

WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 14th February 2023 at 7.30pm in Weston Village Hall.

PRESENT

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

Stafford Borough Councillor Frances Beatty

Parish Clerk DW Croxford

Two members of the public were present.

APOLOGIES

Councillor M Hardenberg, Councillor D Leake, Councillor Mrs G Wray

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

3625 MEETING 10th January 2023 – RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 10th of January 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hart and Gair.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3626 None declared.

PARISH PLAN

3627 There were no updates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

3628 Post Box Update. An update from the Royal Mail Programme Manager, Post Box Team, regarding the progress of the installation of Weston's 'new / replacement' Post Box, was received by the Parish Council. It was confirmed that a new 'traditional' style post box has been ordered following process activity by the Royal Mail engineering team. It is hoped now that installation of the post box will happen by the end of April latest.

3629 There were no other announcements or notices that had not been circulated prior to the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3630 A member of the public noted that the condition of Boat Lane had much improved following the adjacent ditches being dug out by a local farmer. It has been established that Boat Lane is not private, and adopted by SCC. The condition of the lane has been brought to SCC Highways notice by the Clerk.

REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

3631 Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis was not in attendance to present a report.

REPORT FROM STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

3632 Stafford Borough Councillor Frances Beatty spoke briefly on several different matters.

Because of National Planning Policy Framework changes there will be delays in implementing the New Local Plan, recently through the Preferred Options stage. There could be reductions in the quotas of housing to be built annually which would probably be to Weston's advantage.

SBC have sought a Council Tax rise of 6p per week for the coming year. (2.5%)
The top tier of SBC Management will now be shared with Cannock Chase DC.

SBC have sought no increases in refuse collection or car parking charges, and there will be considerable Council Tax relief schemes for eligible families under the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

[Change will see thousands not paying council tax in Stafford to offset cost crisis | Stafford Borough Council \(staffordbc.gov.uk\)](https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/news/change-will-see-thousands-not-paying-council-tax-in-stafford-to-offset-cost-crisis)

Electric car charging points are being installed on sites across Stafford and Stone.
There is significant investment planned at Westbridge Park in Stone.
A new History Centre has opened in Eastgate Street, Stafford.

Photo ID's will be required for Voters at polling stations in May. Publicised widely.
[Voter ID | Electoral Commission](#)

SERCO have appealed the decline of SBC Planning re the asylum seekers accommodation and an appeal hearing date has been set for 16th May. There will be opportunity for Parishes to comment. SBC plan to seek to uphold the decline.

Councillor Beatty undertook to continue to seek information on the forest planting in Gayton.

REPORT FROM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VHMC) REPRESENTATIVE 3633

Councillor Gair advised.

The Community lunch / Soup event for February will not go ahead. The soup event didn't clash with the Church events, but it was felt that as lent lunches start towards end of Feb, it was too close to hold a soup event at the VH as well. Lent lunches go on for 6 weeks. The VHC have not arranged any further soup events.

The next planned event at the VH is on 6th March being a coffee morning/book exchange.

The VHMC have obtained an example lease from Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) as part of progressing their request for a new lease. Was suggested the draft lease be populated and circulated to the Parish Council. Was agreed a subgroup of Parish Councillors (Griffiths, Hart, Tallentire and Massey), and the Parish Clerk, would hold a meeting in June with the VHMC to consider in detail.

DEVELOPMENTS

3634 22/36302/HOU The Old Vicarage Vicarage Bank Gayton Staffordshire ST18 0HQ *Erection of single storey extension with roof terrace, double height glasshouse to side/rear with associated single storey glazed structures.*

No comments to be submitted.

3635 22/36611/HOU Sevenford The Green Weston Stafford Staffordshire ST18 0JH *Double storey rear extension, alongside alterations - an extension to the front of the property to improve the aesthetic of the property and make it more in keeping with the other houses on the Green. To render most of the building in a white colour.*

No comments to be submitted.

TREES AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

3636 An appeal will be made via the Village Noticeboards, the Weston Facebook page, and Compass for local volunteers to sand down and stain the benches in Weston. Was agreed the materials to be supplied and paid for by the Parish Council.

3637 MUGA and Tennis nets update. The tennis nets are now able to be fitted. Fixings were purchased locally for £16.12 and the second net will be made ready and available too. Anyone interested in arranging to play to contact Councillor Gair.

HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

3638 HS2 Phase 2a Highways Subgroup. Councillor Hart advised she had attended a virtual meeting comprising four officers from HS2 and thirty three local Councillors whose Parishes will variously be affected by HS2. Common themes were the under estimation by HS2 of the true scale of the impact of construction on local Parishes, and the lack of engagement with them.

3639 Weston Flooding, 23rd October 2022 / gulley, and the brook – clearance and maintenance.

The clerk advised the Weston (Green Road / A518) October 2022 flooding had been reported on the 'My Staffs' portal, with pictures. A specific request to the Flood Risk Management Team to arrange an initial on-site meeting, to get their advice on next actions, including engagement with the Environment Agency / Canal and River Trust, had received a response for further background information.
Councillor Hart / Clerk to progress.

Councillor Hart has drafted letters re 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. *Clerk to circulate and for Agenda at next meeting.*

3640 Drop Kerb at Weston School.

Clerk advised the officer at SCC Highways was still seeking a response from County Councillor John Francis. An estimated figure has been obtained from SCC Highways for the Parish Council to install at their own cost. *Was agreed that the Clerk should write again to Councillor Francis urging a response to this long outstanding matter.*

CLERK REPORT

3641 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 January £545.68
- HMRC PAYE Clerks January £136.40
- Clerks Expenses January £28.50

Payments to be made.

- WGM Ground Maintenance work January (including Dog Bin Maintenance £90) - £1126.00 + £225.20 VAT = £1351.20
- WGM Supply and plant trees – 54 Leylandii, Red Cedar, Flowering Cherry, and ancillaries for planting - £2250 + VAT £450 = £2700
- Reimbursement to Councillor re VH Keys - £22.89 + VAT £4.58 = £27.47
- Reimbursement to Councillor re MUGA tennis net fixings - £16.12 + VAT £3.22 = £19.34

THE PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE BOARD

3642 Councillors Griffiths and Hart will review options and select several noticeboards, from manufacturers catalogues, within the set a budget of £2000 ex VAT for the next meeting. Recycled material options to be considered as well as traditional.

CORRESPONDENCE

Circulated and discussed

3643 Request from The Woolpack re use of Village Green Saturday 6th May 2023

Was agreed to grant permission for The Woolpack to use the VG on either, or both, of Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th May 2023, from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. each day, for the purposes of celebrating the King's Coronation by way of Bouncy Castles, music, bands, Morris Dancers etc. Both subject to prior sight of insurance certificates from operator, and a suitable risk assessment. No contribution towards the upkeep of the VG will be sought from The Woolpack for either day in this instance. *Clerk to advise The Woolpack.*

3644 Was unanimously **RESOLVED to donate £200** towards The Woolpack's campaign to raise, via AEDdonate, sufficient funds to install a defibrillator on their premises.

3645 NALC Civility and Respect Project – *Councillor Tallentire to consider our response.*

3646 2023 Civic Amenity Visits – *Clerk to return the pro forma agreements to SBC.*

3647 SCC Boundary Changes briefing 16th February 6 p.m. – available should Councillors wish to attend.

DATE, TIME, and VENUE OF NEXT MEETING.

3648 Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 7.30 p.m. at **Gayton** Village Hall

3649 **The Annual Gayton Parish (Public) meeting** will also take place on that evening at 7.00 p.m. *Clerk to progress arrangements / invitations with Councillors Hart and Hardenberg*

**JAN GRIFFITHS
CHAIR**