

# WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in Weston Village Hall at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs H Hart (Vice Chair and Chair of the meeting), Councillor A Hopkin (late arrival), Councillor D Icke, Councillor C Gilbert, Councillor G Church, Councillor K Barber, Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston

4 members of the public

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor J Griffiths (Chairman), Councillor D Leake, Councillor Mrs G Wray, Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs. F Beatty.

### PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

**2505 MEETING 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 – RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Barber and Gilbert.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**2506** There were no declarations of interest.

### PARISH PLAN

**2507** The Parish Council attended both the Gayton Cup and Saucer day and the Weston Christmas Lights switch on event, to provide feedback and discuss the findings of the Parish Plan consultation.

**2508** The Summary of findings has been distributed to all households in Weston and Gayton along with the latest edition of Compass. A working group will meet in January 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.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

**2509** The Clerk will be attending the SLCC Branch Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December

**2510** The Mayor and Mayoress are holding a Peter Pan Gala night on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**2511** A new Government funding scheme has been released for play areas and pocket parks. The Clerk has reviewed the criteria. The funding is aimed at bringing discussed parks back into use or providing new pocket parks in areas of specific need with no current park facility. Replacement of equipment for the park on the village green is unlikely to meet the criteria for funding.

**2512** Staffordshire County Council is consulting on its proposed school admission arrangements relating to all community and voluntary controlled schools located in Staffordshire for the 2021-22 academic year. The county council is not proposing to make any changes to the admission arrangements that were determined for community or voluntary controlled schools for 2020-21. [View a full copy of the proposed admission arrangements.](#)

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**2513** The continuing issue of flooding in Gayton Lane was discussed and an offer of funding made by a resident to help address the issue. Concern was raised regarding freezing temperatures and the risk posed by such a large area of standing water. Councillor Gilbert provided an update on the current situation with SCC Highways. Clerk and Councillor Gilbert to liaise with SCC to determine what further action can be taken.

**2514** The Clerk confirmed that funding for the feasibility study to reduce the two lanes at the traffic lights on the A51 to one lane heading towards the Methodist Church had been added to SCC Highways work

plan, but no start date provided. The Clerk has requested Councillor Francis consider funding a feasibility study for a crossing point on the A51 in the next financial year.

**2515** An update was requested regarding the barbed wire on the footpath leading from St. Andrew's Church. The Clerk confirmed the issue had been reported twice a to SCC Rights of Way, the second report containing several pictures of the site. No action has been taken to date.

**Councillor Hopkin arrived.**

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

**2516** Staffordshire County Councillor J Francis was not in attendance to provide a report.

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

**2517** Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs. F Beatty was not in attendance to provide a report.

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

**2518** Councillor Wray was not in attendance to provide a report but sent the following information to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

**2519** The last VHMC meeting was mainly dedicated to the organisation and preparations for the Christmas light switch on. A small profit was made after all the expense of new interior decorations and Christmas lights around the building was deducted. Positive feedback has been received from villagers so far.

**2520** Facebook for the Village hall has been updated.

**2521** There is no VHMC meeting in December.

#### **DEVELOPMENTS**

**2522** 19/31499/HOU at Cherry Croft, London Road, Weston, Stafford, ST180JS. The application is described as a side/rear and second storey extension plus front porch extension. **RESOLVED** The PC have no objections to the application.

**2523** The decision regarding planning application 19/30773/OUT at Land between Old School Close and A518 has been further delayed pending a tree survey.

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

**2524** Concerns were raised regarding the amount of dog mess on the Village Green, much of which is near the play area. This has increased significantly as the evenings have become darker. Councillor Hart to write an article for the January edition of Compass emphasising the need for dog owners to act responsibly. Contact will also be made with the Environmental team at Stafford Borough Council to undertake some late evening surveillance.

**2525** The two moderate actions identified in the latest playground inspection report have been completed. A period of routine winter maintenance is underway for the remaining actions identified as low or very low risk.

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

**2526** The Clerk provided an update on the status of the installation of the Speed Indicator Device. Both posts and solar panels have been installed. The unit has been programmed and will be installed in the next couple of weeks.

**2527** Some concern was raised regarding the recent and further planned works to the Gas supply undertaken by Balfour Beatty. Whilst offers of heaters and alternative cooking facilities have been made to residents, the lack of prior notice and the inability to provide exact dates for the work along with the increasingly cold weather has caused concern for several residents. The Clerk confirmed the PC had received no notification of the planned works.

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

**2528** The Clerk circulated anonymised quotes to the PC in advance of the meeting, which were duly considered. **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to appoint Weston Ground Maintenance as ground maintenance contractor for 2020-2021. The total cost of the contract was agreed at £18,633 plus VAT.

## **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON EVENT**

**2529** The Christmas Lights switch on event went well and a small profit of £60.85 was made once costs for refreshments were deducted.

**2530** Unfortunately there were electrical issues with the Christmas lights prior to the event and although they were working for the switch on, subsequent faults were identified shortly after the event. Identifying the location of the fault has proved difficult to date. **RESOLVED** to authorise purchase of additional lights up to the value of £150 to cover the Christmas period this year and to remove the existing lights and identify the fault in the new year.

## **CLERK REPORT**

**2531 RESOLVED** that the PC approve payments listed below and included on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.

- Clerk expenses and admin - £120.78
- Ground Maintenance work for November including Dog Bin Maintenance - £720
- Speed Indicator Device (SID) – ElanCity - £2578.52
- GCS (Shropshire) Ltd - £1140
- Jubilee fixings for the SID - £41.95
- Refreshments for the lights switch on £100.10
- Refreshments for Remembrance Day - £32.00
- Refreshments for the Trent Valley Collaboration Group meeting October - £10.00
- Wreath for Remembrance - £19.00
- Printing of the Parish Plan summary document - £56.00

**2532 RESOLVED** that the PC approve the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments

**2533** The PC discussed the proposed budget for 2020-21. Costings for the new Grounds Maintenance contract were included and an additional £3,000 for playground maintenance.

**2534 RESOLVED** by unanimous agreement to set the annual budget for 2020-2021 at £39,902 which is split between Weston and Gayton as follows; £35,848 for Weston and £4054 for Gayton.

**2535 RESOLVED** by unanimous agreement to make the annual precept request to Stafford Borough Council for **£38,783** which equates to **£37,773 Precept plus £1010 concurrent function**. This is split between Weston and Gayton as follows; Weston - £34,733 (£33,866 precept plus £867 concurrent function) and Gayton - £4,050 (£3,907 precept plus £143 concurrent function).

**2536** The Clerk confirmed that the PC have met all the requirements of the Pensions Regulator.

**2537** The Clerk informed the PC that the annual insurance premium will increase next year due to the addition of the Speed Indicator Device. This will add an additional £16.12 to the annual premium.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**2538** Letter regarding the hedge at Pool Cottage. This will be cut back shortly.

**2539** Request to use the Village Green for a charity football match on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The PC have no objections to this request.

**2540** Letter regarding parking on Ferrers Road at school times. Clerk to write to the PCSO and copy to the school asking for attendance at peak times. Clerk to ask the school if they can request parents do not

sit with their engine's running.

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

**2541** Weston with Gayton Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 7:30pm in Weston Village Hall.

**HILARY HART  
VICE CHAIRMAN**