

# WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.30pm over the virtual platform Zoom.

## PRESENT

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

1 member of the public

## APOLOGIES

Councillor G Church, Staffordshire County Councillor J Francis.

## PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

**2771 MEETING 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 – RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hardenberg and Hart.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**2772** Councillor Hardenberg informed the meeting that his property is in close proximity to application 20/33153/PAR at item 2782 below.

## PARISH PLAN

**2773** There were no updates to record. The plan will continue to be monitored monthly.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

**2774** The Parish Forum was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Minutes will be circulated to all Councillors.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**2775** None.

## REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

**2776** Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis was not in attendance but did provide a written update confirming that he will be meeting with officers from Highways in the next couple of weeks to discuss the potholes on the A51 and A518.

## REPORT FROM STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

**2777** Stafford Borough Councillor Francis Beatty was not in attendance to provide a report.

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

**2778** The Village Hall AGM will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm. This will be a closed meeting, but questions can be submitted in advance to the VHMC.

**2779** The Post Office has re-commenced using the Village Hall on a Monday.

**2780** The Village Hall has very few bookings as a result of the current Covid crisis. Therefore, the cleaning contract has been reduced to reflect the level of demand.

## DEVELOPMENTS

**2781** Planning application 20/33103/PAR Barn East of Kents Farm, Church Lane, Gayton. **RESOLVED** The PC have no objections to this application.

**2782** Planning application 20/33153/PAR Disused Barn Opposite Sunnyside, Hartley Green Road, Gayton **RESOLVED** The PC have no objections to this application.

**2783** The white paper consultation on Transforming Planning Laws was considered. A working group will meet next week to finalise the response.

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

**2784** Wicksteed have yet to provide a date for the installation of the new slide. Clerk to follow up.

**2785** At the September meeting it was agreed to appoint John Booth to undertake the survey of trees on the Village Green, but only if they would agree to include all trees for the original quoted price (the original quote only included those requiring work). This has not been confirmed and therefore the decision must come back before the PC. The remaining two Consultants have agreed all trees can be included for their original quoted price. **RESOLVED** by unanimous agreement to appoint ACS Consulting at a total cost of £574+VAT.

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

**2786** Details of several overgrown hedgerows including the laurel hedge in Boat Lane have been passed to SCC Highways department in the hope they may be included in the County's hedge cutting programme.

**2787** Overgrown vegetation on the pavement on the A518 from boat lane towards St. Andrew's Church and at the traffic lights at the A518/A51 junction have been reported to SCC Highways.

**2788** The tree overhanging the footpath on the A51 by the entrance to Sandy Lane has been reported to SCC Highways as it is obstructing safe use of the footpath. Clerk to write to the homeowner requesting the tree is cut back to the boundary of the property.

**2789** Concern was raised regarding a tree overhanging Green Road at the BT site. It was agreed to review the situation prior to the November meeting.

**2790** There is a notable gap large enough for a child and possibly an adult to fall through between the hedge and bridge at the end of Green Road. Clerk to report to SCC Highways.

**2791** Cars have been spotted parking in the turning circle at the end of the private road The Green. Clerk to write to all home owners requesting vehicles are not parked in the turning circle.

### **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

**2792** In light of Covid restrictions and the rule of six, it was agreed no activities be organised by the PC for Remembrance, but a wreath be laid by Councillor Leake on the day. Councillor Hopkin to purchase the wreath at an approximate cost of £25.

**2793** St. Andrew's Church will be holding a Remembrance service at the Church. Numbers will be restricted to comply with Covid requirements.

### **GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

**Councillor Hopkin Declared an interest as Church Warden and withdrew from the discussion.**

**2794** The grounds maintenance contractor has informed the PC that they will not undertake grass cutting at St. Andrew's Church from April 2021. Consideration was given to splitting the contract or seeking an alternative provider for the full contract. Clerk to obtain quotes for annual grounds maintenance for the church element and bring to the next meeting to inform further discussion.

### **CLERK REPORT**

**2795 RESOLVED** that the PC approve payments listed below and included on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.

- Clerk expenses - £16.00
- Ground Maintenance work for August including Dog Bin Maintenance - £2714.40
- Zoom subscription for September (shared with Hilderstone PC) - £7.39

**2796** The quarterly financial position statement was noted.

**2797** The report of the external auditor Mazars was received and noted.

**2798** Of the auditors contacted (as per the SPCA list of internal auditors), two provided a quote. These were both considered. **RESOLVED** by unanimous agreement to appoint Toplis Associates Ltd. to undertake two visits per year at an annual fee of £132.00 + VAT plus travel expenses.

**2799** The first draft of the 2021/22 budget was considered. Amendments will be made and brought back to the next meeting.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**2800** A request was received for the PC to consider additional drainage solutions for The Green in relation to recent issues of standing water. Drains on the private road have been tested and are flowing freely. The situation will be monitored and added to the Agenda of a future meeting if action is required.

**2801** Email highlighting concern regarding the potholes on the A518 and A51, the drains in front of St. Andrew's Church and vegetation on footpath 3. Clerk has responded with an update of current reports to SCC Highways.

**2802** Email expressing concern regarding a proposed Fireworks display at the Saracens Head. Clerk to ensure the PCSO is aware in the event of people gathering outside the venue to watch.

**2803** Email requesting consideration be given to a recycling point at the Village Hall for items accepted by Roots Larder in Stafford. Clerk to ask the correspondent to submit a project proposal to the Village Hall Management Committee for consideration.

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

**2804** Parish Council meeting Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7:30pm using the virtual platform Zoom.

**JAN GRIFFITHS  
CHAIRMAN**