

# WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7.30pm  
in Weston Village Hall.

## PRESENT

Councillor J Griffiths (Chair), Councillor Mrs H Hart (Vice Chair), Councillor D Icke, Councillor Mrs G Wray,  
Councillor M Hardenberg,  
Stafford Borough Councillor Frances Beatty  
Parish Clerk DW Croxford

Two members of the public were present.

## APOLOGIES

Councillor J Tallentire, Councillor D Leake

## PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

**3320 MEETING 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022 – RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 10th of May 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hart and Wray.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**3321** None declared.

## PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

**3322** Mrs Julie Gair volunteered to be Co Opted. Proposed by Councillor Hart and Seconded by Councillor Wray it was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to Co Opt and welcome Mrs Gair to the Council. *Clerk to complete the necessary declarations with Councillor Gair and advise SBC.*

## PARISH PLAN

**3323** There were no updates.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

**3324** There were no announcements or notices that had not been circulated prior to the meeting.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**3325** A member of the public spoke on three issues. (i) Thanks were expressed for the clearance of the footpath alongside the railway line. (ii) It was advised that cows are sometimes loose and straying onto the footpath alongside the brook behind St Andrew's church. Caution was recommended. (iii) The noticeboard on Old Road, outside the Woolpack (listed as a Parish Council asset), requires maintenance to prevent notices blowing off its surface in the wind. It was suggested a lattice work of elastic from volunteers would suffice, along with replacement of the back boarding (current boarding is old and hard, making posting anything extremely difficult and time consuming).

## REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

**3326** Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis was not in attendance to present a report.

## REPORT FROM STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

**3327** Councillor Frances Beatty reported on a wide range of issues.

- The Stafford Brooks Project is a project with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency. Designed, with the benefit of grant funding of £40k, as a project to open many closed and built over culverts in Stafford, opening up river courses and marsh areas with boardwalks to traverse. The activity to dovetail into the new nature reserve sites planned for the town. Similar type of work is being undertaken too on Cannock Chase.

- Local Plan. The Preferred Option is to be released early Autumn with the Parish Consultation Period in September. Weston will be a key village for some development and Councillor Beatty recommended early engagement with the planners at SBC.
- A considerable amount of work is being done on attracting visitors, and visitor businesses, into Stafford.
- Serco – the application is to be heard 6<sup>th</sup> July.
- The Jubilee / Ironman weekends attracted over 40,000 visitors to Stafford.
- The rear of the Shirehall is to be converted to offices for small businesses.
- A new project headed up by the Stafford Wellbeing Partnership has begun concerning the Safety of Women at Night in Stafford. Funding of over £40k has been obtained to develop safe routes home, safe havens in town, a refuge caravan and taxi marshals.
- SBC have rewritten their street naming and street numbering policy. Councillor Hardenberg raised the issue of wrongly named roads in Gayton, an issue he has raised before. *Councillor Beatty suggested the Clerk write to her explaining the issue.*

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

**3328** Councillor Wray advised that the recent fete was well supported with total receipts on the day of £4,979 being kindly rounded up by a member of the public to £5,000. Grateful thanks were expressed to all involved.

The VH doors are now serviced, all electrical testing done, fire extinguishers all tested, and the new Wi-Fi connection has been made.

Noting the small number comprising the VHMC, it was recommended that an early meeting takes place between the VHMC and the Parish Council, well before the next VH AGM, to understand the future plans for the facility.

### **DEVELOPMENTS**

**3329** No Planning Applications received at the date of posting the agenda.

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

**3330** The painter has completed the second coat on the items painted, and they look much refreshed. He will leave any surplus paint with the PC for future maintenance.

**3331** A small child's swing seat has been damaged beyond repair. *Cllr Griffiths to contact suppliers for a replacement.*

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

**3332** A meeting took place in the village on 13<sup>th</sup> June with two Community Traffic Management Officers from Staffordshire County Council. A summary note of the meeting was received from the CTMO's and circulated to Councillors before this meeting.

- A Public consultation process, illustrating support for any proposed road layout / speed changes is a fundamental requirement.
- With no data supporting any speed related accidents or speeding infringements within the central village area, and with resources finite, the location is not a priority for more restrictive measures.
- A one-way route through the village would probably increase speed of vehicles who would have no oncoming traffic to negotiate.
- School related parking, access and signage issues are covered in the CTMO's report - (i) funding of drop kerbs would cost c £3k from Parish (or County resources) and the school would have to apply in the first instance. The application would require the contracted installer to obtain a Permission to Dig permit. *The CTMO agreed to approach County Councillor John Frances for SCC support.* (ii) Access protection markings painted on the roadside across private drives can be applied for at a cost of £112 (iii) Brown signs advertising the location of the school, can be applied for by the school at similar cost provided they can be safely located on existing signage poles. Otherwise, the cost of a new pole will need to be added. (iv) Gateway welcome signs to the village can be applied for, and the CTMO will help with design and location considerations. Probable cost of obtaining approval and permission up to £400. Purchase, insurance, and maintenance of the Welcome signs would be the responsibility of the Parish Council.

## **HS2 PHASE 2a**

### **3333 Community Funding Application Update**

Councillor Hart had nothing further to report.

## **CLERK REPORT**

**3334 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 May £612.98
- HMRC PAYE Clerks May £153.20
- Clerks Expenses May £24.00

### **Payments to be made.**

- WGM Ground Maintenance work May (including Dog Bin Maintenance £90) - £1813.50 + £362.70 VAT = £2176.20

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**3335** A reminder - Civic Amenity Skip at Weston Village Hall Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 10.30 -12.30 hrs

**3336** Confirmation of Inspection Schedule for this coming year from the Pay Inspection Company.

**3337** Staffordshire County Council Purchase Order for Annual Grass Cutting received, and invoice sent to them.

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

**3338** Meeting of the Parish Council at **Gayton Village Hall** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

**JAN GRIFFITHS  
CHAIR**