

WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 12th November 2019 in Weston Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

4 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Staffordshire County Councillor J. Francis

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

2468 MEETING 8th OCTOBER 2019 – RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 8th October 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hopkin and Leake.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2469 There were no declarations of interest.

PARISH PLAN

2470 The public consultation summary document will be circulated with the next edition of the Compass Magazine. PC members will be available to discuss the findings at Gayton Village Hall on the 20th November and at the Weston Christmas Lights switch on event on the 30th November. Additional copies of the summary will be available to collect at each event.

2471 A working group will be established to review the findings and identify key priority areas to form the work programme for the next five years. These recommendations will be brought back to the PC for formal discussion and approval in February. Clerk to set a date and co-ordinate the working group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

2472 Parish Forum Minutes and presentations are now available. Clerk to circulate to all members.

2473 The next SLCC Branch Meeting will be held on 12th December. **RESOLVED** Clerk to attend

2474 Stafford BC Elections team have delayed the send out of Election expenses following the announcement of the General Election on the 12th December. These will now be sent in January or February next year.

2475 Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation Partnership are running a public consultation, which is open from 21st October to the 29th November 2019. This can be viewed at www.haveyoursaycannockchase.org.uk

2476 CPRE Staffordshire have launched a photography competition with a view to producing a 2021 Calendar depicting Staffordshire's wonderful and diverse countryside. Details can be obtained by emailing protect@cprestaffordshire.org.uk or visit the website at <http://www.cprestaffordshire.org.uk/news/item/2294-photography-competition>

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2477 A resident requested feedback regarding the promised feasibility study into a lane reduction on the A51 at the traffic lights. No feedback has yet been received from Staffordshire County Council. Clerk to follow up. The ballpark figure of £75k for a crossing point on the A51 was confirmed. This could only be considered following a feasibility study which will also have significant cost implications. All funding would have to be raised locally. Clerk to write to Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis to request funding for the feasibility study.

2478 Thanks were expressed to the organisers of the Remembrance Service on Sunday.

2479 Concern was raised regarding barbed wire on the footpath leading from St. Andrew's Church. The original report to SCC Rights of Way in September has been identified as completed and closed. However, no action appears to have been taken. The Clerk has re-reported the issue including several photographs provided by a local resident and requested feedback from SCC Rights of Way.

2480 A resident asked if Weston would consider the lamppost poppies next year. There is a considerable cost implication for the purchase of lamppost poppies. It was suggested they could be sponsored by residents. This will be considered formally by the PC in the next financial year.

REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

2481 Staffordshire County Councillor J Francis was not in attendance to provide a report.

REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

2482 Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs. F Beatty was not in attendance to provide a report.

REPORT FROM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VHMC) REPRESENTATIVE

2483 The Village Hall will install Christmas lights around the building to be turned on at the same time as the Christmas Tree at the switch on event on the 30th November.

2484 The Village Hall website has been updated.

2485 The next joint meeting between the PC and VHMC will be on the 23rd January 2019.

DEVELOPMENTS

2486 There were no new developments. Planning application reference 19/30516/FUL at the orchard, Abbeylands was under review by the Planning Inspectorate who have now dismissed the appeal. The footpath to Green Road must close and the alternative route to Furlong Close be used instead.

2487 The decision regarding planning application 19/30773/OUT at Land between Old School Close and A518 has been further delayed. A decision is now expected on the 28th November 2019.

TREES AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

2488 The latest playground inspection reports by the Play Inspection Company had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk informed the meeting that the information regarding the two issues identified as posing a moderate risk had been reported to the ground maintenance contractor for a safety assessment and repair.

2489 The Clerk will create a work plan for the routine maintenance issues identified as low or very low risk and bring to the December meeting.

HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

2490 The Clerk provided an update on the status of the installation of the Speed Indicator Device. The device is now on order and it is hoped installation will take place over the next few weeks. The total cost of the device is £2578.52 (£2148.77 + VAT). The installation by Amey should cost £950 thus a total cost excluding VAT of £3098.77 – this is within the budget of the road safety grant received.

2491 Councillor Gilbert and the Parish Clerk met the estate manager at the Sandon Estate on the 8th November. Whilst the Estate Manager was clear all legal obligations relating to the use of public footpaths on Sandon Estate land will be met, there will be no additional support to help with the general upkeep and maintenance of the footpath network. It was therefore decided that the PC can take no further action regarding footpath 4 that is being eroded by Gayton Brook. However, the small pot of funding for footpaths in the Gayton budget could be used to replace a stile on footpath Gayton 3. It was also noted that access to Footpath Gayton 7 is blocked by a fence. Clerk to report to SCC Rights of Way.

GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FROM APRIL 2020

2492 The Clerk provided an update on the progress of the Ground Maintenance Contract for April 2020.

Closing date for quotes is the 22nd November, 2019. Several contractors have visited the area so it is hoped there will be a selection of quotes to consider.

FLOODING

- 2493** Photographs showing the extent of the recent flooding in Weston were circulated prior to the meeting. These show the water level at the back of St. Andrew's Church at approximately 6ft above normal. During the peak of high water, representatives from the Canal and Riverside Trust attended the village and opened the canal gate allowing water onto the floodplain. Several properties were flooded prior to the water receding.
- 2494** A discussion was held regarding the culvert near Green Road, which may need clearing soon. Clerk to request a representative from the County Council with responsibility for flooding be asked to attend a PC meeting in the new year with a representative from the Canal and Riverside Trust.
- 2495** Similar concerns were discussed regarding flooding in Gayton and the inaccessibility of the village at times of high water. A significant amount of debris has been left on the roads now the water has receded. Clerk to contact Stafford Borough Council to request road sweeping.
- 2497** Clerk to draft a flood contingency document for the PC using guidance from SCC and other key bodies. To bring back to the PC in the new year.
- 2498** Clerk to report the footbridge on the footpath at the back of St. Andrew's Church as there appears to be some damage following the flooding.

CLERK REPORT

- 2499 RESOLVED** that the PC approve payments listed below and included on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.
- Clerk expenses and admin - £108.85
 - Ground Maintenance work for October including Dog Bin Maintenance - £2217.36
 - Playground Inspection October 2019 - £180
- 2500 RESOLVED** that the PC approve the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments
- 2501** The PC discussed the draft budget for 2020-21. Costings for the new Grounds Maintenance contract are required before final budget lines can be formally agreed.
- 2502** The Clerk to obtain quotes for legal costs to have the Village Hall Lease re-written. PC working group to consider the detail of the VHM proposals for changes to the Lease agreement on 7th January at 7pm. Key points for consideration and recommendations to be brought back to the PC for formal decision at PC meeting on the 14th January 2020.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 2503** There was no correspondence to consider.

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

- 2504** Weston with Gayton Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 10th December, 7:30pm in Weston Village Hall.

**JAN GRIFFITHS
CHAIRMAN**