

WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 14th December 2021 at 7.30pm in Weston Village Hall.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs H Hart (Vice Chair), Councillor D Icke, Councillor G Church, Councillor J Tallentire, Councillor Mrs G Wray
Parish Clerk DW Croxford
No members of the public were present.

APOLOGIES

Councillor J Griffiths (Chair), Councillor K Barber, Councillor M Hardenberg, Councillor D Leake

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

3141 MEETING 9th NOVEMBER – RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 9th of November 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Vice Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Icke and Tallentire

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3142 None declared.

PARISH PLAN

3143 There were no updates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

Circulated before the meeting

3144 Two Temporary Traffic Regulation Notices PTTRO 4260588 B5027 and PTTRO 4250900 A51

3145 Covid Plan B guidance for Parish Councils from NALC advising that the Plan B guidance does not bring back the ability to hold remote meetings.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3146 On behalf of Weston Primary School PTA, Councillor Icke requested an agreement in principle for the PTA to hold a dog show / pet show on the village green next summer. Potentially a bouncy castle in situ as part of the event. Agreement in principle given unanimously subject to usual safety and insurance criteria. A contribution to the upkeep of the green might be appropriate.

REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

3147 Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis was not in attendance to present a report.

REPORT FROM STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

3148 Councillor Mrs. F Beatty was not in attendance, but her detailed written report had been received and circulated beforehand.

REPORT FROM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VHMC) REPRESENTATIVE

3149 Councillor Wray advised the event and Fayre held to switch on the Christmas Lights was well attended and takings were £340.

3150 All VH lights have now been fixed and are working.

3151 The two extractor fans in the Home Team football changing rooms are inoperative and in poor repair.
Clerk to check lease and property records to confirm responsibility and investigate if an internal structural plan of the building exists to help assist the fan repairs.

DEVELOPMENTS

3152 Nothing requiring comment.

TREES AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

3153 The small child swing seats are not yet replaced. *Clerk to establish position with Councillor Griffiths*

3154 The painting of the play equipment will now take place in the Spring. *Clerk to ensure painter is booked.*

3155 The annual inspection reports for the Village Green Play Area and the Village Hall Skate Park & MUGA were circulated beforehand, and the reports noted. *Clerk to clarify three comments from the inspector's report.*

HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

3156 Two areas of flooding were reported at the entrance to the Village Hall, and adjacent to the War Memorial. *Clerk to report via SBC portal with the photographic evidence provided.*

HS2 PHASE 2a

3157 Community Funding Application Update

Councillor Hart advised progress was being made. She had engaged with an Enterprise Manager from the Canal & River Trust who confirmed eligibility to apply and whose specific brief includes engagement with HS2 Community Funding applications. Funding will be sought to improve the canal side pathway through Weston Parish boundaries, exact extent to be determined. A site meeting is arranged for January with Councillor Hart and the Enterprise Manager and an Operations Manager from CRT to understand the site and proposal further. Some evidence of community support will need to feature in the application. Councillor Hart to update at next meeting.

3158 Impact summary / Pre-construction activity / Access Plan Notices / How to access current and relevant local information

Following enquiries and clarity sought by Parishioners regarding HS2 Phase 2a and recently posted 'Access Plan Notices' in two Weston locations, a summary of information was provided by the Parish Council.

First and foremost, for additional / latest local information and regular / specific activity updates, route map and details etc. Parishioners are advised to access:

<https://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/local-community-webpages/hs2-in-colwich-to-yarlet/>

Colwich to Yarlet – the stretch of HS2 Phase 2A route relevant to Weston & Gayton Parish

HS2 Phase 2a Colwich to Yarlet stretch is 15.2km in length and received Royal Assent by Parliament in February 2021 – the route will not change and construction of Phase 2a is happening.

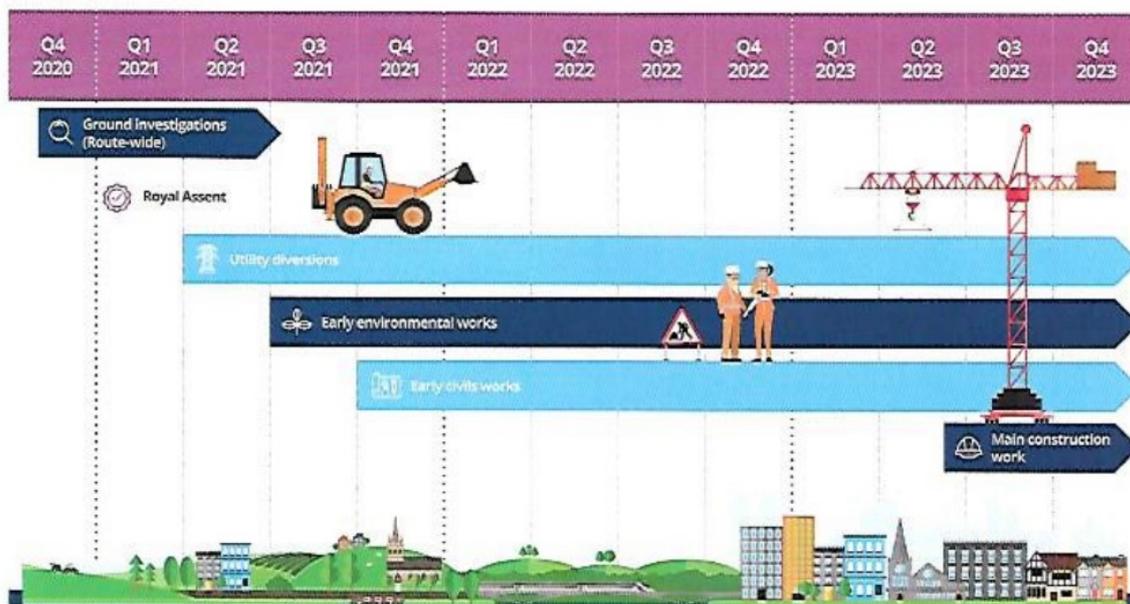
The Colwich to Yarlet stretch is a section of the Phase 2a (West Midlands to Crewe) route, which in total will be 36 miles (57km) of high-speed track, 2 tunnels, 17 viaducts, 65 bridges, 26 cuttings and 36 embankments.

The boundary between Colton and Colwich parishes forms the southern start of this section of Phase 2a, with 15.2 km of track passing through the parishes of Colwich, Ingestre with Tixall, Hopton and Coton, Whitgreave and Marston, within the local authority area of Staffordshire County Council.

Passing between Colton and Stockwell Heath HS2 continues north, close to Mayfield Children's Home and on towards the floodplain of the River Trent crossing an existing railway line. It then runs adjacent to Great Haywood Marina and crosses the Trent and Mersey Canal and the River Trent.

The route continues adjacent to Ingestre Park and through Ingestre Park Golf Club, with Pasturefields Salt Marsh approximately 900m north of the route traveling through a southern part of the Staffordshire County Showground site prior to passing Marston, running beneath the A34. Marston and Stone Rural parishes forms the northern boundary for this section.

Current Timeline



‘Access Plan Notices’ (Weston, posted November 2021), location and detail:

1. The Occupier, Agricultural land & hedgerow, Bridge House (Your Ref: C863-MCL-LP-LPN-A000-306517): Posted location, A51, Weston, ST18 0JS.
2. The Owner/Occupier, copse & access track, London Road (Your Ref: C863-MCL-LP-LPN-A000-306486): Posted location, Canal footpath entrance / exit, Weston, ST18 0HT
3. The Owner/Occupier Agricultural Land & copse, Stafford Road (Your Ref: C863-MCL-LP-LPN-A000-306485): Posted location, Canal footpath entrance / exit, Weston, ST18 0HT
4. The Owner/Occupier Agricultural Land, hedgerow, copse & drain, Meadowbank Avenue (Your Ref: C863-MCL-LP-LPN-A000-306483): Posted location, Canal footpath entrance / exit, Weston, ST18 0HT
5. The Occupier, Agricultural Land, drain & copse, London Road (Your Ref: C863-MCL-LP-LPN-A000-306484): Posted location, Canal footpath entrance / exit, Weston, ST18 0HT
6. The Owner/Occupier, River, bed & banks thereof River Trent, London Road (Your Ref: C863-MCL-LP-LPN-A000-306455): Posted location, Canal footpath entrance / exit, Weston, ST18 0HT

The Parish Council sought clarification from HS2 to understand the above ‘Access Plan Notices’. The enquiry made was assigned a reference number: **HS2-21-69325-E**.

What is an ‘Access Plan Notice’?

As plans for the HS2 railway are developed, HS2 is required to build up a clear picture of the local environment and settings. This helps them create a design to minimise impacts and reduce environmental effects. Surveys are an important part of this as they provide a baseline of the current environmental conditions. Where possible, HS2 work on publicly accessible land including footpaths and rights of way. However, some surveys will involve accessing private land. For this, HS2 need the agreement and cooperation of landowners and property occupiers.

Most HS2 surveys are ‘non-intrusive’:

- observe, measure, and take notes and photographs; and
- may need to take surface samples.

Surveys typically do not cause any significant disturbance to the environment, land or property. However, they usually require access to a particular location or habitat, such as:

woodlands;
water bodies;
buildings (for ecological species surveys);
agricultural land for soil classification validation (ground sampling); or
other assets, like archaeological or heritage sites.

Specifically relating to Phase 2a:

Ground Investigations

The latest Ground Investigation programme along the Phase 2a route began in November 2020, starting in the southern end of Phase 2a and is moving northwards with over 1,000 investigation sites. This work is ongoing and is to gain further detailed geotechnical information to inform the design development of Phase 2a. Methods being used include Boreholes, trial pits and cone penetration testing.

Utility Diversions

Before any major construction begins, HS2 need to strengthen and divert existing utilities infrastructure. This includes water and gas mains, as well a number of electricity supplies that are in the path of the new railway.

Across Phase 2a there are around 300 utility diversions that will be undertaken. Works started in early 2021 and are expected to take around five years to complete. So far, the utility companies' contractors have been undertaking ground investigations and surveys.

Ecology Surveys and Early Environmental Works are to establish critical environmental mitigation and translocation sites. Design and construction teams are working alongside ecological professionals to secure the best outcome for wildlife on these sites, with 20% of the total new green infrastructure for Phase 2a being created at this stage. This will include works such as ecological mitigation ponds and planting, habitat creation such as grassland and woodland, archaeological investigation, and species translocation.

There will be a compound in the north, centre and south of the Phase 2a route. These three compounds will service 16 areas and over 80 sites. The compounds will start mobilising in Autumn 2021 with the activity on the identified sites starting between the first quarter of 2022 and the third quarter of 2023, all expecting to be completed in 2024.

Early Civils Works

The Early Civils Works is to construct the off-route roads and manage the traffic mitigations and road modifications ahead of construction work beginning, alongside any associated environmental mitigation.

The work includes:

- Junction improvements at M6 J15/A500 (Hanchurch Interchange).
- Junction improvements at Wood End Lane/A515 road modifications and carriageway widening
- Construction of a bridge and associated slip roads across the M6 at Yarnfield Lane, Stone
- A Phase 2a route wide road improvement scheme across 20 locations.

Surveys to inform this work started in the summer of 2021 and construction for elements of the Early civils Works is expected to start in 2022. As the designs progress this will inform a more detailed programme of delivery.

To find out more information about the planned works you can use the survey schedule which is included in the Access Plan notices. Against each plot of land there is a contact number for the contractor which can give more information about the works planned as well as more detailed timescales.

HS2 do encourage residents, business, and communities to familiarise themselves with the latest key information regarding the project, particularly those who are close to the proposed line of route. Some useful links to information are set out below for ease;

Information on the HS2 programme as a whole;

<https://www.hs2.org.uk/>

You can also find a range of information about the programme at a more localised level, and you can also sign up via email for regular local information and updates, using the following link;

<https://hs2.commonplace.is/>

If you have any further enquiries on this you can contact a member of the HS2 Helpdesk Team quoting reference number **HS2-21-69325-E**. If you need any further details, please contact HS2 directly, who can be contacted on **08081 434 434** or by sending an email to HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

CLERK REPORT

3159 RESOLVED that the PC approve payments listed below and included on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.

Payments Approved and made before the meeting.

- Clerks Net Salary November £560.72
- HMRC PAYE Clerks November £140.20
- Clerks Expenses November £25.00

Payments to be made.

- WGM Ground Maintenance work November including Dog Bin Maintenance - £1001.00 + £220.20 VAT = £1201.20

3160 A satisfactory interim internal audit was undertaken in November by Topliss Associates. Some website updating was required, and Clerk has advised Councillor Griffiths

3161 The final budget and precept request for 2022-23 was considered and amended. **RESOLVED** by unanimous agreement to set the annual budget for 2022-23 at £40,992.00 and to submit a precept request to Stafford Borough Council of £34,900.00 for Weston and £3,943.00 for Gayton making a total precept request of £38,843 plus £1,010.00 concurrent function funding.

3162 Change of Bankers

Reporting back from the November meeting Clerk had circulated beforehand the offering from Unity Trust Bank. Principally an internet-based service but with the option to pay in over the counter at NatWest if required. Widely used and recommended by other Parish Councils, offering appropriate levels of authority to raise invoices, view, and sanction payments in line with Parish Financial Regulations. Cost of operation £6 per month. Unanimously **RESOLVED** to switch from NatWest Bank to Unity Trust Bank. *Clerk to proceed.*

CORRESPONDENCE

Circulated before the meeting

3163 Stafford Borough Whole Plan Viability Assessment

3164 E-mail update re Civic Amenity Visits

Circulated at the meeting

3165 Queens Platinum Jubilee update from Lieutenants Office

DATE, TIME, AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

5 14.12.2021

3166 Parish Council Meeting at Weston Village Hall Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 7:30pm

**HILARY HART
VICE CHAIR**