

# WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in Weston Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs H Hart (Vice Chair and Chair of the meeting), Councillor A Hopkin, Councillor D Icke, Councillor D Leake, Councillor C Gilbert, Councillor G Church, Councillor Mrs G Wray, Councillor K Barber, Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs. F Beatty and Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston

5 members of the public

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor J Griffiths (Chairman)

## PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

**2434 MEETING 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019 – RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hopkin and Gilbert.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**2435** There were no declarations of interest.

## PARISH PLAN

**2436** The summary document circulated prior to the meeting by the Parish Clerk was considered and agreed with some formatting amendments. Clerk to send the final draft to Councillor Hopkin for printing.

**2437** A PC table with feedback will be provided at the Christmas lights switch on event in Weston to enable residents to discuss the results of the questionnaire, ask questions and consider the PC's key areas of work for the coming years. A similar feedback stand will be provided at an event in Gayton.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

**2438** None

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**2439** A resident requested feedback regarding the report of barbed wire on the footpath leading to the brook from St. Andrew's Church. The issue was formally reported by the Parish Clerk directly following the last meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> September. The Clerk has asked for an update on progress but has yet to receive one.

**2440** Concern was raised regarding the condition of footpaths. The SCC maintenance programme for footpaths and bridleways is limited and whilst some key faults affecting the safe use of footpaths are addressed, the use of volunteers and working parties are encouraged to keep vegetation cut back and routes passable. Further information can be found at <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/RightsofWay/Rights-of-Way-Charter.aspx>

**2441** An update was requested regarding the issue of a crossing point on the A51. Whilst no one from Highways could attend this meeting, they had discussed the issue at a meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> October. County Councillor John Francis agreed to fund a feasibility study to consider the reduction of two lanes at the traffic lights to one, thus negating the issue of racing traffic. The Clerk has requested further information regarding the feasibility of a crossing point and up to date costings.

**2442** The path along from the A51 to the traffic lights is significantly overgrown. A previous volunteer working party cleared a long stretch of footpath but not the section leading directly to the traffic lights. This will be the focus for the next working party.

**2243** Flooding in Gayton Lane/Vicarage Bank. Councillor Gilbert informed the meeting that another letter has been sent to the head of Highways and the County Councillor regarding the issue. This is the third letter in five months. Numerous reports have been made via the online reporting system. The PC have been trying to get SCC to repair the drainage system for the past eight years and will continue to work

with SCC to find a solution

**2244** A local resident emailed the clerk in advance of the meeting requesting the inclusion of additional hedge cutting in the new Ground Maintenance contract. The Hedge by Pool Cottage on the A518 is overgrown and obstructing the safe line of vision. It was agreed the Clerk will write to the owners requesting the hedge be cut back to the boundary of the property.

**2245** A question was asked as to whether the new phone mast is operational. Clerk to find out and feed back.

**2246** Concern was raised regarding the fumes from CLM Manufacturing.

Agenda Item 13 was moved to enable discussion directly following the Public Participation section.

#### **FUMES FROM CLM MANUFACTURING**

**2247** The Clerk has forwarded Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs F Beatty a list of dates provided by residents when they have expressed concern regarding the fumes. Councillor Beatty confirmed that she has raised the issue with the relevant Stafford Borough Council Officers for further advice. Previous inspections at the premises did not identify cause for concern. Councillor Beatty asked that she be contacted the next time there is an issue so she can come personally to witness the incident. The Clerk will forward Councillor Beatty's contact details to the resident.

#### **REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

**2448** Staffordshire County Councillor J Francis was not in attendance to provide a report.

#### **REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR**

**2449** Councillor Mrs. F Beatty updated the meeting on the progress of the Local Plan for Stafford Borough and highlighted the importance of the next phase of consultation for key service villages such as Weston. Consultation should begin in the new year.

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

**2450** The Village Hall will install sound absorbent roofing to the main hall to help with soundproofing. The main hall and toilets are to be redecorated shortly.

**2451** A joint meeting will be held between the VHMC and PC on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm.

**2452** New keys are required for the PC storeroom. A locksmith will need to replace the lock as the master key for the existing lock is missing. **RESOLVED** to organise for a lock smith to replace the lock. Total spend agreed as a maximum £200.

#### **DEVELOPMENTS**

**2453** There were no new developments. The decision regarding the planning application 19/30773/OUT at Land between Old School Close and A518, Weston, Staffordshire has been further delayed pending review by the Tree Officer.

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

**2454** Minor repairs will be undertaken to the ground area around the children's play area in the next few weeks. Weedkilling and moss removal will also be undertaken at the MUGA.

**2455** A branch on the Lime Tree in Green Road may need removal. Councillor Hopkin to liaise with Weston Ground Maintenance. If Weston Ground Maintenance are unable to undertake the work as part of the Grounds Maintenance Contract, the Parish Clerk will arrange removal by a tree specialist.

#### **HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY**

**2456** The Clerk provided an update on the status of the installation of the Speed Indicator Device.

**2457** Councillor Gilbert and the Parish Clerk will meet the estate manager at the Sandon Estate on the 8<sup>th</sup> November to address some of the footpath issues on Sandon Estate land.

**2458** Councillor Hopkin and the Parish Clerk met with representatives from the Saracen's Head Public House regarding concerns expressed by residents over access issues to the cottages. The Saracens Head representatives were both helpful and responsive to the concerns. They will ensure the access area in front of the cottages is clearly marked with keep clear road markings before the bonfire night event in November.

#### **GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FROM APRIL 2020**

**2459 RESOLVED** The Ground Maintenance Contract from April 2020 was agreed with a minor amendment. Further work is required confirm boundaries of some private properties to ensure that there are no verges, stretches of grass or hedgerows included that are the responsibility of homeowners. Clerk to draw up a map detailing the areas of the GM contract in Weston.

#### **FLAGPOLE**

**2460 RESOLVED** to purchase a Staffordshire Flag to fly on the flagpole when no other flags are required. Maximum spend £60.

#### **CLERK REPORT**

**2461 RESOLVED** that the PC approve payments listed below and included on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.

- Ground Maintenance work for August including Dog Bin Maintenance - £2229.36
- Clerk Expenses, admin and office costs- £73.84

**2462 RESOLVED** that the PC approve the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments

**2463** The PC received the quarterly financial position statement.

**2464** The PC discussed the draft budget for 2020-21. It was agreed to add an additional £100 towards any required GDPR audit costs. It was also noted the budget line for Ground Maintenance will increase dependent on the quotes received.

**2465** The Clerk provided feedback from the recent Parish Forum and Trent Valley Collaboration Group meeting.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**2466** There was no correspondence to consider.

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

**2467** Weston with Gayton Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 7:30pm in Weston Village Hall.

**HILARY HART  
VICE CHAIRMAN**