

**Minutes of the Weston with Gayton Parish Council Meeting that took place on
Tuesday 8th October 2024 at 7.30pm in Weston Village Hall.**

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

Parish Clerk B Nicholls.

3 members of the public were present.

24/143: To Receive any Apologies and Record any Absences

Councillor J Gair, Councillor D. Leake, Councillor R.Garner

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

24/144: To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of Parish Council on 10th September 2024

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 10th September 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

24/145: To Note any Declarations of Interest - There were no declarations of interest.

24/146: To Receive Announcements and Notice

Clerk reported that Councillor R. Garner had withdrawn as a Councillor.

Action: Clerk to inform SBC Elections of vacant Weston seat.

24/147: Public Participation - Members of the public are invited to address the Council on any issue over which it has power, for up to 5 minutes each.

3 members of the public were in attendance to raise their concerns with planning application 24/38808. Chairman moved **item 24/153 To discuss planning application 24/38808/FUL - Land Off Hartley Green Road Gayton** to be discussed during the public participation.

Councillors listened to the concerns raised by members of the public and discussed the comments that were submitted by Stafford Borough Councillor Frances Beatty in document 6130985 on the Planning Portal.

RESOLVED Councillors unanimously agreed to object to planning application 24/38808FUL in support of the comments and concerns raised by SBC Councillor F. Beatty.

24/148: To Receive a Report from Borough Councillor

- Councillor K .Aspin reported the NPPF Planning consultation ended on the 24th September. Government due to give an update by the end of October 2024.
- Beaconside Serco application withdrawn. K. Aspin advised SERCO did not ask for payment towards the cost of the appeal process.

24/149: To Receive a Report from County Council Councillor

SCC Cllr J. Francis was not in attendance and no report had been given. Clerk informed Councillors she had reported the raised Laurel issue on Boat Lane to SCC Highways. Clerk contacted Cllr J. Francis for an update prior to the meeting. Cllr J.Francis following up with Highways.

24/150: To Receive a Report from the Village Hall Management Committee

Councillor G. Wray gave an update:

- Piano Man event sold 120 tickets. Successful event.
- Village Hall refurbishment update:
 - o Village Hall light replacement complete, floor to be replaced in the next six weeks.
 - o Sevent Trent Water have asked for a publicity event following the successful grant funding towards the Village Hall modifications. Open day event will take place on 1st February 2-4pm.
 - o Press release signed off.
- 4th November coffee morning event 10am – 12pm to raise funds towards Hixon First Responders.

24/151: To Receive an update on Football Association (FA) Funding Application for Weston Village Hall Changing Rooms

Cllr H.Hart gave an update following a meeting with the two Weston football clubs to discuss the refurbishment of the Weston Village Hall changing rooms. The football clubs offered to fund raise towards the 25% shortfall. Councillors agreed to discuss the amount of money the Parish Council could allocate towards the project following consideration of the 2025-26 budget.

24/152: To Discuss and Consider Additional Annual Tasks to Grounds Maintenance Contract

Clerk stated she had requested a quote from the Grounds Maintenance contractor for additional tasks.

24/153: To Receive an Update on Planning Applications –

Planning application 24/38808/FUL - Land Off Hartley Green Road Gayton, discussed during public consultation.

24/154: To Discuss Village Green, Trees and Children's Play Area issues

- a) **Wetpour issue update** - Clerk reported the company who installed the wetpour around the slide had visited and assessed the reported issue. The company concluded that the wetpour is 'spongier' in that area, as it is designed to take increased impact due to the risk of a child falling from a greater height.
- b) **Upgrading Play equipment** - Councillors agreed that further considerations to be held following review of the budget for 2025-26.
- c) Clerk confirmed following further investigation, the concern previously raised regarding overgrown foliage of a tree on the Village Green was not an issue as the overhead cables were telephone cables and not electric.

24/155: To Discuss Highways and Rights of Way issues

- a) Mains drains clearance / The private road, 'The Green' – Councillors unanimously agreed to hire a road sweeper to clear the gulleys on the private road 'The Green'. Clerk had requested quotes from 3 companies but had received only 2 to present. **RESOLVED** to proceed with JM Clark contractor to clear 3 gullies on the private road 'The Green' and the gully by the war memorial if time allows.

24/156: To Consider Finance Matters

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

Payments to be approved:	
Clerk's Gross Salary 47.8 hrs x £15.21 per hr (payable 25th October)	727.03
Clerks Basic Expenses (Home Allce 4 x £6 / Milage £4.50)	28.50
Clerk Re-imbusement Printer Paper x 2 reams at £4.50 each	9.00
Weston Ground Maintenance - Fence repair £199.50 + VAT £39.90 = £239.40	239.40
Ground Maintenance September - £1399.25 + VAT £279.85 = £1679.10 (inc £94.50 for emptying dog waste bins)	1679.10
Mazars Audit Fees - £210 + VAT £42.00 = £252	252.00

- c) AGAR Minor scope for improvement suggestions:
 - i) Accessibility regulations – smaller authorities advised to make clear on website that AGAR document is a scan and will not be fully compliant with Accessibility Regulations. Clerk to ensure this is made clear on the website.
 - ii) Clerk advised her research into .gov email/domain was ongoing and will report back once more advice/information obtained.
- d) Councillors unanimously agreed, to continue with the grant funding towards the maintenance of St. Andrews graveyard and agreed to not take on the maintenance work back onto Grounds Maintenance contract as requested.
- e) Clerk suggested ear marked funds to be discussed at the November meeting following further consideration on the draft budget. Clerk informed Councillors she will prepare draft budget for the November Parish Council meeting.
- f) Councillors agreed for Cllr H. Hart to purchase a wreath for Remembrance Day and for Clerk to re-imburse.

24/157: To Consider Items of Correspondence Received During the Previous Month

- i) Email received in response from Clerks email to the headteacher at St Andrews school regarding the parking/congestion issue raised at September meeting. The Headteacher is aware and of the ongoing issue which they try to tackle. Headteacher had included a reminder in the school newsletter prior to the concern being raised, urging parents to be considerate and use the village hall car park. Headteacher is also in the process of exploring re-instatement of the Walking Bus.
- ii) John Burke Memorial project event being arranged for May Day, Thursday 1st May 2025.

24/158: To Request Items for the Next Meeting Agenda

- AED for Gayton

24/159: To Confirm the Date, Time, and Venue of next meeting

Tuesday 12th November