

# WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.30pm in Gayton 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 M Hardenberg, Councillor Mrs R Garner

Parish Clerk DW Croxford  
Seven members of the public were present.

## APOLOGIES

Stafford Borough Councillors Frances Beatty, and Karine Aspin

## PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

**3863 MEETING 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 13th of June 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Councillors Hart and Massey.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**3864** There were no declarations of interest.

## PARISH PLAN

**3865** There were no updates.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

**3866** There were no other announcements or notices that had not been circulated prior to the meeting.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**3867** The members of the public all wished to express concern about the activities on Weston Village Green planned by The Woolpack.

The focus of the comments centred on the experiences of the events already held this year, and the intended scale of future events in July and August, under the banner “Bounce on the Green” or “Village Party No.2”, widely promoted on social media.

One member of the public had already written to the Parish Council expressing their shock at the pricing of the events, and they also spoke of their worry as to the scale of what was proposed. Whilst supportive of small scale bouncy castle events they felt what is planned for July and August is clearly a large scale commercial event for adults, with some of the ancillary activities clearly not designed for children’s entertainment.

Another member of the public supported this view, highlighting that at a previous event, car parking had been chaotic. Vehicles had been parked on the grass around the green and near the War Memorial, blocking footpaths, which had been a significant issue for their disabled neighbour.

Another member of the public highlighted the noise created around the Green from the generators running to inflate the bouncy castles, which they felt was highly intrusive over a lengthy period, and

further member of the public expressed concern at the advertisement put out for one of the musical bands intending taking part in the August event which had cannabis leaves illustrated on the poster.

All felt strongly that the scale of the events proposed is too large and will impact adversely on the wider village community. It was felt that advertising widely in the district, the sort of activities planned, will likely bring large numbers of adult visitors to the village to party and it is not believed the village infrastructure, parking facility, or conveniences, would be able to cope. It was strongly put by the members of the public that this is a large scale, district wide, commercial event that does not seem in the wider interests of the village and nor in keeping with the Parish Council's responsibilities for maintaining the fabric of the village green for the benefit of all.

The Chairman thanked all the members of the public for their attendance and comment. They all stayed to listen to Agenda Item 12. (Minute 3875 below)

On a separate matter a member of the public reported overgrown towpath on the canal between bridges 79-81. Councillor Hart advised that she had already been in touch with CRT, that the towpath had been cut twice this year, and will now be cut again.

### **REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

**3868** Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis was not in attendance to present a report.

### **REPORT FROM STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR**

**3869** Stafford Borough Councillor Frances Beatty was not in attendance to present a report, but an e mail from her advising of the availability of grants for local businesses had been circulated before the meeting.

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

**3870** Councillor Wray advised that more help would be needed at next year's village fete (the second Saturday in June) and asked for members of the Parish Council to consider volunteering.

Confirmation was given to Councillor Wray that a meeting between the VHMC and the Parish Council will take place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 p.m. in Weston Village Hall to consider the request for a new lease. *Clerk to e mail to all confirming.*

Quotations are being sought to renovate and alter the bar area from VH funds. A subcommittee has been formed to apply for a HS2 Phase2a grant to improve several other areas within and outside the VH.

### **DEVELOPMENTS**

**3871** 22/36665/HOU Bridge Farmhouse Green Road Weston Stafford Staffordshire ST18 0HZ

Rear extension in an orangery style, garage conversion for a new office and extension / alterations to the void space above the garage to form a bedroom. dressing and ensuite.

*Comments to be submitted by Clerk suggesting a Conservation Officers report is obtained by planners noting the property is in a conservation area.*

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

**3872** Clerk advised a quotation for the playground inspections had been received from the present inspection company. Same schedule of quarterly visits (two separate reports for each site per visit) cost excluding VAT £167.10 per quarter. Last year £150 ex VAT. Quotation price considered acceptable for next year

but

*Clerk to establish whether quarterly visits required, given the extensive detail in the reports.*

## **HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY**

**3873** *For Next Meeting* – Update on response to SCC Flood Risk Management Team / Riparian Letters

## **CLERK REPORT**

**3874 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.**

- £35 ICO GDPR Annual registration. By Direct Debit.

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

- Clerks Gross Salary July £682.08 plus associated PAYE
- Clerks Expenses July £28.50
- WGM Ground Maintenance work June (including Dog Bin Maintenance £75.60) - £2053.45 + £410.69 VAT = £2464.14
- Clerks SPCA Annual Sub (part shared with Salt PC) - £122.00
- Reimbursement to Councillor for two Land Reg searches - £12.00
- Reimbursement to Councillor for purchase palm sanders, batteries etc - £92.44
- Donation to Compass Magazine - £100.00
- Reimbursement to Clerk for annual Microsoft Sub - £59.99

## **3875 WOOLPACK BOUNCY CASTLES AND VILLAGE GREEN**

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for all their prior comments and proceeded to outline the background and basis of the previous permission given by the Parish Council.

The request and exact nature of the permission granted, subsequently emailed to the Woolpack, was recorded in Minute 3836 of the Parish Council Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Without changing the terms of the permission, the Minute 3858 of the Parish Council Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> June noted a reduction in the contribution level sought from the Woolpack, and confirmed all remaining dates sought.

The original theme behind the May request was for a small scale, children and family focussed event, for the villagers of Weston. The permission was specific that it was granted for bouncy castles / inflatables (any other activities would need prior approval, such as live music on the Green / lorry). No such extra request has been received. No prior information could be obtained from the Woolpack, regarding other "attractions" at the events, or the number of Bouncy Castles, despite the Clerk seeking the information.

All members of the Parish Council present agreed the events now planned were essentially large scale commercial events, aimed at a much wider adult audience, from outside the village, and not in keeping with the spirit of the original request or the terms of the original permission. The nature of the events now planned were effectively unauthorised by the Parish Council and represented a real risk to the infrastructure and fabric of the village.

All felt the impact on the community of Weston might be adversely affected by the scale and nature of these events which are considered not in keeping with the true nature of Weston.

The Parish Council remains supportive of the original request from the Woolpack of hosting an event to bring families together and create a village atmosphere.

The Parish Council will continue to support events that are for the heart of the community, with the expectation that they are on a scale with which the village can accept and cope with.

*It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Woolpack expressing concern and reminding of the terms of the original permission and to specifically decline the most recent request sought to use both sides of the Village Green on 27<sup>th</sup> August.*

### **3876 GIRLS U14 FOOTBALL TEAM**

Following joint meetings with the representative from the requesting organisation, Parish Councillors, and a representative from the Woolpack FC Men's Sunday team, it was reported that the girl's team has now been formally created. Some 22 girls have signed and will play on the green on selected Saturdays throughout the season. They will use the VH changing rooms before and after the games. A village team sponsor has come forward to provide funds to buy kit.

It was UNANIMOUSLY agreed by all present to offer the team a 100% discount on pitch fees for the first season to help establish this new and welcome activity.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Received after Agenda posted and circulated before the meeting, two planning applications thus.

**3877** 23/37449/FUL at Barn North East of the Old Farmhouse, London Road, Weston. Comments by 26<sup>th</sup> July.

**3878** 23/37753/HOU at Green Farm, Hartley Green Road, Gayton. Comments by 28<sup>th</sup> July.

*Councillors to consider and advise the Clerk by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July if any comments to be submitted requiring a formal meeting to confirm.*

### **DATE, TIME, and VENUE OF NEXT MEETING.**

**3879** Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30 p.m. at Weston Village Hall

**J GRIFFITHS  
CHAIR**