

WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillor C Critchlow (Chairman), Councillor Mrs H Hart, Councillor A Hopkin, Councillor Mrs G Wray, Councillor D Icke, Councillor D Leake, Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs F Beatty, Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston

1 member of the public

APOLOGIES: Councillor J Griffiths (Vice Chairman), Councillor C Gilbert, Councillor K Barber, Staffordshire County Councillor J Francis.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 13TH NOVEMBER 2018 - MINUTES

2144.RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 13th November 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hart and Icke.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2145.There were no declarations of interest.

PARISH PLAN

2146. The database to collate the results of the parish survey has been completed, and data inputting will begin in the new year. The Parish Council extended thanks to Pam Leake for the design and production of the database.

The following item was moved forward from Agenda item 7.

REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

2147.Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs F Beatty provided an update and overview of work undertaken by Stafford Borough Council. The Borough Council is in a good financial position and are not planning to cut any front line services. The following key points were covered;

- The Local Plan – housing will be a factor for Weston as a key service village. The PC will be notified of consultation dates.
- A new settlement to house approximately 10,000 people is planned for Norton Bridge
- Building has started on the Weston Access Road from Doxey to Greyfriars.
- Development of the new Leisure Centre in Stone is on track
- Stone currently has 98% retail occupancy

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

2148 SPCA will be running a Local Councillor Training Course on the 15th January 2019.

2149 Stafford Borough Council Carol Service will be held in St. Mary's Church on the 16th December 2018

2150 The Community Speedwatch Engagement Meeting will be held on the 2nd February 2019.

2151 The Staffordshire Branch meeting of the SLCC will be held in Uttoxeter on 13th December 2019.
RESOLVED Clerk to attend.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2152. A member of the public raised two questions regarding trees on the Village Green. Firstly, who monitors the condition of the trees and secondly, are there any plans to replace the trees that have recently been removed.

The PC provided the following response. Issues or concerns with the condition of the trees on the village green are raised with the PC, either by Councillors, members of the public or the Grounds

Maintenance contractor. If the condition of a tree is cause for concern the PC will arrange for it to be assessed by the Tree officer at Stafford Borough Council or a qualified tree surgeon. In the case of the recent removal of several trees on the Village Green, the trees were first assessed by the tree officer at Stafford Borough Council.

The PC will only remove trees where they are informed it is necessary and are committed to replacing those removed where funding permits. The PC have a few semi mature trees in the grounds of St. Andrew's Church that are intended for use as replacements to trees on the green. The PC have also submitted a funding application for a small pot of funding to secure an additional semi mature tree to replace one of those removed. It is not yet known if the application has been successful.

REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

2153. Staffordshire County Councillor J Francis was not in attendance to provide a report.

REPORT FROM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VHMC) REPRESENTATIVE

2154. The last VHMC meeting included regular users of the village hall and was well attended. The new heating system is working well and is timed to come on 30 mins before groups come into the hall and to go off 30 mins before they leave, it is hoped this will be more efficient and reduce heating costs. The bulbs in the outside lights require replacement. It is hoped this will be completed shortly.

2155. The VHMC are keen to attract more volunteers to join the committee.

DEVELOPMENTS

2156. None

TREES AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

2157. The public reaction to the new Christmas lights has been positive. Sadly, after installation but prior to switch on, someone disconnected the strings of lights, which subsequently required re-connecting. It is hoped there will be no further damage caused.

2158. The subject of a Christmas lights switch on event was raised. It was agreed to add to the agenda of the March meeting.

2159. The trees identified as requiring removal have been cleared and the stumps ground. There are four semi mature trees in the Church yard which belong to the PC. Some will be used to replace those removed, when the time is right to replant.

HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

2160. The Clerk has contacted several companies providing gully emptying and road sweeping services for quotes. To date only two have responded and the prices are vary greatly. **RESOLVED** Clerk to pursue further quotes and bring back to a future meeting.

FLAGPOLE

2161. The new flagpole has been installed and is now operational.

BRICK WALL IN OLD ROAD

2162. The condition of a brick wall in old road was discussed. The wall borders the carpark of the Woolpack public house. The condition of the wall will be assessed and any further action will be brought back to a future meeting.

CLERK REPORT

2163. RESOLVED that the PC approve payments listed below and included on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.

- Ground Maintenance work for November including Dog Bin Maintenance - £967.95
- Stump and Grind Stump removal - £355.00
- Admin and Clerk Expenses – £37.83
- JBPM Tree Removal – 665.00
- Flagpole installation costs - £230.00

2164. RESOLVED that the PC approve the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments

2165. The draft 2019/20 budget was circulated for discussion and agreed in principle by all councillors in attendance. **RESOLVED** In light of the absence of three Councillors at the meeting, to defer formal approval to the January meeting.

2166. The Clerk informed the meeting that the previous funding application for circa £3k to provide village gateway signage had been successful. This will be added to the agenda of the January meeting.

2167. The next Civic Amenity visit will be on the 26th January 2019. The refuse wagon will be parked on the village hall car park between 10am and 11am.

2168. The meeting dates for 2019 were discussed. Meetings will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month. Clerk to send schedule of dates to all Councillors including the Stafford County and Stafford Borough Councillors.

CORRESPONDENCE

2169. An email from the Clerk at Brockton Parish Council regarding the possible establishment of a collaboration group was discussed. Clerk to respond to confirm that the PC are interested in working collaboratively with neighbouring parishes.

2170. The Clerk informed the meeting of correspondence regarding the condition of some stiles on footpaths at the boundary of Sandon and Gayton. The Clerk has responded to the email and will also forward the details to Councillor Gilbert.

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

2171. Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 8th January 2019 at 7:30pm in Weston Village Hall.

**COLIN CRITCHLOW
CHAIRMAN**