

## WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm in Weston Village Hall.

**Present** Councillor J Griffiths (Chair), Councillor H Hart, Councillor J Gair, Councillor R Garner, Councillor M Hardenberg, Councillor J Tallentire.

Stafford Borough Councillor K Aspin  
Parish Clerk B Nicholls  
2 members of the public present.

#### **24/050: To Receive any Apologies and Record any Absences.**

Councillor D Leake, Councillor A Massey and Councillor G Wray.  
Stafford Borough Councillor Frances Beatty and Staffordshire County Councillor John Francis.

#### **24/051: Parish Council Meeting – Minutes**

Clerk informed Councillors of amendments made to draft minutes:

- i) Item 24/041 Cllr Gair reported refurbishment of changing rooms.
- ii) Change of Venue, meeting took place at Weston not Gayton.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 12th of March 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

#### **24/052: To Note any Declarations of Interest.**

Councillor Hardenberg declared Declaration of Interest in item 24/063 a).

#### **24/053: To Review the Parish Plan**

There were no updates.

#### **24/054: To Receive Announcements and Notices**

Resurfacing of Village Green Footpath unable to commence due to wet weather conditions. Contractors to confirm a start date for works to commence following drier weather conditions.

#### **24/055: Public Participation**

Member of public raised issue with overflowing bin on the Village Green and asked if the bin could be replaced with a full pedestal bin.

Member of public also raised concern over the ongoing water flow issue on Weston Bank.

Clerk gave an update received from Staffordshire County Council Highways regarding the ongoing water flow issue:

Drainage engineer conducted a site visit, further investigation is required, and a further site visit is required with the Highway Inspection Manager for the area, which will involve lifting another manhole. Unfortunately, due to resources and that water isn't flowing onto the carriageway this work is not currently a priority. However, when resources allow the work will be carried out.

Prior to the meeting a member of public emailed a request for re-location of waste bin from the proximity of their property due to the strong odour of dog waste during the warmer months.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Street Scene to follow up issues raised regarding waste bins.

**24/056: To receive reports from the Borough Councillor**

Stafford Borough Councillor K Aspin informed Councillors of an arranged meeting between Stafford Borough Council and Serco on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

**24/057: To receive reports from the County Councillor**

None received.

**24/058: To receive a report from the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC).**

Clerk read report received from Cllr Wray prior to the meeting.

Garrick theatre play Farm Boy was very well attended with 103 tickets sold and very well received. The committee we'll be looking into similar programmes which to offer the community.

Two meetings have been held to discuss the Village fete with the Woolpack offering help by supplying electricity and fresh water to help the refreshment tent.

Annual General Meeting to be held on

22nd April at 7pm all regular hirers have been sent an invitation.

**24/059: To Receive and consider Solicitor quotations for renewal of Village Hall Lease.**

Clerk informed Councillors of estimates received from two Solicitors for an idea of cost.

- **Estimation A** – Firm suggested by another PC Clerk who previously dealt with similar Lease renewal on behalf of a PC. basic fee **£750;00 to £1,000;00 plus VAT** + out of pocket payments, not likely to exceed **£100;00**.
- **Estimation B** - **£950 plus VAT**, and the transfer/assignment of the current lease for **£450 plus VAT** and disbursements.

Another solicitor company to be contacted to discuss further prior to agreement of which firm to proceed with.

**24/060: To Receive an update on Refurbishment of the Changing Area at Weston Village Hall.**

Clerk awaiting update on SPCA on clarification of applying for funding. Cllr Gair informed Council that WVHMC are awaiting an update from providers. Clerk awaiting update from SPCA on clarification of applying for funding.

A further source of grant funding for village halls is available from Stafford Borough Council (DEFRA / AGRA); Councillor K Aspin to confirm back the details of this source of grant funding and to also confirm whether there are any other appropriate sources of SBC linked grant funding that can be applied for re WVH refurbishment plans.

**24/061: To Receive an Update on Planning Applications.**

Clerk confirmed no planning applications had been received.

**24/062: To Discuss Trees and Children's Play Area issues.**

Clerk distributed March 2024 playground and MUGA/Skatepark reports to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Clerk gave an update regarding Skate Ramp quote/estimate for an idea of cost to replace skate ramp surface in need of repair:

Replace all 12 boards - £10,522.00 (+VAT £2,104.40) Total £12,626.40

Replace 4 boards - £4,380.00 (+VAT £876) Total £5,256.00 x 3 times would cost approx. £2,500 more.

Another quote to be obtained for comparison and further consideration.

**24/063: To Discuss Highways and Rights of Way issues.**

**a) To receive an update on Cherry Lane, Gayton.**

Cllr Hardenberg informed Councillors there was no update on Cherry Lane to report.

**b) To discuss Weston Bank ongoing water flow issue.**

Clerk gave update previously during Public Participation **24/055** after member of public raised ongoing issue.

**24/064: To Consider Finance Matters**

**a) To approve the monthly Statement of Accounts, Receipts and Payments**

Clerk presented monthly statement of accounts which had been distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting, this was approved and signed by the Chair.

**b) To approve the payments listed on the Statement of Accounts, Receipts, and Payments**

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

- Clerks Gross Salary April **£727.03**
- Clerks Expenses April **£28.50**
- Ground Maintenance March - **£780.00** + VAT £156.00= **£936.00** (includes £72.00 Dog Bin Maintenance).
- Play Inspection Company March Inspection **£167.10** + VAT £33.42 = **£200.52**
- Cllr Heart Re-imburement - Flood Signs **£63.85** + £12.77 = **£76.62**
- Cllr Heart Re-imburement – Cones **£24.98** +VAT £5.00 **£29.98**

**24/065: To Consider Items of Correspondence Received During the Previous Month.**

- Smash Burgers contacted Parish Council wanting to provide pop up food once a month.
- Stafford Rangers Juniors approached requesting use of the football pitch. Parish Council to consider further following contact with Weston FC Secretary.

**24/066: To Request Items for the Next Meeting Agenda**

None requested.

**24/067: To Confirm the Date, Time, and Venue of next meeting.**

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7:15pm at Weston Village Hall.

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