

**MINUTES OF WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 14 APRIL 2009 IN WESTON VILLAGE HALL**

Present: C. Critchlow (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs. A. Brook
Councillor C. Gilbert
Councillor A. Hopkin
Councillor Mrs. A. Martin
Borough Councillor Mrs. F. Beatty

Parish Clerk Mrs. C. L. Hawley

Also in Attendance: Parishioner R. Titley.

Apologies: Parish Councillors D. Bowers, Dr. K. Evans, D. Kirby and R. Tonge, County Councillor L. Bloomer and PC M.Napier.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 March 2009

183. **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 March 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Brook respectively.

Matters Arising from Parish Council Meeting held on 10 March 2009

184. There were no matters arising which were not already on the agenda.

Minutes of the Gayton Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 10 March 2009

185. **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the Gayton Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 10 March 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Gilbert and Mrs. Brook respectively.

Matters Arising from Gayton Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 10 March 2009

186. There were no matters arising for discussion.

Declaration of Interest

187. There were no declarations of interest to record.

Presentation on Parish Plans

188. Parish Councillor Mr. Chris Tilston and Parish Clerk Mr. John Blount, from Stowe-by-Chartley Parish Council, were in attendance to make a presentation to the Parish Council on Parish Plans.

Documentation was circulated, for information and consideration by the Parish Councillors, regarding Parish Plans.

Mr. Tilston advised the Parish Council of the key points and timescales that Stowe-by-Chartley had encountered whilst completing their Parish Plan:

- In June 2005 there had been an initial meeting with the Community Council of Staffordshire to discuss Parish Plans. Following a huge amount of work by many people, the final Parish Plan was presented at a Parish Council meeting in August 2007.

- Stowe-by-Chartley's Parish Plan had been Parish Council led, as funding applications were made by the Parish Council.
- There had been a great deal of research prior to commencing the Parish Plan. This included looking at funding available, the work involved, and the advantages of completing the Parish Plan. Amongst which was the establishment of an up to date database of Parishioners views.
- The launch of the project took place and the Parish Council sought volunteers and set up a Steering Group consisting of representatives from Parish Organisations. The Parish Plan was widely advertised in local Parish publications.
- Where possible Stowe-by-Chartley had used existing available formats.
- The progress of the Parish Plan and priorities for actioning were monitored through agenda item at Parish Council meetings.
- Questions (86 in total), report formats and analysis methods had been agreed. Questionnaires were prepared, distributed by household, collated and analysed. A total of 146 questionnaires were delivered and the return rate was 80%.
- It was important to ensure that the needs, wants, and desires of the local community were made known to service providers and that all Parishioners were given the opportunity to have a formal input into the Parish Plan.
- The Parish Plan, once completed, provided an up to date information base to support future requests for additional grants or services. Some previous myths had been extinguished and the community had come together.
- Following the completion of the Parish Plan a copy had been delivered to every household in the Parish, and to both the County Council and Borough Council. Areas of the Plan were actioned and used to support Parish Council applications for funding, and also applications for funding by Parish organisations.

Mr. Tilston stated that, if compiling a Parish Plan again he would ensure that young people were fully consulted with, and take time to ensure the right questions were asked in the questionnaire. He recommended valuable time be spent thinking what could be done with the information gathered. He added that the winter time was an opportune time to commence the project as Parishioners would be more accessibly. Overall the Parish Plan had been an excellent and valuable project.

Further information could be obtained from the Staffordshire Parish Council's Association and the Community Council of Staffordshire. Mr. Tilston stated that Stowe-by-Chartley Parish Council would also offer advise if it was able.

189. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Mr. Chris Tilston and Parish Clerk Mr. John Blount, from Stowe-by-Chartley Parish Council be thanked for their excellent and most informative presentation.

Announcements and Notices

190. The following were noted:

- The Clerk advised that the Civic Amenity Dates for 2009/10 had been received and were as follows:
 - A refuse vehicle will be parked on Weston Village Hall Car Park, Weston from 10.00 a.m. – 11a.m. on the following Saturday mornings:- 18 April 2009, 6 June 2009, 25 July 2009, 19 September 2009, 24 October 2009, 28 November 2009 and 13 March 2010.
 - A refuse vehicle will be parked in Cherry Lane, Gayton from 10.00 a.m. – 11a.m. on the following Saturday mornings:- 30 May 2009 and 7 November 2009.
- Weston Village Fete was to take place on Saturday 13 June 2009.
- There would be an Open Garden Event on 11 and 12 July 2009.

Public Participation

191. No additional matters were raised.

Reports

192. The following were noted:

- PC Mark Napier was not in attendance to present the Police report to the Parish Council, which the Clerk circulated. Parishioners were advised to report any incidents via the new non-emergency Police telephone number of 0300 123 4455.
- Discussion took place regarding recent criminal activity in the Village, notably in Bridge Close, at the Church, and various items found in Green Road. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook discuss these incidents with the Police.

Developments

193. No planning applications had been received for the Parish Council to comment on.

Salt Works Lane

194. The following discussion took place regarding Salt Works Lane:

- Borough Councillor Mrs. Beatty had 'Called-In' the latest Salt Works Lane planning application.
- Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook advised that she would be attending the Borough Council Planning Committee meetings, when the Salt Works Lane planning application was discussed.
- Discussion took place regarding the Section 106 money, resulting from the development and current negotiations that were taking place with Wimpey.
- Borough Councillor Mrs. Beatty advised that she was establishing what the local housing needs were in Stafford Borough.
- Discussion took place regarding affordable housing and people having to move out of the Village in order to purchase affordable housing.
- Concern was again expressed in that the Village could lose a lot of its green space with the proposals in the amended Salt Works Lane planning application.
- Discussion took place regarding the need for confirmation as to which plans were currently being built to by Wimpey. It was noted that the green space along the side of the canal appeared to vary between planning applications.
- It was also agreed that the confirmation be sought from Stafford Borough Council in relation to the houses that had been agreed to be built.
- A number of meetings had taken place in relation to the development. However, Kier had not held a recent public Village meeting.
- Discussion took place regarding contacting the press and inviting them to a future meeting. This could be on 12 May 2009, that date of the next Parish Council meeting.

195. **RESOLVED** –That Parish Councillor Mrs Brook: (a) Continue to liaise with Stafford Borough Council and attend the Borough Council Planning Committee meetings, (b) Ascertain whether the Village Hall would be available on Tuesday 12 May 2009 for a meeting regarding Salt Works Lane, and to advise the Parish Councillors and the Clerk, (c) Draft an invitation to this meeting and invite the press, and (d) That Borough Councillor Mrs. Beatty and Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook be thanked by the Parish Council for their thorough efforts and hard work regarding this matter.

Policy

196. There were no additional matters to report.

Property

197. The following matters were discussed:

- Weston Village Hall.
 - Stafford Borough Council currently had the planning application relating to the improvements to Weston Village Hall.

- The cheque for £17,500.00 had now been received by the Parish Council.
- Parish Councillor Critchlow advised that he was due to speak to Sally McDonald in relation to activities taking place in the Village Hall and grants that might be available.
- Land at Old School Close, Weston.
 - Parish Councillor Critchlow advised that he was now awaiting the paperwork from the Parish Council Solicitor. **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk chase the paperwork.
- Spencer Close, Weston.
 - Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook advised that the grass was in need of cutting.
 - The bushes had now been removed.
 - Two of the posts were missing and there were two holes where the posts had been located. Concern was expressed regarding the danger of these holes. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook: (a) Check if the holes had been filled in, and (b) Speak to SARH regarding tarmacing the area.
- Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).
 - Plans and artists impressions were circulated for information and comments.
 - The Chairman was awaiting all three quotations for the work.
 - Discussion took place as to whether floodlighting, cricket wickets and seat pods would be beneficial. It was agreed that consultation would be required with the local residents.
- Memorial Sign for Tom Tavernor.
 - Parish Councillor Critchlow stated that this matter was ongoing. It was agreed that this item be deferred to the May Parish Council meeting.
- Notice Boards.
 - It was noted that the notice board on Weston Village Green had now been lowered.
 - Discussion took place regarding planters around the notice boards and the map for the back of the Weston notice board. **RESOLVED** – That these items be discussed at the May Parish Council meeting, once Parish Councillor Critchlow had spoken to Sandon Sawmill.

Public Rights of Way

198. An email had been received suggesting a path across Weston Village Green to encourage parents to park on the Village Hall car park and walk their children to school. Following discussion it was agreed that this would not be advantageous to the Village.

Best Kept Village

199. Discussion took place regarding arrangement for the 2009 Best Kept Village Competition:

- It was noted that the sign outside The Woolpack was in need of repainting.
- Some of the seats were in need of painting.
- Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Hopkin obtain plants for planting around the War Memorial, in the planters and at the Post Office.
- Discussion took place regarding the roses in the flower beds. It was noted that some were in need of replacing. Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook advised that she had four rose bushes that she would be able to donate to the Village if this was agreed. **RESOLVED** – That the Parish Council thank Parish Councillor Mrs Brook, and her husband Mr. Brook, for kindly donating four rose bushes to the Village.
- Discussion took place in relation to grass cutting.
- Discussion also took place regarding the meeting to discuss the Best Kept Village Competition. A number of issues had been discussed, and had come to light, including the BKV notice boards. It was suggested that it would be useful to walk around the Village.

Finance

200. The Clerk reported on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments and record of Clerks hours worked. The Current Account balance of £939.08 and the Reserve Account balance of £3,079.79 were noted, and the following accounts presented for payment:

Clerk's salary April 2009	289.77
Clerks travel (124x 0.587p)	72.78
Clerks phone calls, emails, etc (15 x 32p)	4.80
Clerks backpay 2008/09	233.22
Broadband connection April	7.66
SPCA Subscriptions 2009/10	288.00
SPCA Area Committee Subscriptions 2009/10	20.00
Pickering Plant Hire	46.00
Hand Morgan and Owen	345.00

201. **RESOLVED** – That the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments, and record of Clerks hours worked be approved.

Correspondence and Other Matters

202. The Clerk reported on the following correspondence:

- SPCA Newsletter March 2009.
- Staffordshire Fire and Rescue – Safety Plan News.

Items for the next Parish Council meeting

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

- Parish Plan.
- Financial request from Weston Church.

Date of the next meeting

204. The next Parish Council Meeting was the Annual General Meeting to take place at 7.30pm on 12 May 2009 in Weston Village Hall.

**COLIN CRITCHLOW
CHAIRMAN**