

# WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Gayton Annual Parish Meeting held in Gayton Village Hall on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7pm.

## 1. Welcome

The Chairman of the meeting, Councillor Hilary Hart, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## Present

Councillor Mrs H Hart (Chair), Councillor M Hardenberg, Councillor J Tallentire, Councillor D Icke, Councillor A Massey, Councillor Mrs J Gair, Parish Clerk DW Croxford.

1 Member of the public

## 2. Apologies

Councillor J Griffiths, Councillor Mrs G Wray, Councillor D Leake, Stafford Borough Councillor Frances Beatty

## 3. Minutes

The minutes of the Gayton Annual Parish Council meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council as proposed and seconded by Councillor Mrs H Hart and Councillor M Hardenberg.

## 4. Matters Arising from the minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## 5. Report of the Parish Council

Councillor M Hardenberg reported.

- During the year we have held eleven 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 2023/23 the Parish Council have managed/organised the following activities:
- 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.
- Implemented a new Grounds Maintenance contract to provide the grass cutting at Gayton Village Hall and the Church. This will be financed by a grant from the PC.
- 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 year, it became apparent that the drains, man holes and gullies around Gayton were not identified on the SCC database, so this has now been rectified. We expect Gayton to be included in the clearing cycle moving forward.
- The Civic Amenity/Refuse and Recycling truck has been to Gayton again, which was very much appreciated by the villages.
- Supported the Community Speed Watch Programme. The Gayton Speed Watch Group no longer operates; however, the Weston Group remains active and carries out regular checks on the A51 & A518.
- Contacted Sandon Estate for the repairs of various stiles / bridges on the estate around Gayton, currently awaiting a fix of one stile and one bridge. To be monitored.

- Reported many potholes on the roads in and around Gayton. This is a continuous process to ensure safe and smooth roads throughout the village and surroundings.
- Gayton contributed to a collective Trent Valley Collaboration response to the Local Plan Review Consultation in November 2022. Gayton specifically provided feedback relating to a proposed plan to identify a travellers site on a piece of land on the corner of Wadham Lane & the A518.

## **6. Parish Plan and Key Priorities for 2023**

Councillor M Hardenberg reported.

- The Parish Council agreed the annual budget in January 2023 and the annual precept for Gayton will remain the same for this year (0% increase).
- Now that Gayton is on the SCC database, 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. We continue to report the extensive flooding on Hartley Green Loop to Stafford Borough Council.
- The continued flooding at the beginning of Vicarage Bank from the A51 has now been included in Additional Investment Members Drainage Project 2020/21. Unfortunately, there has been no update this.
- The Parish Council has agreed to fund no-litter signs, which will be placed strategically across Gayton. The PC has also agreed to fund paint for a refresh of the bus shelter. Both activities will take place sometime in Spring 2023.
- The PC has also noted that new road signs have been installed and it has been made aware that the lane starting from the A51 towards the village should be called Gayton Lane and that Vicarage Bank starts either from Wadden Lane or Cherry Lane. This has been reported to Highways for review once again.
- 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. However, this is under constant review following the announcement by the Government / British Transport Secretary Mark Harper, re the delay for the section north of Birmingham to Crewe (March 2023). The current administration remains committed to building the entire line from a new station at London Euston to Manchester in the north of England. Both ends may now open at the same time in the 2040s, although construction at the London end has been underway for two years. The timeframe to complete the entire line is not currently clear; however, the London-Birmingham section should open in two stages. The initial stage will operate between the new Curzon Street station in Birmingham and a new partially underground interchange hub in West London at Old Oak Common. The second stage from there into central London is already being built, but is more complex, so will open with the new London Euston terminal several years later.

## **7. Any Other Business**

A member of the public from Gayton Village Hall Management Committee thanked the Parish Council for the ongoing funding, by way of grant, to facilitate the cutting of the grass at the Village Hall.

After discussion, it was decided going forwards, there was no need to seek reports from the users of Gayton Village Hall within their invitations to this meeting. Reports are offered to the Gayton Village Hall AGM.

Correspondence from Staffordshire County Council, in respect of an alleged footpath from Wadden Lane to the Old A518, Weston, was circulated and discussed. The Staffordshire County Council report to the County Council's Countryside and Rights of Way Panel was also noted and it was decided no further comments were to be sent.

8. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7pm in Gayton Village Hall.

**COUNCILLOR H HART**  
**VICE CHAIRMAN WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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