

WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 7.30pm in Gayton Village Hall.

PRESENT

Councillor J Griffiths (Chair), Councillor Mrs H Hart (Vice Chair), Councillor Mrs G Wray, Councillor J Tallentire, Councillor M Hardenberg, Councillor J Gair, Councillor D Icke, Councillor A Massey.

Stafford Borough Councillor Frances Beatty
Stafford Borough Councillor and Hixon Parish Councillor Brendan McKeown
Hixon Parish Councillor Susan McKeown

Parish Clerk DW Croxford
One member of the public was present.

APOLOGIES

Councillor Councillor D Leake

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

3442 MEETING 13th December 2022 – RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 13th of December 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hart and Gair.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3443 Councillor Hardenberg declared an interest in item 8.1 To consider Forest planting in Gayton

PARISH PLAN

3444 There were no updates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

3445 There were no announcements or notices that had not been circulated prior to the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3446 A member of the public sought an update on the post box situation. Councillor Hart was able to report she remains in dialogue with the P.O. Manager dealing with the matter and is seeking a response from him to her last e mail. No specific time frame for installation confirmed at this stage.

3447 The same member of the public highlighted the poor condition of Boat Lane, especially at the A518 end. *Clerk to establish if the lane is privately owned or not.*

REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

3448 Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis was not in attendance to present a report.

REPORT FROM STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

3449 Stafford Borough Councillor Frances Beatty had provided a detailed written report which had been circulated before the meeting. She spoke highlighting areas within her report.

3450 Stafford Borough Councillor Brendan McKeowen advised that there is to be a virtual meeting, on Teams, of the HS2 Phase 2a Highways Subgroup. This is a meeting between the Department for Transport, High Speed Two Limited (HS2) and the highway authorities along the line of route to discuss matters related to traffic, transport and highways which affects all highway authorities during the

construction of the railway and associated permanent highway infrastructure. The meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 11 a.m. and there will be an opportunity for Parishes to be represented.

Councillor David Icke left the meeting at this point.

REPORT FROM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VHMC) REPRESENTATIVE

3451

Councillor Wray advised

The next Community lunch / Soup event scheduled for 28th January has been cancelled. There will be one in February, date to be decided.

A meeting of Committee members had been held to consider the structure and presentation of the VH Website.

DEVELOPMENTS

3452

Councillor Hardenberg outlined what he understood to be a merger, to create a large farm in Gayton as part of Sandon Estates, and as part of the plan the planting of over 2,000 trees in two areas with Gayton. Stafford Borough Councillor Frances Beatty agreed to investigate the matter with the Sandon Estates Agent.

TREES AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

3453

Following suggestions from the public, a discussion was held to consider the purchase and planting of hedging and trees in Weston village. It was decided to purchase a Western Red Cedar tree to be planted adjacent to the present mature "Christmas" tree in front of the Village Hall to ensure continuity. It was also decided to purchase Cupressocyparis Leylandii for a hedge on Old Road, and some trees to be planted on the Village Green to fill the existing gaps. Planting to be undertaken by the GM contractor. Was unanimously **RESOLVED** to budget a maximum of £2,500 ex VAT for these purchases.

3454 Councillor Gair provided an update on finding a way for the tennis nets to be made available for villagers to be able to play tennis on the MUGA. She remains in contact with the original supplier who is now seeking a discussion with her with, which she assumes, will be to consider his findings.

3455 The Annual Inspection Reports on the Village Green Play Area and the Village Hall Skate Park and MUGA had been circulated prior to the meeting and contents noted. Hard copies will be provided to the GM contractor for information.

HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

3456 Wadden Lane, Gayton traffic issue now resolved on completion of the roadworks.

3457 Weston Flooding, 23rd October 2022 / gully, and the brook – clearance and maintenance.

The clerk is now able to log the Weston (Green Road / A518) October 2022 flooding on the 'My Staffs' portal, with the pictures, with a specific request from the PC to arrange an initial on-site meeting with the Flood Risk Management Team - to get their advice on next actions. Including perhaps engagement with the Environment Agency / Canal and River Trust in conjunction with the Flood Risk Management Team.

Councillor Hart agreed to draft a letter for consideration, to be sent to the occupants of properties adjoining the brook, reminding them of their Riparian Responsibilities to pass on waterflow without obstruction, pollution, or diversion.

3458 Drop Kerb at Weston School.

Clerk advised the officer at SCC Highways was still seeking a response from County Councillor John

Francis. Was agreed that the Clerk should write to Councillor Francis suggesting a shared cost arrangement to expedite matters.

CLERK REPORT

3459 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 December £892.75
- HMRC PAYE Clerks December £225.40
- Clerks Expenses December £28.50

Payments to be made.

- WGM Ground Maintenance work December (including Dog Bin Maintenance £72) - £600 + £120 VAT = £720.00
- Play Inspection Company – 2 x Annual Inspections £150 +VAT £30 = £180
- 34SP.com Website Hosting fee Feb 23 – Feb 24 £79.50 + VAT £15.90 = £95.40

THE PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE BOARD

3460 *The Clerk will obtain three quotations / options within the set a budget of £2000 ex VAT for the next meeting. Quotations to cover with, and without, base because the existing posts are sound. Recycled material options to be considered as well as traditional.*

CORRESPONDENCE

Circulated and discussed

3461 The Local Government Boundary Commission Consultation.

3622 Cost of Living and Local Council Tax Reduction from Stafford Borough Council

DATE, TIME, and VENUE OF NEXT MEETING.

3623 Tuesday 14th February 2023 at 7.30 p.m. at Weston Village Hall

3624 Clarification obtained from NALC in the light of the 4 May 2023 Local Elections, indicates that the Annual May Parish and Public Meetings must take place between Wednesday 10th and Thursday 25th May inclusive. The date for the Annual May Parish and Public Meetings will now be Thursday 11th May.

**JAN GRIFFITHS
CHAIR**