

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

**Present** Councillor A Massey (Chair), Councillor J Gair, Councillor M Hardenberg, Councillor H Hart and Councillor J Tallentire, Councillor Wray and Stafford Borough Councillor K Aspin.

Parish Clerk B Nicholls.

No members of the public were present.

**24/103: To Receive any Apologies and Record any Absences**

Cllrs R. Garner and D. Leake.

Stafford Borough Councillor F. Beatty and County Councillor J. Francis

**24/104: To Co-opt Vacant Weston Seat**

Clerk reported no requests received for co-option of the vacant Weston seat. Councillor Hart submitted resignation as Gayton Councillor with a request of being Co-opted for the Weston vacant seat.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Hart is Co-opted for the vacant Weston seat.

**24/105: Parish Council Meeting – Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**24/106: To Note any Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**24/107: To Receive Announcements and Notice**

No announcements or notices that had not been circulated prior to the meeting.

**24/108: Public Participation**

No members of the public attended.

**24/109: To Receive a Report from Borough Councillor**

Borough Councillor Cllr K. Aspin reported:

- i) Solar farm in Hixon has been approved.
- ii) Elected MP Gavin Williamson representing Stone, Great Wyrley and Penkridge the constituency since the new boundary change and General Election.

**24/110: To Receive a Report from County Council Councillor**

None submitted.

**24/111: To Receive a Report from the Village Hall Management Committee**

- Warmer homes agreed to attend coffee morning in September. Warmer homes give advice on cost of fuel/heating.
- Village Hall lease is progressing, working towards setting up an CIO.
- Rodger Parks Production event is being held at 7:30pm on the 5th October at Weston Village Hall.

**24/112: To Receive an update on Village Hall Defra grant**

Councillor Gair updated Councillors that Defra had informed the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC), that the Parish Council were unable to apply for the grant as they are not trustees of the Village Hall. Defra advised the VHMC to submit a letter from the Parish Council as the landlord with confirmation of commitment to renewing the Village Hall lease. Councillor Gair confirmed that following this, Defra awarded the VHMC with £2000 grant towards

£10,000 project. Councillor Gair reported the VHMC have submitted a grant application to Seven Trent Water for funding towards the remaining cost of the project.

**24/113: To Consider and Agree Appointment of Solicitor for Renewal of Village Hall Lease**

Clerk presented 3 quotes obtained. **RESOLVED** to appoint M. Cantlay of Wooliscrofts Solicitors, to represent Weston with Gayton Parish Council and proceed with the renewal of Weston Village Hall lease.

**Action:** Clerk to inform Solicitor of appointment.

**24/114: To Discuss Girls U14s Football Fees**

Councillors discussed the fee for the Girls U14s football team, for use of the pitch for the next season.

**RESOLVED** to waiver the fee for the 2024/25 season, with the agreement that the fee is to be reviewed annually.

**Action:** Clerk to write to Girls U14s Club Manager.

**24/115: To Adopt Publication Scheme**

Clerk previously distributed publication scheme which describes how Weston with Gayton Parish Council information is made available and any charges which may apply when requested. **RESOLVED** to adopt the publication scheme. Clerk informed Councillors this will be reviewed regularly along with other policies.

**24/116: To Receive an Update on Planning Applications**

None received.

**24/117: To Discuss Village Green, Trees and Children's Play Area issues**

**a) To discuss June Playground and MUGA inspection report**

Clerk distributed the June playground and Muga/Skate Park inspection reports when received prior to the meeting. Clerk informed Councillors the bin by the Muga had been reported as broken and this had been replaced with a spare full pedestal bin. Clerk confirmed that no other new issues had been identified.

**b) To discuss and consider quotes for replacement of skate ramp surfaces**

Clerk distributed quotes for repair/replacement of skate ramp surfaces prior to the meeting. 2 companies conducted a site visit out of the 4 companies who provided quotes. Discussions and considerations were held on the cost of replacement of the whole panels requiring replacements compared to the cost of patching the damaged panels. **RESOLVED** to patch the damaged panels with the plan to re-assess future use of the skate park. The approved quote also included cleaning of the ramp surfaces which are not in need of replacement.

**Action:** Clerk to contact and inform approved company Raddi Ramps.

**c) To receive an update on Weston Village Green footpath**

Councillor Hart confirmed that work on the Village Green footpath had successfully been completed.

**d) To consider request from St Andrew's PTA to hold a colour run event on the Village Green**

St. Andrews school PTA requested permission for the use of the Village Green to hold a Colour run fundraising event on Saturday 28th September from 12-4pm. **RESOLVED** that St Andrew's PTA have use of the Village Green at no cost for the proposed Colour Run event due to it being a fundraising event for the PTA.

**24/118: To Discuss Highways and Rights of Way issues**

**a) To discuss 'The Green' (private rd.) turning point**

**RESOLVED** – Councillor unanimously agreed for letter to be distributed to residents of 'The Green' (private rd.) advising cars are not parked in the turning area.

**Action:** Clerk to produce letter for distribution.

**b) To receive an update on Weston Bank water flow issue**

Clerk gave an update received from SCC Highways department. The engineer has conducted a site visit and confirmed that further work is required to clear the manhole and jet the outlet to try and get it running again. Highways advised a job has been raised and highlighted to the scheduling team.

**c) To receive an update on damaged Speed Indicator Device (SID)**

Councillor Hart gave an update regarding the damaged SID. The SID is still working but the casing is broken. Discussion held on possible cause of damage; suggestion was made the damage may have been caused during hedge trimming.

Clerk informed Councillors the SID supplier Elan City quoted for the cost of postage and assessment - **£305.42** (including VAT). Elan City also provided an estimation of **£584.15** (including VAT) for delivery/assessment + additional estimated cost to repair the unit provided the damage is solely to the SID casing.

**RESOLVED** – Councillors agreed assessment and repair of the SID. It was suggested that the owner of the hedge is contacted and requested to inform the PC prior to future hedge trimming, to allow for the SID to be moved to alternative location to prevent future damage.

**d) To consider ground maintenance of track and Weston 6 footpath behind Weston Methodist Church to the Weston boundary**

Councillors discussed and considered suggested ground maintenance of track and Weston 6 footpath, behind Weston Methodist Church up to the Parish boundary. It was suggested the path is maintained twice yearly (June and August) at Cross point Hixon 24 Footpath. Another suggestion was made to request Hixon Parish Council trim their side of parish boundary on the Hixon 24 footpath.

Councillors **agreed** for Clerk to obtain cost of suggested maintenance from Westons current Grounds Maintenance contractor, for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting in September.

**Action:** Clerk to obtain cost from Groundskeeper.

**e) Gayton Footpath (item 24/120 b on Agenda)**

**Chair** agreed to move item **24/120 b**). Clerk reported a member of public requested an update regarding the closure of the footpath behind Ford House, Gayton and the bridge that crosses Gayton Brook on Gayton footpath 3 from Parkside to Mountfords. Member of public in their email stated that someone has been to inspect the bridge and the footpath has been closed due to erosion.

Clerk informed Councillors that contact had been made to SCC Public Rights of Way (PRoW) querying both reported issues and is awaiting an update.

**Action:** Councillor Hardenberg to investigate/confirm and inform Clerk of bridge issue.

**24/119: To Consider Finance Matters**

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

Clerk presented monthly statement of accounts which the Clerk had 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

Clerk's Gross Salary 47.8 hrs x £15.21 per hr (payable 25th July)	727.03
Clerks Basic Expenses (Home Allce 4 x £6 / Mileage £4.50)	28.50
Ground Maintenance June - £ 1764.60 + VAT £352.92 = £2117.52 (inc £75.60 for emptying dog waste bins )	2384.00
Play Inspection Reports £167.10 + VAT £33.42 = £200.52	200.52

Cllr H.Hart Re-imburement - elastic for noticeboard	8.00
Weston Village Green Footpath Groundworks £5,918.00 + VAT £1,183.60 = £7,101.60	7101.60

**c) To consider grant towards compass magazine**

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council donate £200 to Compass Magazine.

**24/120: To Consider Items of Correspondence Received During the Previous Month**

**a) Weston bank water flow issue** – previously discussed item 24/118 b)

**b) Gayton Footpath** – Item moved and discussed during item 24/118 e)

**c) The Woolpack Pub, Licence Amendment Notice, External Speakers**

Woolpack requested amendment to the current license to allow for ambient music to be played outside of the back of the Woolpack. No action required by the Parish Council.

**d) Canal tow path and damaged gate**

Councillor Hart Reported both the damaged gate and overgrown vegetation. Councillor Hart reported that work to cutback vegetation has commenced, and the gate had been repaired.

**24/121: To Request Items for the Next Meeting Agenda**

- Playground project
- Footpath ground maintenance
- Gayton Vacant seat
- Gayton footpath/bridge update
- Gayton speed reduction

**24/122: To Confirm the Date, Time, and Venue of next meeting**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 7:30pm at **Weston Village Hall**.