

WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 13th June 2023 at 7.30pm
in Weston Village Hall.

PRESENT

Councillor J Griffiths (Chair), Councillor Mrs H Hart, Councillor D Leake, Councillor J Tallentire,
Councillor Mrs J Gair, Councillor Mrs G Wray, Councillor A Massey, Councillor Mrs R Garner

Parish Clerk DW Croxford

One member of the public was present.

APOLOGIES

Councillor M Hardenberg, Stafford Borough Councillors Frances Beatty, and Karine Aspin

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

3838 MEETING 11th May 2023 – RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at
7:30pm on the 11th of May 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and
seconded by Councillors Tallentire and Leake.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3839 Councillor Leake item 3857 – Compass Magazine.

PARISH PLAN

3840 There were no updates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

3841 The new Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Personal Interest forms, requiring completion and return
to Stafford Borough Council, by 7th July 2023.

3842 There were no other announcements or notices that had not been circulated prior to the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3843 The member of the Public wished to record thanks to the village GM Contractor for strimming and
clearing the St Andrew's Church / railway line footpath.

REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

3844 Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis was not in attendance to present a report.

REPORT FROM STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

3845 Stafford Borough Councillor Frances Beatty was not in attendance to present a report.

REPORT FROM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VHMC) REPRESENTATIVE

3846 Councillor Wray advised that the recent Village fete was a great success with over £4,000 raised, and
of this over £2,000 was raised by the raffle.

Councillor Gair, as a member of the VHMC, is to explore grant funding from HS2 Phase 2a, for Village Hall projects.

DEVELOPMENTS

3847 23/37323/FUL - Barn Southeast of Weston Hall Weston Bank Stafford Staffordshire - Conversion of redundant building to form fishing bothy for holiday let use (class C3).

No comments to be submitted.

TREES AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

3848 Councillor Hart updated the meeting on the village benches restoration. Five benches on the village green have now been completed. The lead member of the public has facilitated the purchase of materials at a discounted price, which Councillor Hart has purchased. The village Fishing Group have agreed to restore five benches, and there are other volunteers willing to help. Fundamental to the restoration is a power sander. Noting practical difficulties with hiring a sander it was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to purchase two battery operated, hand held, power sanders (each supplied with two batteries) at £126.96 each. *Councillor Hart to arrange.*

3849 Correspondence had been received from a member of the public in respect of the grassed area at Spencer Close. That member of the public had also written directly to Homes Plus, the property owner. Residents of Spencer Close had separately raised issues to a member of the parish council, namely that the grounds maintenance contractor for Homes Plus, leaving the grass to grow to unacceptable length, leaving the grassed area looking untidy. In support of the Spencer Close residences, it was agreed that the Parish Council would write to Homes Plus, expressing the views of the residents, enquiring about the cutting schedule, and urging more frequent cutting. The letter will ask Homes Plus if they would want to pay the Parish Council to take over the grass cutting.

Clerk to draft letters to Homes Plus, the member of the public who has corresponded with the Parish Council, and a letter to the residents of Spencer Close updating them on the support being provided by the Parish Council.

3850 Strimming of local public footpaths at rear of St Andrew's Church / railway line and to rear of Methodist Church to Hixon Airfield was discussed. It was agreed that if the village GM Contractor had the time and resources available within the contract, then he would be asked to complete this work on these public paths.

HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

3851 *For Next Meeting* – Update on response to SCC Flood Risk Management Team / Riparian Letters

3852 *Update* – Drop Kerb near Weston School – a response has been received from SCC Highways that, the work has been allocated to an engineer to progress, seeking to complete in the summer holidays when the school is closed, and it is safe to do the works. Dates not yet formally confirmed.

3853 *Update* – Gayton Road signs. Following the help of Stafford Borough Councillor Frances Beatty, Councillor Hardenberg remains in dialogue with SCC Highways to try and resolve matters.

3854 S53 Application Alleged footpath from Wadden Lane to Old A518 Weston Road

Papers from Staffordshire County Council had been circulated to Gayton Councillors prior to the meeting advising their latest recommendation *“That the evidence submitted by the applicants and that discovered by the County Council is sufficient to show that a public footpath subsists or is reasonably alleged to subsist.”*

3855 Councillor Hardenberg had written to the meeting asking for support in trying to improve the condition of Cherry Lane, Gayton. The road is unadopted and is in poor and deteriorating condition. The owner of eight properties on the lane, are Homes Plus. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would support Councillor Hardenberg in writing a letter to Homes Plus seeking a contribution towards resurfacing costs. *Councillor Hardenberg to draft letter.*

CLERK REPORT

3856 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.

- None

Payments to be made.

- Clerks Gross Salary June £682.08 plus associated PAYE
- Clerks Expenses June £28.50
- WGM Ground Maintenance work May (including Dog Bin Maintenance £94.50) - £2105.25 + £421.05 VAT = £2526.30
- Reimbursement to Councillor for Wreath purchase and bench renovation materials - £243.73

3857 Compass Magazine Donation - Councillor Leake declared an interest and did not take part in this item.

A donation to the Compass Magazine was proposed at £100 and was agreed by all other Councillors present.

Clerk to arrange and to liaise with Compass Editor in respect of Parish Council inclusions in the magazine.

CORRESPONDENCE

3858 Woolpack Bouncy Castles and the Village Green – following the May Parish Council Meeting the terms of an agreement for the use of the green for dates up to the 9th July was issued, at a contribution level of £100 for each event.

After correspondence from the Woolpack requesting this was lowered to an amount of £50, and after further extensive discussion, it was agreed that ALL dates sought up to 27th August would be agreed and at a revised contribution level of £75 for each event.

All other terms of the agreement to remain unchanged.

Clerk to confirm to the Woolpack and to advise that £25 of the £100 already paid for the single event so far held, can count towards the £75 for the next event.

3859 A request has been received from a girls U14 Football team to use the Village Green pitch for home matches on Saturday's. In principle all agreed this was desirable but that the present users of the pitch, on Sunday's, Woolpack F.C., should be contacted for their reaction before replying. *Councillor Gair agreed to help here in contacting the Woolpack F.C.*

3860 A resident has reported a fallen branch on land adjacent to Bridge Cottage. *Clerk to seek photos.*

3861 A resident in Furlong Close has reported overgrown conifer trees on land adjacent to her property, and on land of indeterminate ownership. *Clerk to investigate ownership of the land via SCC Highways.*

DATE, TIME, and VENUE OF NEXT MEETING.

3862 Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 11th July 2023 at 7.00 p.m. at **Gayton Village Hall**

Councillor Hardenberg to confirm booking to Clerk.

**JAN GRIFFITHS
CHAIR**