

MINUTES OF THE JOINT WESTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND GAYTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN WESTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 18th MAY 2021 AT 7.30PM

Present:

Councillor J Griffiths (Chair), Councillor Mrs H Hart, Councillor D Icke, Councillor M Hardenberg, Councillor, Councillor K Barber, and Councillor J Tallentire.

DW Croxford, Parish Clerk

1 member of the public

Apologies: Apologies were received from Councillor G Church, Councillor Mrs G Wray, Councillor D Leake.

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, which he advised on this occasion would be joint because of the impact of the Covid Pandemic on the Council's business.

Minutes

The minutes of the Weston Annual Parish Meeting held at 7pm on the 14^h May 2019 be confirmed as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Icke and Hart.

The minutes of the Gayton Annual Parish Meeting held at 7pm on the 10^h March 2020 be confirmed as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hart and Icke.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Reports of the Parish Council

Weston

The Chair Councillor Griffiths Parish Clerk presented the Weston Annual Report of the council, highlighting key activities and achievements during 2020/21.

This year the Pandemic affected all rural communities hugely and the Parish Council had to react quickly and decisively to comply with emergency legislation. Of significant note was the enforced move to on-line meetings via the Zoom platform for whole of the Council year and the enforced cancellation of the Weston Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for May 2020.

Notwithstanding this we have held twelve full Parish Council meetings. Parish Councillors and the Clerk have also represented the Parish Council at other meetings including the Trent Valley Collaboration Group and Weston Village Hall Committee meetings.

During 2020, Councillor James Tallentire was co-opted onto the Parish Council and a new Clerk was appointed on 1st February 2021, after the long serving previous Clerk left to take up full time employment.

During 2020/21 the Parish Council have:

- Continued to work on the plan for the work of the Parish Council over the coming three years. This plan was based upon questionnaires delivered to every household in the Parish and the results have triggered the priority work areas for the Parish Council. The progress is discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings.
- Renewed an ongoing substantial Grounds Maintenance contract to provide grounds maintenance for all the grassed public areas and other facilities owned by Weston with Gayton Parish Council or for which responsibility has been assumed.
- Removed the old, purchased and installed, a new children's slide with associated wet pour safety surface on the Village Green.
- Commissioned and completed a full tree survey of all the trees under the Parish ownership and arranged for the safe removal of the Tulip Tree. A new tulip tree and oak tree saplings were kindly donated.
- Worked closely with both the Borough and County Councils on a range of issues from reviewing and commenting on planning applications, the speed of traffic, highway maintenance, pothole repair, footpath maintenance, dog fouling matters and flooding issues. Such dialogue and liaison with key officers at both Councils accounts for a significant proportion of the work of the Parish Council and ensures issues of concern in both Weston and Gayton are addressed as swiftly as possible.
- Due to Covid-19, the Civic Amenity/Refuse and Recycling Wagon has not been able to come to Weston this year, but it is on the agenda of the Parish Council meeting in June.
- Supported the Community Speed watch Programme and continued to rotate the Speed Indicator Device between the two locations. Data continues to be collected regularly by the Clerk.
- Supported the work of the Village Hall Committee in the establishment of a small temporary food focussed market each Friday morning during the pandemic.
- With the extensive help of a Parishioner, and through the Trent Valley Collaboration Group of local Parishes, the Parish Council submitted a joint response to the HS2 Consultation Document. It is clear the impact of HS2 construction traffic around Weston will be significant for an extended period. The Parish Council are monitoring the position closely.

Looking forward to 2021-22

- The Parish Council agreed the annual budget in January 2021 and the annual precept for Weston will remain virtually the same for this year.
- We will continue to monitor the roads, footpaths, rights of way and gullies in the area to ensure all remain functional and that the risk of flooding is minimised.
- We will continue to maintain the pleasant environment of the Village public areas and painting of the children's play area is to begin shortly.
- As indicated above we will also face additional challenges to our highways network once the construction phase of HS2 is underway.

Gayton

Councillor Hardenberg presented the Gayton Annual Report of the council, highlighting key activities and achievements during 2020/21.

During the year we have held twelve full Parish Council meetings. Parish Councillors have also represented the Parish Council at other meetings including the Trent Valley Collaboration Group and Weston Village Hall Committee meetings.

During 2020, Councillor Cliff Gilberts retired from the Parish Council and Councillor Marc Hardenberg, also from Gayton, has taken his place since.

During 2020/21 the Parish Council have:

- Continued to work on the plan for the work of the Parish Council over the coming three years. This plan was based upon questionnaires delivered to every household in the Parish and the results have triggered the priority work areas for the Parish Council. The progress is discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings.
- Commissioned a new Grounds Maintenance contract to provide the grass cutting at Gayton Village Hall and the church.
- Worked closely with both the Borough and County Councils on a range of issues from the speed of traffic and highway maintenance, to blocked drains and dog fouling. This continual dialogue and liaison with key officers at both Councils accounts for a significant proportion of the work of the Parish Council and ensures issues of concern in both Weston and Gayton are addressed as swiftly as possible.
- Due to Covid-19, the Civic Amenity/Refuse and Recycling Wagon has not been able to come to Cherry Lane this year, but it has been put back on the agenda of the Parish Council meeting in June.
- Supported the Community Speedwatch Programme.
- Contacted Sandon Estate for the repairs of various stiles on the estate around Gayton, which have all been honoured and stiles/bridges repaired.
- Reported over 10 potholes on the roads in and around Gayton. All have been earmarked for further inspection and future repair. 2 large potholes on Vicarage Bank (next to the Old Vicarage) and on the road towards Fradswell have been repaired.

Looking forward to 2021

- The Parish Council agreed the annual budget in January 2021 and the annual precept for Gayton will remain the same for this year.
- We will continue to monitor the roads, stiles, and gullies in the area to ensure all remain in good shape and that the risk of flooding is minimised.
- The continued flooding at the beginning of Vicarage Bank from the A51 has now been included in Additional Investment Members Drainage Project 2020/21. The extensive flooding on Hartley Green Loop has been reported to Stafford Borough Council too.
- A potential application to reduce the speed limit within Gayton village from 60mph to 30mph is being considered and discussed at the June 2021 Parish Council meeting.
- We will also face additional challenges to our highways network once the construction phase of HS2 is underway. HS2 anticipate there will be 249 vehicle movements along the A518 to the A51 per day. This equates to an average of one every two minutes during the 10 hours of operation per day.

Any Other Business (Public Participation)

Concern was raised regarding the removal of bushes and small trees adjacent to the Woolpack car park wall following the rebuilding of the wall. The matter will be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting.

Appreciation was expressed at the work of Weston Grounds Maintenance, for the timely flag flying protocol at two nationally significant occasions this year.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 8th June 2021, 7.30 pm in Weston Village Hall

JAN GRIFFITHS