertake

CiLCA in the future should it be deemed necessary.

2141. The draft standing orders were discussed, amendments made and approved by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

2142. The Saracens Head Angling Group have made it to the final shortlist for a Community Award for the footpath clearance work. Councillor Gail Wray will attend the Community Awards on behalf of the PC. Councillor Hart will also be in attendance following a nomination by SBC for the campaign to prevent dog fouling, which has also made the final short list.

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

2143. Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 11th December at 7:30pm in Weston Village Hall.

**JAN GRIFFITHS
CHAIRMAN**