

WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Gayton Annual Parish Meeting held in Gayton Village Hall on Tuesday 12th March 2019 at 7pm.

1. Welcome

The Chairman of the meeting, Gayton Councillor C Gilbert, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Present

Councillor J Griffiths, Councillor Mrs. H Hart, Councillor C Gilbert, Councillor Mrs. G Wray, Councillor K Barber, Councillor A Hopkin, Councillor K Barber, Councillor D Icke, Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs. F Beatty, Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston.

9 Members of the public

3. Apologies: Councillor C Critchlow

4. Minutes

The minutes of the Gayton Annual Parish Council meeting of 13th March 2018 were approved and signed by the Vice Chair of the Parish Council as proposed and seconded by Councillor C Gilbert and Councillor Mrs H Hart.

5. Matters Arising from the minutes of 13th March 2018

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6. Highways and Rights of Way

Richard Rayson, Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager from Staffordshire County Council attended the meeting to provide an update regarding the pressures facing the maintenance of our local highway network and discuss how parishes can work with the County Council to help maintain local highways and rights of way.

Over the past few years a number of non statutory highway's services have been cut back or removed as funding pressures dictate that Highways services focus on their statutory obligations such as pot holes and road resurfacing. Services such as Lengthsman agreements and Neighbourhood Highways teams are no longer provided and the County Council are increasing looking to Parish Council's and volunteers to pick up the aesthetic routine maintenance such as hedge cutting, clearing out of ditches/gully tops and the cleaning of road signs.

Some concern was raised regarding the flooding in Gayton Lane. This has been reported many times and the road was closed last year while considerable work was undertaken on the drains. However, the road is still flooding badly.

Highways do have some power to deal with local land owners who maybe the cause of the blocked drains from soil run off from fields or from farm vehicle damage to verges.

Concern was raised regarding the footpath by Gayton Brook which is almost impassable as a result of flooding. Any issues or concerns with Highways or footpaths can be reported via the 'My Staffs' app which can be downloaded to any smart phone. The Clerk will also forward details to Richard Rayson.

The speed of traffic entering Gayton from the Fradswell direction was discussed with a view to exploring possible traffic calming measures. County Councillor John Francis has a pot of funding to help address local highways issues/concerns, which may be able to support some highways or rights of way work in Gayton.

7. Report of the Parish Council

Councillor Gilbert gave an overview of Parish Council activity over the past 12 months including:

- 7.1** Conducting a comprehensive consultation exercise to form a new plan for the work of the Parish Council over the next three years. Questionnaires were delivered to every household in the Parish and the results will inform the priority work areas for the Parish Council. The results have now been collated and a report of the findings will be presented at a meeting of the Parish Council in the coming months.
- 7.2** Continuing the Grounds Maintenance contract to provide the grass cutting at Gayton Village Hall and the church.
- 7.3** Working closely with both the Borough and County Councils on a range of issues from the speed of traffic and highway maintenance, to blocked drains 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.
- 7.4** Organising and funding the Civic Amenity/Refuse and Recycling Wagon to come to Cherry Lane on 14th July 2018, and setting the date for the next visit on the 13th July 2019.
- 7.5** Supporting the Community Speedwatch Programme, including obtaining grant funding to provide fixed signage.

Councillor Gilbert also drew attention to The Parish Council annual budget for 2019/20. The budget includes, for the first time, £200 for footpath repairs in Gayton. It also includes a proportion of additional funds for any extra work required relating to our highways and rights of way. The annual precept for Gayton will therefore rise by 12.7% which equates to only an additional £4.81 per band D property for the year. With this extra money it is hoped the Parish Council can make a notable difference to the maintenance of the local rights of way network.

8. Any Other Business

The Community Speedwatch programme made an appeal for volunteers. The Community Speedwatch programme is making a notable difference to the speed of traffic in the area, but with only a few volunteers, the amount of time they can be active is limited. If anyone can spare some time to support the programme, full training will be provided. The time commitment required is relatively small and only in daylight hours. Please contact either Councillor Gilbert or the Parish Clerk by emailing parishclerk@westonstaffs.org.uk

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 10th March 2020 in Gayton Village Hall at 7.00pm

COUNCILLOR C GILBERT