

WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 8th December 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 D Leake, Councillor D Icke, Councillor M Hardenberg, Councillor G Church and Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston

1 member of the public

APOLOGIES

Councillor K Barber

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

2835 MEETING 10th NOVEMBER 2020 – RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 10th November 2020 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hart and Church.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2836 None

With the agreement of the Council Agenda Item 7 was taken next to allow Stafford Borough Councillor Francis Beatty to address the Council.

REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

2837 Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis was not in attendance to provide a report.

REPORT FROM STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

2838 The coronavirus pandemic has created many challenges for Stafford Borough Council (SBC) who have responsibility for administering all Covid grants for businesses and providing support to vulnerable residents. All homeless people have been found accommodation and they have launched an economic recovery programme to support local businesses, not just by administering grants but by considering what else can be done, in particular to support the leisure and tourism industry which has been adversely affected by the lockdown restrictions.

2839 Three Highstreet Officers have been appointed, one each for Stafford, Stone and Eccleshall. These officers, who are currently funded until March 2021, will help businesses with marketing and business support. It is hoped funding can be found to continue these posts after March.

2840 The Climate Change and Green Recovery consultation is underway and the Borough Council are considering which businesses might take advantage of the programme.

2841 Stafford Weston Access Road is progressing well and the Doxey section should open soon. The project due to be completed in the Autumn 2021.

2842 Stafford Borough Council remain in a sound financial position.

REPORT FROM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VHMC) REPRESENTATIVE

2843 Work to improve the acoustics at the Village Hall should commence shortly with a view to being completed before the hall re-opens after Christmas. Other than the playgroup and Post Office, there are no current bookings.

PARISH PLAN

2844 There were no updates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

2845 Staffordshire Parish Council's Association are offering some training courses in the new year. Clerk to circulate dates.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2846 None

DEVELOPMENTS

2847 Notification was received that planning application reference 20/33161/PAR at Disused Barns Opposite Sunnyside Hartley Green Road Gayton has been amended.

2848 Concern was raised regarding a structure at a property in Boat Lane, Weston. The planning authority have been informed.

TREES AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

2849 The survey of all trees on the village green was received and noted. Much of the recommended works have already been completed and the rest will be undertaken during the Grounds Maintenance Contract winter hours.

2850 Tier 3 guidance allows for the opening of the Skate Park and MUGA. Seasonal maintenance will be undertaken on the MUGA and Skate Park over the next week.

HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

2851 Clerk to follow up on Highways faults that have not yet been rectified by SCC Highways and report back to the next meeting.

GROUND'S MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

2852 The possibility of providing a grant to St. Andrew's Church, Weston and St. Peter's Church, Gayton so they can contract their own Grounds Maintenance service was considered. Due to the short notice to both Churches it was **RESOLVED** by unanimous agreement to continue to provide the Grounds Maintenance service at both Churches in 2021/22 but to review early in the new financial year in preparation for 2022/23.

2853 The quotes received for the Grounds Maintenance Contract were evaluated against a scoring matrix. **RESOLVED** by unanimous agreement to appoint Weston Ground Maintenance to undertake the contract for Weston and SC Grounds Maintenance Ltd. to undertake the contracts for St. Andrew's Church and Gayton.

STAFFING COMMITTEE

2854 Shortlisting for the position of Clerk/RFO has been completed. Interviews are planned for Thursday 10th December.

CLERK REPORT

2855 **RESOLVED** that the PC approve payments listed below and included on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.

- Clerk extra hours and expenses - £153.80
- Ground Maintenance work for November including Dog Bin Maintenance - £889.20
- Zoom subscription for November (shared with Hilderstone PC) - £7.19
- Stationary - £6.79
- Printer toner - £58.89
- ACS Consulting Tree Survey - £710.94
- Mazars External Audit Fee - £240.00

2856 The final budget and precept request for 2021-22 was considered and amended. **RESOLVED** by unanimous agreement to set the annual budget for 2021-22 at £40,074.00 and to submit a precept request to Stafford Borough Council of £34,045.00 for Weston and £3882.00 for Gayton making a total precept request of £37,927 plus £1010.00 concurrent function funding.

CORRESPONDENCE

2857 None

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

2858 Parish Council meeting Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 7:30pm using the virtual platform Zoom.

Note the following was not listed on the Agenda and therefore does not form part of the legal minutes.

The Parish Council have received the resignation of Councillor Alan Hopkin, following over 20 years' service to the Parish Council. Councillor Hopkin brought a wealth of history and experience to the Parish Council that will be missed. The resignation and vacancy will be formally noted and recorded in the minutes of the next meeting on 12th January 2021. The vacancy will be advertised on noticeboards and the parish website at www.westonstaffs.org.uk

**JAN GRIFFITHS
CHAIRMAN**