

# WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 9th June 2020 at 7.30pm over the virtual platform Zoom.**

## **PRESENT**

Councillor J Griffiths (Chairman), Councillor Mrs H Hart (Vice Chair), Councillor A Hopkin, Councillor Mrs G Wray, Councillor G Church, Councillor K Barber, Councillor D Leake, Councillor D Icke, Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston and Marc Hardenberg.

2 members of the public

## **APOLOGIES**

Stafford Borough Councillor Francis Beatty.

## **PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

**2661 MEETING 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020 – RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hart and Hopkin.

## **CO-OPTION TO FILL COUNCILLOR VACANCY FOR GAYTON**

**2662** The PC discussed the application received for the Councillor vacancy in Gayton. **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to co-opt Marc Hardenberg as Parish Councillor for Gayton. The declaration of acceptance of office was signed by Marc Hardenberg and will be countersigned by the Parish Clerk.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**2663** There were no declarations of interest.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES**

**2664** A Second regional testing site for Covid 19 has opened at Beaconside, Stafford.

**2665** Older people's concessionary bus pass arrangements have now returned to normal hours – after 9:30am and all day Saturday and Sunday.

**2666** SPCA are offering a free Webinar on Parish Online Mapping on 25th June. The Clerk will attend.

**2667** SLCC are providing a Webinar course on accessible documents at a cost of £30 + VAT. The Clerk will attend.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**2668** A member of the public noted that the bins in Gayton have been emptied regularly and littering was not posing a significant problem.

## **REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

**2669** Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis was not in attendance to provide a report.

## **REPORT FROM STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR**

**2670** Stafford Borough Councillor Francis Beatty was not in attendance but provided the following report. SBC has been heavily involved with distributing food parcels, dealing with homeless, making sure that all the business grants and loans available have been passed on as lifelines to our businesses; in excess of £36m to date, and new streams are coming in. We have been congratulated by the Secretary of State as being one of the top 5 authorities in the UK to deliver the grants in rapid time. Every business large and small has been contacted, which has been a mammoth task.

**2671** We have made calls to every vulnerable person in the borough, many on a weekly basis, by request. Some have been in Weston parish and adjoining parishes. Street Scene has continued their work and bin services, tip etc should be functioning again. Very few SBC staff were furloughed - many have taken on virus related work such as distributing food and handling grant

applications. Interestingly the number of planning applications coming in hasn't abated during the crisis.

**2672** Car parks will start charging, except for NHS etc from 15th June and the open markets will re-open on the 15th June. There'll be less pay boxes on the car parks and people are encouraged to pay by phone, but the staff will continue to sanitise frequently.

**2673** As you can imagine the council has a massive deficit to think about over time, with rates holidays, loss of parking fees, loss of leisure centre fees etc. and additional costs. We are fortunate that we have good reserves, having managed our finances very prudently over the last 14 years. Many other authorities are struggling already.

#### **REPORT FROM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE**

**2674** The internal redecoration of the Village Hall is complete. The noticeboard on the village green opposite the entrance to the village hall car park is being removed. The Village Hall asked if the PC would rather use the slot for the Parish noticeboard.

**2675** A grant of £10,000 has been received from Stafford Borough Council to cover the loss of income from the cancellation of events during lockdown.

**2676** The Village Hall is being checked weekly during the closure period to make sure everything is in order. It was noted that the closure tape has been removed from the gates to the Village Hall. Councillor Wray to see if it can be replaced.

#### **DEVELOPMENTS**

**2677** None

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

**2678** The contractors undertaking Gas works in the area have caused some damage to the grass on the village green. Councillors to provide the Clerk with photographs of the areas of concern. Clerk to contact Staffordshire County Council Highways to see if a walk around can be arranged.

**2679** Thanks were extended to local volunteer Joyce who has painted most of the benches in Weston. Joyce has voluntarily painted the Weston village benches for several years and the PC wish to formally thank her for all the hard work, time and personal expense she has dedicated to this.

**2680** As lockdown restrictions are lifting it was agreed the slide should be removed as soon as possible. Clerk to arrange for removal.

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

**2681** The Clerk has contacted Staffordshire County Council on several occasions over the past few weeks to request an update on the repair of the potholes at the A518 junction with the A51. No further information has been provided regarding timescales for completion.

**2682** Councillor Hopkin highlighted concern with the condition of the road surface at the side of the A518 and informed the PC of a recent fall by a resident as a result of the uneven surface. Clerk to report to SCC Highways.

#### **CONCERNS REGARDING LITTERING AND GATHERING OF LARGE GROUPS IN WESTON**

**2683** Reports have been received of large groups gathering at both the entrance to the canal by the Saracens Head and at the MUGA. Noise from the MUGA has been noted late into the evening. The Police have been informed and have increased patrols in the area. An increase in littering has also been reported. The Saracens Head are helping address issues around the pub and by the canal. All those using the pub are encouraged to take their litter home with them and dispose of it responsibly.

#### **WOOLPACK USE OF THE VILLAGE GREEN**

**2684** The PC considered a request from the Woolpack Public House to use part of the Village Green in Weston to aid with table layout and social distancing requirements. This extra space would enable

the pub to meet with Government guidelines on re-opening requirements should pubs be permitted to re-open. **RESOLVED** by unanimous agreement that a section of the green from the front of the pub to the flagpole be used until such a time as social distancing requirements are no longer necessary, providing this does not result in any anti social behaviour and that tables and chairs are removed to enable the grounds maintenance contractor continue with grass cutting as usual, this will be subject to regular review. Clerk to write to the Woolpack.

**2685** A request from Marstons Brewery to delay the invoice for the annual ground rent for the area fronting the Woolpack was considered. It was agreed the request for ground rent could be delayed to nearer the end of the financial year.

#### **CLERK REPORT**

**2686 RESOLVED** that the PC approve payments listed below and included on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.

- Clerk expenses and admin - £16
- Ground Maintenance work for January including Dog Bin Maintenance - £1238.40
- Stationary - £12.13
- Zoom subscription - £14.39
- Internal Audit - £62.50

**2687 RESOLVED** that the PC approve the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments

**2688** The report of the Internal Auditor was received and noted.

**2689** The Annual Governance Statement for the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ending March 2020 was considered. **RESOLVED** – by unanimous agreement that the PC approve the Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Governance Statement was signed by the Chair Councillor Griffiths and will be countersigned by the Clerk.

**2690** The Annual Accounting Statements for the year ending March 2020 were considered. **RESOLVED** – by unanimous agreement that the PC approve the Annual Return Accounting Statements. The completed forms were signed by the Chair Councillor Griffiths.

**2691** The period for the exercise of public rights was considered. **RESOLVED** – to begin on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020. This will be advertised on the website as required. Notification will also be posted on the noticeboards.

**2692** The postponement of the Annual Meeting of the PC was considered. **RESOLVED** – by unanimous agreement not to hold the Annual Meeting of the PC this financial year. The next meeting will be held in May 2021.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**2693** Email regarding dog fouling on the Village Green. Clerk to report to Stafford Borough Council Environmental Services.

**2694** Email regarding up keep and maintenance of donated benches. Clerk to respond.

**2695** Request for support from Brocton Parish Council in writing to Staffordshire Police regarding local incidents of anti-social behaviour, particularly on Cannock Chase. The PC were in agreement to support Brocton Parish Council but requested it be noted that the experience of Weston with Gayton PC in liaising with the local Police and in particular the PCSO had been positive.

**2696** Email regarding the condition of a Beech tree. Clerk to respond.

**2697** Email from a youth goalkeeping scheme requesting use of the football pitch. Clerk to respond.

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

**2698** Parish Council meeting Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7:30pm over the virtual meeting platform zoom.

3 09.06.2020

**JAN GRIFFITHS  
CHAIRMAN**