

# WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30pm in Weston Village Hall.

## PRESENT

Councillor J Griffiths (Chair), Councillor Mrs H Hart, Councillor D Leake, Councillor Mrs J Gair, Councillor A Massey, Councillor M Hardenberg, Councillor Mrs R Garner  
Councillor Mrs G Wray,  
Stafford Borough Councillor Karine Aspin

Parish Clerk DW Croxford

No members of the public were present.

## APOLOGIES

Councillor J Tallentire

## PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

**3905 MEETING 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 12th of September 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Councillors Hardenberg and Hart.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**3906** Councillor Hardenberg declared interests in item **3924** correspondence with Homes Plus re Cherry Lane, Gayton and **3925** Activity on land at end of Wadden Lane / A518.

## PARISH PLAN

**3907** There were no updates.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

**3908** There were no announcements or notices that had not been circulated prior to the meeting.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**3909** No members of the public were present.

## REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

**3910** Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis was not in attendance to present a report.

## REPORT FROM STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

**3911** Stafford Borough Councillor Karine Aspin reported that a meeting with Stafford Borough Planners re a general planning policy regarding Solar Farms proved inconclusive, and it seems there is no specific guidance framework, rather each application considered on an individual basis.

There is a weekly management meeting held by the managing agencies regarding the implementation of the asylum seekers accommodation on Beaconside. The operators Serco have not been granted a lease at this juncture, and the first migrants are expected in situ in April 2024. Weston with Gayton Parish has been invited to join these meetings.

Guidance is expected from Government in due course following the cancellation of the HS2 line from Birmingham to Manchester. There will be significant work in unravelling the work and activity so far undertaken and likely changes to the Local Plan as a result.

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

**3912** Councillor Gair reported on the newly refurbished bar area and thanked all those volunteers who helped move the bar to facilitate the floor laying.

Following the cancellation of the HS2 Line from Birmingham to Manchester the associated grant applications submitted will not now be able to be considered.

The VHMC have selected and instructed a Solicitor to help progress the application to the Parish Council for a new lease.

The recently planted fir tree is looking unhealthy and the VHMC would like to be consulted on the location of a replacement if planted.

## **DEVELOPMENTS**

**3913** No applications had been received at the date of publication of the meeting agenda.

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

**3914** The Operational 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 have been provided to the GM contractor for information.

**3915** The signpost near White Cottage, recently re installed by the GM Contractor, has been pulled down again and will not be replaced.

**3916** There is a need to repair the tarmac surface of the path near the Village Green Childrens Play Area. *Clerk to seek telephone numbers of contractors for the attention of the Chair. An agenda item for next meeting.*

## **HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY**

**3917** 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.

**3918** Councillor Hart reported that Gayton Brook is getting heavily clogged with vegetation and that she had reported the matter the Environment Agency They have denied responsibility, suggesting the adjacent local landowners be contacted reminding them of their Riparian responsibilities.

## **CLERK REPORT**

**3919 RESOLVED** that the PC approve payments listed below and included on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.

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

- Clerks Gross Salary October £682.08 plus associated PAYE
- Clerks Expenses October £28.50
- WGM Ground Maintenance work September (including Dog Bin Maintenance £72) - £1831.35 + £366.37 VAT = £2198.22
- Play Inspection Co re Operational Inspections £167.10 + VAT £33.42 = £200.52

## 3920 Earmarked Funds / Reserves

It was considered and unanimously **RESOLVED** to earmark the following sums from bank balance as at year end.

Area	Expenditure Item	Earmarked Funds @ 31/03/2022	Earmarked Funds @ 31/03/2023	Earmarked Funds @ 31/03/2023
Weston	Grounds Project Work	£ 5,000.00	£ -	£ 5,000.00
Weston	VH Lease - Legal Cost Fund	£ 1,000.00	£ -	£ 1,000.00
Weston	Playground Project	£ 6,000.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 9,000.00
Weston	Tree Care Project	£ 3,000.00	£ 750.00	£ 3,750.00
Weston	Project Footpaths / Gullies (Highways)	£ 3,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 4,000.00
Gayton	Project - Footpaths, Stiles & Footbridge	£ 1,000.00	£ 400.00	£ 1,400.00
Weston	Private Road Reserves Fund	£ 6,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 7,000.00
Weston	Christmas Tree Lights Fund	£ 500.00	£ 250.00	£ 750.00
Weston	ELECTIONS (Weston 7 Seats)	£ 3,500.00	£ -	£ 3,500.00
Gayton	ELECTIONS (Gayton 2 Seats)	£ 1,000.00	£ -	£ 1,000.00
	<b>Total - Ear Marked Funds</b>	<b>£ 30,000.00</b>	<b>£ 6,400.00</b>	<b>£ 36,400.00</b>
	<b>Total - Working Capital</b>	<b>£ 16,577.39</b>	<b>£ 491.08</b>	<b>£ 17,068.47</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£ 46,577.39</b>	<b>£ 6,891.08</b>	<b>£ 53,468.47</b>

Draft Budget / Precept will be considered next meeting.

**3921** Interviews for the new Clerk / RFO will take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

**3922** The purchase of new Christmas lights will be considered at the next meeting as well as the provision of food at the lights switch on evening.

## CORRESPONDENCE

**3923** Drop kerb near Weston school. Still to be installed. Advised by SCC Highways likely to be in October school half term.

**3924** Letter to Homes Plus with regards to **Cherry Lane, Gayton**. No response received at date of this meeting.

**3925 Activity on land at end of Wadden Lane / A518**. No response received from DM Enforcement at date of this meeting.

**3926** Notice of appeal received against SBC refusal of retrospective application for retention of unauthorised boundary wall at Chardry Ley Boat Lane Weston **23/37040/HOU**. No action required.

**3927 Advice received from SCC Highways re Gulley cleaning**. Weston is on a triennial pack and are due to be cleansed, work will be scheduled for delivery as soon as possible. Gayton is on a biennial pack and are also due to be cleansed, this work will be scheduled for delivery and completed by the end of October / beginning of November.

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

**3928** Parish Council Meeting Monday 13th November 2023 at 7.30 p.m. at Weston Village Hall

*Clerk to advise all Councillors of change of day and agree change with VHMC.*

**J GRIFFITHS  
CHAIR**