

# WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in Weston Village Hall at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Griffiths (Chair), Councillor Mrs H Hart (Vice Chair), Councillor A Hopkin, Councillor Mrs G Wray, Councillor D Icke, Councillor C Gilbert, Councillor K Barber, Councillor G Church, Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston

7 members of the public

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor D Leake, Staffordshire County Councillor J Francis.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019 - MINUTES

**2368 RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Icke and Church.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**2369** Councillor Hopkin declared an interest in the Development item 2375 below, as a Trustee for the Anne Shaw Trust.

### PARISH PLAN

**2370** The Clerk and Councillor Leake to work on a summary document for agreement at the September meeting. The full results to be made available via the website.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

**2371** Staffordshire Road Safety Grant fund – confirmation funding can be used for the Speed Indicator Device and extension of deadline to 2020.

**2372** Stafford Borough Council Economic Growth Strategy Consultation. Clerk to forward to all Councillors. The deadline for survey responses is 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**2373** A member of the public requested use of the Village Green to hold exercise classes over the school summer holidays.

**2374** Five residents raised concern regarding the planning application on the agenda, relating to outline planning sought for the Ann Shaw Trust land on the corner of Old School Close and the A518. The following key points were made

- The land is well used by children and villagers for recreation
- It contains several mature trees
- It would be detrimental to the village to lose this area of open space
- The land has historically been maintained by the Parish Council
- The area acts as a 'lung' absorbing the traffic pollution/fumes from the A518
- The land contains the John Burke Memorial Tree and Plaque.
- The land was gifted to the village
- Only the properties directly adjacent to the land were notified of the planning application. The residents felt all those in Old School Close should have been notified.
- There are often problems with the drainage/sewerage system servicing the properties in Old School Close.

**With the agreement of the Chair, agenda item 8 'Developments' was taken in advance of agenda item 7.**

## **DEVELOPMENTS**

**2375** 19/30773/OUT at Land between Old School Close and A518, Weston, Staffordshire. **RESOLVED** The clerk to submit the following response.

The PC would like the following points taken into consideration.

1. The loss of local greenspace. This area of land has been used for local recreation by the residents of Old School Close and others, for many years.
2. There are existing issues with sewerage/drainage in the Old School Close area. Is there capacity for the existing system to adequately support an additional property?
3. The greenspace/trees and hedgerows provide a natural barrier between the properties of Old School Close and the busy A518, potentially helping to reduce the impact of air and noise pollution. The Parish Council would welcome the involvement of the Environmental Officer in assessing the implications of this application on health and wildlife.
4. The plans show the driveway exiting onto the road near the bend. The Parish Council feel this may pose a risk to safety.

## **REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

**2376** Staffordshire County Councillor J Francis was not in attendance to provide a report.

## **REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR**

**2377** Councillor Mrs. F Beatty was not in attendance to provide a report.

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

**2378** The VHMC would like to remind the PC that former Parish Councillor Colin Critchlow still holds a set of keys for the Village Hall. Clerk to organise for them to be returned and passed onto the Chairman.

**2379** The PC storeroom at the village hall is for community use. The Angling Group are looking for some storage facilities for the equipment used to maintain the footpath. The Angling group to write a letter to the VHMC to agree access arrangements.

**2380** The VHMC were pleased to accept the request from the PC to work together on a joint event for the switch on of the Christmas lights. A smaller working group will be formed with representatives from the PC and VHMC to take this further. Councillors Hopkin, Hart, Griffiths and Wray agreed to represent the Parish Council.

**2381** The VHMC have drawn up a draft lease. This will be emailed to the Clerk for circulation.

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

**2382** Weston Ground Maintenance will undertake many of the upkeep and maintenance issues raised in the latest playground inspection report over the winter months. The slide is being assessed and it is hoped repairs will be completed shortly.

**2383** The Clerk informed the meeting that Weston Ground Maintenance have raised concern regarding one of the trees on the Village Green that is not thriving. Whilst there are no concerns regarding safety, it may be prudent to remove the tree over the winter months. Weston Ground Maintenance will take this forward. Concern was also raised over a small oak tree on the Village Green that is also not looking good. Clerk to request Weston Ground Maintenance check it over.

## **HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY**

**2384** The Clerk circulated some draft locations for the SID. **RESOLVED** three locations agreed on the A51, A518 and Green Road. Clerk to progress the project and obtain full costings for the installation of the poles and final quotations for equipment.

**2385 RESOLVED** the PC agree to work jointly with the Trent Valley Collaboration Group and where appropriate pool funding for additional work on blocked gullies and drains.

## **GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

**2386** The current three-year grounds maintenance contract comes to an end in March 2020. **RESOLVED** to roll the contract over for an additional year providing costs remain in line with the current year. This will provide time to obtain a more informed picture from Staffordshire County Council Highways as to the level of service to be expected from SCC in the future and the impact any reduction in service may have on the demands for local grounds maintenance.

#### **CLERK REPORT**

**2387 RESOLVED** that the PC approve payments listed below and included on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.

- Ground Maintenance work for May including Dog Bin Maintenance - £1913.80
- Clerk Expenses, admin and office costs- £306.23
- SLCC Annual Subs - £99.73
- SPCA Training Courses - £40
- Information Commissioners Office Registration - £35

**2388 RESOLVED** that the PC approve the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments

**2389** The quarterly position statement was received and noted.

**2390** Natwest can provide internet banking with the necessary dual authorisation arrangements and set a cap on the size of payments but only with Bankline which has a monthly charge of £20 and a fee of 45p per transaction. It was agreed not to take this further at this time.

**2391** The PC considered a draft social media policy circulated in advance of the meeting by the Parish Clerk. **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the policy with one minor amendment. This will be reviewed annually with all other policies at the May meeting.

**2392 RESOLVED** the Clerk to liaise with the Chairman and Vice Chair to arrange an appraisal date.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**2393** Email regarding use of the Village Green (see item 2373 above). **RESOLVED** The PC will call an extra ordinary meeting on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to make a formal decision and agree Terms of Use.

**2394** A letter from DougieMac requesting a donation from the PC. The PC will not be making a donation but will ensure the information is displayed on the notice boards to help raise awareness.

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

**2395** Weston with Gayton Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 7:30pm in Weston Village Hall.

**2396** Weston with Gayton Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 7:30pm in Weston Village Hall.

**JAN GRIFFITHS  
VICE CHAIRMAN**