

**Minutes of the Weston with Gayton Parish Council Meeting that took place on
Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7.30pm in Weston Village Hall.**

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

Parish Clerk B Nicholls.

2 members of the public were present.

24/160: To Receive any Apologies and Record any Absences

Councillor M Davis, Councillor J Gair,

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

24/161: To Co-opt Vacant Weston Seat – Chair reported on person has shown interest to be co-opted but unable to attend the November meeting. Clerk confirmed there had been no other interest received.

24/162: To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of Parish Council on 8th October 2024

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 8th October 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

24/163: To Note any Declarations of Interest - There were no declarations of interest.

Chairman requested item 24/165 Public Participation to be moved

24/165: 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.

One member of the public spoke regarding correspondence he had made to the Parish Council following receipt of a letter sent out to all residents of The Green' private road, requesting residents of The Green refrain from parking within the turning circle of 'The Green' private road. Member of the public stated they were unaware that they were unable to park and requested consideration and written consent to park within the area in front of their house which they believe to be too small to be classed as a 'turning circle'. Councillors agreed that further investigation would be required, and the Council would update them following further investigation and clarification of information.

Another member of public raised concerns with the following areas being overgrown:

- Boat Lane/A518 Junction – Ivy/Hedge Councillors aware of this and have obtained a quote from PC Ground Maintenance to address.
- A518 Church Hedge overgrown, debris on pavement – Grounds maintenance to be asked to clear.
- Old Road through to Wellyards Close PRoW – Privet Hedge – Clerk to write to Homes + to request cutting the hedge back.
- London Road bridal way (A51)- Overgrown conifers on the large bend – Contact to be made with the owners of the property requesting for that the conifers to be cut back.

Members of the public left the meeting.

24/164: To Receive Announcements and Notice

Remembrance Sunday - Thanks given to Cllr G.Wray for laying wreath on behalf of PC and to the Williams family of Weston for their creativity and their time making the giant poppies to enhance the silhouettes of the man and woman, sited at the War memorial.

24/166: To Receive a Report from Borough Councillor

Update received from Stafford Borough Cllr. K.Aspin.

Stafford Railway Station Gateway project, Guildhall and Co-op project all commencing January 2025
Stafford Heritage Centre has officially opened and is open to the public Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 4pm. The space includes archives and a new education and learning space.
Police advised to be vigilant if going to busy areas as risk of possible incidents was raised.

24/167: To Receive a Report from County Council Councillor - SCC Cllr J. Francis was not in attendance and no report had been given.

24/168: To Receive a Report from the Village Hall Management Committee

A new floor has been laid. New doors being installed at the end of the week.
Solicitor extended lead time for renewing the lease by 3 months
Christmas shopping event 29th November 2024 – light switch on. Profits from the sale of hotdogs and juice this year to go to the Village Hall.
PC agreed for the Village Hall to explore electric charging points for the Village Hall car park.
Clerk asked to investigate further regarding the Saura Cherry Tree project.

24/169: To Discuss and Consider Defibrillator in Gayton

Clerk informed councillors of current government funding for AED.
Cllr M. Hardenberg informed Cllr M. Davis investigating further.

24/170: To Discuss and Consider Additional Annual Tasks to Grounds Maintenance Contract - £1523.25 total quoted for all suggested additional areas. Councillors **agreed** for the additional tasks to be added onto the Ground Maintenance contract except for reported Laurel bush on Boat lane. Clerk reported SCC have advised the land belongs to the owner of the adjacent property. Clerk awaiting further response from SCC regarding land ownership.
Additional grounds maintenance work to be reviewed yearly in line with confirming annual budget.

24/171: To Receive an Update on Planning Applications - Planning application 24/38808/FUL - Land Off Hartley Green Road Gayton, – **Refused – Appeal status unknown**

24/172: To Discuss Village Green, Trees and Children's Play Area issues

No issues reported. Following feedback from interim audit, Clerk to ensure there is a record of the monthly play equipment checks/inspection that is carried out by the PCs Ground Maintenance contractor.

24/173: To Discuss Highways and Rights of Way issues

- a) Flooding Hartley Green road, Gayton – Cllr Hardenberg reported ongoing issues with flooding which is affecting some residents homes/insurance and raised that gulleys are still blocked after continuing to report. Clerk to contact Cllr J.Francis
- b) Update on closed footpath behind Ford House, Gayton - Update from PRoW –
Footpath No 0.1419 – Options are still being discussed regarding a diversion or the path or a refurbishment of the existing bridge.
Footpath No 3 – PRoW seeking a specialist engineering view on possible options.

24/174: 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.

	NET	VAT	Total
Clerk's Gross Salary 47.8 hrs x £15.84 per hr (payable 25th November)			757.15
Clerks Pay Award Back pay April 2024 - October 2024			210.79
Clerks Basic Expenses (Home Allce 4 x £6 / Milage £4.50			28.50
Ground Maintenance October	2186.85	437.37	2624.22
JM Clark Road Sweeper Hire	430.00	86.00	516.00
Cllr H.Hart, reimbursement for Remembrance Wreath			19.50
Total	2616.85	523.37	4156.16

- c) The interim Internal Audit was undertaken and concluded on 5th November 2024 and no issues were reported by the Auditor. Clerk informed Councillors of notes given for consideration.
- .gov domain/website. Auditor advised PC should look at moving over to .gov domain and emails.
 - Auditor highlighted the Clerk was not claiming the full amount for working at home allowance £26 per month (£312 per annum). Councillors **agreed** for the Clerk to claim the full amount from December 2024 and to receive back pay for the differential amount from December 2023.
- d) To discuss budget and ring-fenced funds – Clerk had distributed the draft budget to councillors prior to the meeting. Clerk advised confirmation of the budget at the next PC meeting in December.
- e) To receive an update on agreed National Salary Award for Clerks 2024-25 – Clerk gave an update regarding the recently approved National Salary Award and the increase of the Clerks salary + back pay from April-October 2024 as detailed in the payments to be approved.
- f) Grant request received for St.Peters Church graveyard maintenance and Gayton Village Hall. Total cost of work £1780.80 (£705.60 for village hall and £1075.20 for St Peters) Clerk stated the agreed grant for this financial year was for £1680 (£672 for Village Hall and £1008 towards maintenance of St Peters graveyard).

24/175: To Consider Items of Correspondence Received During the Previous Month

- John Burke Memorial – email received requesting permission for siting of the memorial, Clerk informed the person requesting permission that the land is owned by Anne Shaw Trust not the Parish Council.
- Gayton Jubilee Tree – Email received regarding Tree located on triangle by Vicarage Bank requesting the bottom branches are removed as blocking sign for Hartley Green. Clerk to request permission from SBC planning department due to TPO order.

24/176: To Request Items for the Next Meeting Agenda – None requested.

24/177: To Confirm the Date, Time, and Venue of next meeting

Tuesday 10th December 2024, 7:30pm at Weston Village Hall.

2025 Meeting dates (March and July location at Gayton Village Hall)

14th January 2025
11 th February 2025
11 th March 2025
8 th April 2025
13 th May 2025
10 th June 2025
8 th July 2025
9 th September 2025
14 th October 2025
11 th November 2025
9 th December 2025