

# WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 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 A Massey, Councillor M Hardenberg,

Parish Clerk DW Croxford

Two members of the public were present.

## APOLOGIES

Councillor Mrs R Garner, Councillor Mrs G Wray, Stafford Borough Councillors Frances Beatty, and Karine Aspin

## PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

**3880 MEETING 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 11th of July 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Councillors Hart and Tallentire.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**3881** Councillor Hardenberg declared interests in items **3891** Activity on land at end of Wadden Lane / A518 and **3903** Draft letter to Homes Plus re Cherry Lane, Gayton

## PARISH PLAN

**3882** There were no updates.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

**3883** The Clerk issued notices from the County Council urging the use of Concessionary Travel.

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

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**3884** A member of the public enquired when the village gulley's would next be cleared as he believed many to be blocked. He was advised the primary responsibility for gulley clearing was Staffordshire County Council Highways, that their resources were extremely stretched County wide, that there was a clear protocol for reporting individual blocked gulley's via the SCC website and that the Parish Council had done considerable work (in Gayton and Weston) to plot, and report blocked gulley's. *Clerk to seek from SCC Highways their current gulley clearing programme.*

**3885** The same member of the public enquired about the arrangements that took place in helping The Woolpack stage their last event on the village green. He was advised all discussions, permissions sought and agreed had been recorded in the Parish Council Meeting minutes which are available to the Public on the Parish Council website, and village notice boards.

**3886** A second member of the public advised she had observed regular noisy speeding of cars along Old Road, usually around 9.30 p.m. two or three times a week. *Clerk to advise local PCSO.*

## **REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

**3887** Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis was not in attendance to present a report.

## **REPORT FROM STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR**

**3888** Stafford Borough Councillor Frances Beatty was not in attendance but her report to Parishes had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

**3889** Councillor Gair advised a productive meeting had taken place with Woolpack FC prior to the new season. Fixtures will be posted on the village noticeboard and, when the club's home games coincide with events at the Village Hall, the football club undertook to ensure the home, and away teams, parked considerately so as not to block the VH car park for VH users.

The bar area refurbishment is proceeding. New external doors have been installed to facilitate better access. The bar floor is being replaced on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September. The bar will need to be moved out of the room temporarily to facilitate this. It is planned to lift the bar and move it out of the room on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. and then reinstall it on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Volunteers are to be sought for this.

Coffee mornings are continuing.

## **DEVELOPMENTS**

**3890** 23/37714/HOU Green Farm Hartley Green Road Gayton Stafford Staffordshire Extensions: Revisions/Amendments to application 22/36112/HOU. RE: Two storey - Garage and upper floor to front/end elevations. From 25m<sup>2</sup> to 31.8m<sup>2</sup>. *No comments to be submitted to SBC Planning.*

**3891** Activity on land at end of Wadden Lane / A518.

Development work had been observed on this piece of land which was earmarked in the SBC local plan for a Travellers Site and, through the Trent Valley Collaboration Group, an objection to it was raised.

Enquiries at SBC Planning reveals the site was proposed in the emerging Local Plan at Preferred Options stage but is not an allocation in the adopted Plan for Stafford Borough. SBC advised there is currently no planning permissions with consent on this site and have contacted DM Enforcement who will be in touch with the Clerk in due course with an update.

*Clerk to monitor response.*

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

**3892** At the Parish Council's request the wet pour area under the children's slide has been repaired by Wicksteed.

## **HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY**

**3893** Update on response to SCC Flood Risk Management Team / Riparian Letters

Councillor Hart advised she will complete the response to SCC Flood Risk Management Team with all the information she has collated and the Riparian letters to parishioners are almost complete, ready for approval, circulation, and dispatch.

**3894** The boundary hedge at 1 Meadowbank Avenue, Weston requires pruning as it is impinging onto the pavement and hampering road visibility. *Clerk to write to occupants seeking action.*

**3895** Councillor Hart has a magnolia tree to donate and be planted on the village green.

**3896** The Grounds maintenance contractor is to be asked to strim the public footpath at the rear of St Andrew's Church / railway line. Minute 3850 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 refers. *Clerk to request.*

**3897** Drop kerb near Weston school. Still to be installed. *Clerk to enquire of SCC Highways.*

## CLERK REPORT

**3898 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 noting there was no meeting in August.

- Clerks Gross Salary August £682.08 plus associated PAYE
- Clerks Expenses August £28.50
- WGM Ground Maintenance work July (including Dog Bin Maintenance £90) - £1698.60 + £339.72 VAT = £2038.32
- SPCA Councillor Training £30 = VAT £6 = £36.00
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### Payments to be made.

- Clerks Gross Salary September £682.08 plus associated PAYE
- Clerks Expenses September £28.50
- WGM Ground Maintenance work August (including Dog Bin Maintenance £72) - £2082.75 + £416.55 VAT = £2499.30
- Reimbursement to Clerk for printer ink - £82.20
- Mazars Annual External Audit Fee £210 + £42 VAT = £252.00

**3899** The report of the External Auditors Mazars had been received on 4<sup>th</sup> August with no concerns and posted on the website ahead of the 30<sup>th</sup> September deadline.

**3900** A resignation letter from the Clerk dated 31<sup>st</sup> August has been received. The three months working notice period will expire 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The job has been advertised on the SPCA website, SPCA Bulletins, and to all the local parishes in the TVCG, with a closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> September. A recruitment sub committee may be formed in due course.

## CORRESPONDENCE

**3901** A letter from Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis regarding Solar Farms and associated planning matters had been circulated prior to the meeting and noted.

**3902** Request to use the Green for a pop-up gazebo for Remembrance / all things poppies (28th Oct / 4th November 2023) for this and future years. Unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree this for 2023 and the next two years without prior reference. Also unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree the purchase of a memorial wreath from the Parish Council for each of those events.

**3903** Draft letter to Homes Plus with regards to Cherry Lane, Gayton.  
Further to Minute 3855 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 a draft letter was circulated and approved. *Clerk to sign and dispatch.*

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

**3904** Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30 p.m. at Weston Village Hall

**J GRIFFITHS  
CHAIR**