

MINUTES OF WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2008 IN WESTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: A. Hopkin (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor D. Bowers
Councillor Mrs. A. Brook
Councillor Dr. K. Evans
Councillor D. Kirby
Councillor Mrs. A. Martin
Councillor R. Tonge
PCSO Neil Williams
Borough Councillor Mrs. F. Beatty

Clerk Mrs. C. L. Hawley

Apologies: Parish Councillor C. Critchlow, PC O. Blewitt, PC M. Napier and County Councillor L. Bloomer.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 July 2008

39. **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 July 2008 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Mrs. A. Brook and Dr. K. Evans respectively.

Matters Arising from Parish Council Meeting held on 8 July 2008

40. It was noted that the matters arising would be addressed during the meeting from the agenda items.

Declaration of Interest

41. No declarations of interest were recorded.

Announcements and Notices

42. The following matters were noted:

- The Clerk advised that a letter had been received by the Chairman of the Parish Council advising that Parish Councillor Orgill was resigning from the Parish Council. The Vice-Chairman read the letter to the Parish Council. Parish Councillor Orgill had served on the Parish Council as a Gayton representative for over 14 years and stated that he would miss not only his neighbours, but also the many friends he had met at Parish Council meetings. He had sold his property in Gayton quicker than he had expected and would be moving out of the area. He went on to wish the Parish Council every success for the future. The Parish Council expressed thanks to Parish Councillor Orgill for his dedication, contribution and commitment to the Parish Council over the years and wished him good health and happiness in the future. **RESOLVED** - (a) That Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook write to Parish Councillor Orgill, and (b) That the Clerk make the necessary arrangements to fill the resulting vacancy on the Parish Council.
- The Clerk advised that the next meeting of the Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association would be at 7.30pm on Thursday 18 September 2008 in Stowe-by-Chartley Village Hall.
- The Clerk also advised that between 9.30am – 4.00pm on 24 September 2008 there would be a Workshop entitled 'Energy Auditing for Community Buildings'. This was to be held in Sandon Parish Room, Sandon.
- The Annual General Meeting of the Community Council of Staffordshire would take place at 7.30pm on 25 September 2008 in Stowe-by-Chartley Village Hall.
- The Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association 69th Annual General Meeting would take place on 15 November 2008

Public Participation

43. No additional issues were raised.

Reports

44. The following reports were received:

- PCSO Neil Williams reported to the Parish Council on incidents that had taken place since the last Parish Council meeting and had been reported to the Police.
- Borough Councillor Mrs. Francis Beatty reported on the following:
 - She advised that the Local Development Framework was ongoing. Parish Council's were still able to comment and the Borough Council were able to send a representative to Parish Council meetings to report on this area further. **RESOLVED** - That a representative be invited to a future Parish Council meeting.
 - Leader Funding. Borough Councillor Mrs. Beatty reported that Staffordshire County Council had access to funding which had been linked to rural areas in Staffordshire Moorlands. However, Stafford Borough rural Parishes were able to link into and be included in this funding stream. The funding was for community projects. She advised that the Community Council of Staffordshire would be able to make a presentation and advise further on this. It might be possible to obtain in excess of 40% matched funding. Areas being considered would include youth, health, footpath projects, walks etc. **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk invite Andy Holden of the Community Council of Staffordshire to a meeting of the Parish Council to make a presentation on this in order to obtain further information and, thereafter, to write to advise the local Community Groups of the funding available.

Developments

45. The following planning applications had been received by the Clerk:

- Planning Application No. 08/10620/FUL – The Firs, Churchfields, Gayton. Retrospective planning approval for the siting of 4 original Stoke-on-Trent gas lamps. **RESOLVED** – That the Parish Council had no objections.
- Planning Application No. 08/10805/FUL – The Old Station Yard, London Road, Weston. Development of single detached house linked to farmstead plus removal of existing mobile home (when built). **RESOLVED** – That, following a vote, the Parish Council object to this planning application, advising (a) That the proposed development does not reflect essential agricultural worker accommodation, (b) The primary business is haulage and not farming, and (c) That the original footprint was for a temporary dwelling only.
- Planning Application No. 08/10812/FUL – Land to the rear of Denfield House, Stafford Road, Weston. Erection of a pair of wrought iron gates. **RESOLVED** – That the Parish Council had no objections.

46. The following planning decision had been received from Stafford Borough Council:

- Planning Application No. 08/10042/FUL – Rooks Nest Farm, Weston Bank. Conversion of barns into five dwellings. **Permitted**.

Salt Works Lane

47. Discussion took place regarding the following:

- It was reported that ranch style fencing had been proposed to be erected at the site. Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook had reminded the developers that lose lapped fencing had previously been agreed with them via a letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council. Discussion took place regarding the length of fencing required and it was agreed that the new fence must meet the existing fence. **RESOLVED** - That Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook pursue the fencing issue.
- It was noted that some of the units had been sold. The developers were to arrange for the Roofers to complete the units.
- There were currently a few men working on the site and very little traffic was presently involved.

Policy

48. In relation to the Handyman, Parish Councillor Hopkin advised the Parish Council:

- That the Handyman's Job List, as agreed by the Parish Council, had been forwarded to the Handyman.
- That the Parish Council mower was once again broken.
- That the Handyman had been seen driving the Parish Council mower without wearing his high visibility jacket which had been provided by the Parish Council.
- The Handyman had again left the mower unattended on the Village Green.
- Parish Councillor Hopkin had recently received the maps to enable him to highlight which areas of grass the Handyman was required to cut with the sit on mower. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Hopkin now highlight the relevant areas of grass for the Handyman to cut with the sit on mower.

Property

49. The following matters were discussed:

- Weston Village Hall. Parish Councillors Mrs Brook and Mrs. Martin reported on the recent meeting with Weston Village Hall Management Committee, at which discussion had taken place regarding the new kitchen for Weston Village Hall. It had been agreed that the Architect was to compile plans on behalf of the Parish Council. Discussion took place regarding the Parish Council funding the replacement of Weston Village Hall kitchen as a capital project (see minute number 52 below). **RESOLVED** – That Councillor Critchlow present the finalised plans to the October Parish Council meeting.
- Land at Old School Close, Weston. The Clerk advised that she had received a letter from the Parish Council Solicitor advising that the registration of the land was progressing. She had received a copy of the contract relating to the sale of the land. **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk forward the contract to the Chairman for comments.
- Spencer Close, Weston. Discussion took place in relation to the ongoing issues regarding the parking in Spencer Close, Weston. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Hopkin draft a letter to be forwarded to the residents in the area of Spencer Close.
- Wayleave, Weston Village Green. Parish Councillor Hopkin advised that the plans, which the Chairman had in relation to the Wayleave on Weston Village Green, had been out of date. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillors Hopkin and Critchlow ensure that the correct plans are received and this matter be moved forward.
- The Woolpack, Weston. Discussion took place regarding the recent changes to the law on smoking and the fact that there were, on occasions between 6 – 8 people sitting in the porch area of The Woolpack smoking. This meant that visitors to The Woolpack had to walk through the resulting smoke in order to access the pub. In addition there were often cigarette butts on the floor in the same area. **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk write to the Brewery and the Landlady of The Woolpack in relation to (a) The above mentioned smoking related issues, (b) To request the clearance of broken glass and litter from the Parish Council land that the Brewery lease from the Parish Council, alternatively the use of the land might have to be reconsidered, (c) To advise that the Parish Council had received complaints regarding parties outside The Woolpack carrying on until late at night/early into the morning, and (d) That the wall appeared to be in a dangerous state since the tree had been removed and appeared to require urgent attention.
- Multi Use Games Area. It was **RESOLVED** – That this item be discussed at the October Parish Council meeting.
- Trees in Weston. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Hopkin ensure that the trees are denoted on the map and that the trees are assessed.
- The Clerk advised that she had received the Annual Report on the inspection of the play equipment on Weston Village Green. **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk forward a copy to the Chairman.

Public Rights of Way

50. Discussion took place in relation to the following:

- Ragwort which had been found in Gayton. The Clerk advised that she had reported this to the Stafford Borough Council and to CLARENCE.
- Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook advised that no progress had been made with Stafford and Rural Homes (SARH) in relation to pathways and painting posts. **RESOLVED** - That Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook arrange a meeting with Karen Armatge of SARH, and also invite Borough Councillor Mrs. Beatty to attend.
- Weston Feasibility Study. Mr. John Sly had been unable to attend this meeting and information was circulated regarding Weston traffic figures for July/August 2008. It was agreed that the Weston Feasibility Study would be discussed at the October 2008 Parish Council meeting. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook contact John Sly in relation to him attending the October Parish Council meeting.
- The Clerk advised that she had received a letter from the County Council regarding their proposed 'Community Gangs' who would be responsible for Highways matters in the area. Discussion took place in relation to the work the Community Gangs would undertake in the Parish.
- It was noted that dogs had been seen worrying livestock on land in Weston **RESOLVED** - (a) That the Clerk ask the Dog Warden for suitable notices requesting dogs to be kept on a lead, and (b) That Parish Councillor Hopkin include a notice in Compass.

Best Kept Village

51. Discussion took place regarding who was responsible for the BKV competition. It was reported that Weston had been successful in winning the 2008 Best Kept Village Competition. Thanks were expressed to Mavis Willing and to everyone who volunteered and was involved in the competition for their hard work, time and effort in making the Village once again successful in 2008.

Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook announced that the BKV presentation would take place at 11.00am on Saturday 13 September 2008 opposite Weston Post Office. Following the presentation there would be a celebratory buffet in the Woolpack, and all members of the Parish were invited to attend.

Finance

52. The Clerk reported on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments and record of Clerks hours worked. The Current Account balance of £2245.28 and the Reserve Account balance of £5615.68 were noted.

Discussion took place regarding the Parish Council funding the replacement of Weston Village Hall kitchen as a capital project (see minute 49 above). Parish Councillor Mrs. Martin proposed that the Parish Council paid for the new kitchen for Weston Village Hall as a capital project of £14,344.98, and this proposal was seconded by Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook. All Parish Councillors present were in agreement to this proposal.

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Clerk's salary September	289.77
Clerks travel July – Sept (203 miles x 0.52p)	105.56
Clerks phone calls, emails, etc (25 x 32p)	8.00
Broadband connection September	7.66
Handyman Salary August 2008 (16 hrs per week)	400.00
Handyman Salary September 2008 (16 hrs per week)	400.00
Pickering Plant Hire	47.00
Petty Cash	25.00
John Hicks and Associates Play Inspection	60.28

53. **RESOLVED** – (a) That the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments, and record of Clerks hours worked be approved, (b) That the Parish Council agree to pay for the new kitchen in Weston Village Hall, as a capital project, (c) That the Clerk compile a letter to the Staffordshire Railway as authorisation for a cheque to be raised for £14,344.98 payable to Weston Village Hall Management Committee, and (d) That the following payments be approved:

○ The Woolpack - for BKV buffet	£120.00
○ Mr Reg Johnson – bench fitting	£100.00
○ Orchard Street Furniture – new bench	£491.56
○ Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook for BKV flowers	£23.00
○ Parish Councillor Critchlow – bench fitting materials	£122.88

Correspondence and Other Matters

54. The Clerk reported on the following correspondence:

- Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association September 2008 Newsletter.
- The Clerk advised that BT had reopened the consultation into their proposal to re-align payphone provision to meet consumer demand. Discussion took place in relation to the pay phone kiosks in the Parish. **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk contact BT in relation to adopting the BT kiosk in Gayton.

Items for the next Parish Council meeting

55. The following items were agreed for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting:

- Weston Feasibility Study.
- Work to Weston Village Hall.
- Multi Use Games Area.
- Notice Boards.
- Memorial Sign for Mr. Tavernor.
- Finger Post.
- Bins.
- Spencer Close.
- Best Kept Village Competition.

Date of the next meeting

56. The next Parish Council Meeting was to take place at **7.00pm on Tuesday 14 October 2008** in Weston Village Hall.

**ALAN HOPKIN
VICE-CHAIRMAN**