

## MINUTES OF WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2009 IN WESTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: D. Kirby (Chairman)

Councillor D. Bowers  
Councillor Dr. K. Evans  
Councillor C. Gilbert  
Councillor A. Hopkin  
Councillor Mrs. A. Martin  
Councillor R. Tonge

Parish Clerk Mrs. C. L. Hawley

**Also in Attendance:** One Parishioner.

**Apologies:** Parish Councillors Mrs. A. Brook and C. Critchlow, County Councillor L. Bloomer, Borough Councillor Mrs. F. Beatty, PC M. Napier and PC Paul Ryan.

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 May 2009

15. **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 May 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hopkin and Mrs. Martin respectively.

### Matters Arising from Parish Council Meeting held on 12 May 2009

16. The following matters arising were discussed, which were not already on the agenda:

- At minute number 211, last bullet point, Parish Councillor Kirby had discussed the Deeds for Weston Village Green with Parish Councillor Critchlow. **RESOLVED** – That Councillor Kirby and the Parish Clerk continue to ascertain if the Deeds and Byelaws can be located.
- At minute number 214, the Clerk advised that she had reported the gravel and grit on the footpath along the A518 and requested that it be cleared as soon as possible. It was noted that the pavement had now been cleared.
- At minute number 218, Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook was continuing to liaise with Borough Councillor Mrs. Beatty in relation to Slat Works Lane, and report back to the Parish Councillors and the Clerk.
- At minute number 220, in relation to the notice boards, it was noted that Parish Councillor Critchlow had received the planters, which were to be fixed to the notice board near to the Village Green. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Critchlow arrange the fixing of the planters.

### Declaration of Interest

17. The following declarations of interest were recorded:

- Parish Councillors Kirby and Hopkin declared an interest in Planning Application 09/12049/FUL – Abbeylands, Weston. Individual mews style development consisting of 10 two and three bedroom dwellings, at minute number 23 below as they had received and responded to neighbour consultations in relation to this planning application.
- Parish Councillors Dr. Evans and Gilbert declared an interest in a letter received from Penkridge Parish Council to the then Right Honourable Alan Johnson, Secretary of State for Health dated 15 May 2009, in relation to recently publicised events at Stafford Hospital.

## Announcements and Notices

18. The following were noted:

- Weston Village Fête was to take place on Saturday 13 June 2009. Parish Councillor Kirby reported that he had been asked to open the Village Fête and sought the Parish Council's comments on this. All Parish Councillors present were in favour of this.
- Gayton Beer Festival was taking place on 12 and 13 June 2009, in Gayton Village Hall. The theme this year was 'equine'.
- On 23 June 2009 Staffordshire Strategic Partnership was launching the 'Compact and Commissioning Conference: N17 Creating an Environment for a Thriving Third Sector'. This was taking place at the County Showground, Staffordshire.
- There would be an Open Garden Event in Weston on 11 and 12 July 2009.

## Public Participation

19. The following additional matters were raised:

- Discussion took place regarding bins by the children's play area on Weston Village Green. The Clerk advised that she had contacted Streetscene. Mrs. Willing stated that she had spoken to Mr. Mick Bayley of Stafford Borough Council regarding the bins. **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk make further enquiries regarding (a) The ownership of and emptying of the bins, and whether this is included in the Precept, and (b) The cost of replacement bins, styles and timescales if replacement bins are requested.
- It was noted that there was a Footpath Register Officer.
- Discussion took place regarding the footpath leading to the shop in Weston which became impassable when it rained, as the rain water caused the hedge to hang over the pavement. It was noted that the hedge was owned by the house owner. **RESOLVED** – (a) That Parish Councillor Hopkin contact the house owner and advise that concern had been raised regarding the hedge at the Parish Council meeting, and ask if the hedge could be trimmed and maintained, and (b) That if the hedge was thereafter not maintained then the Clerk be requested to write to the house owner with a view to contacting highways if the issue was not resolved.
- It was noted that the grass had now been cut in Manor Close.
- The Parish Council were made aware that the former Handyman, Mr. Titley had cut the hedge by Weston Village Hall, and had also been seen cutting the grass in the central reservation on the A518. It was noted that he was no longer employed by the Parish Council and he was doing this in his own capacity as a local resident.

## Reports

20. The Clerk circulated the Police report for information. Parishioners were advised to contact PC Mark Napier or PC Paul Ryan on the Police non-emergency phone number of 0300 123 4455. In an emergency the usual number of 999 should be dialled.

Parish Councillor Mrs. Martin reported on an incident where 5/6 young people were bouncing on the goal posts located on Weston Village Green. She had spoken to the young people concerned. Discussion took place regarding potential damage to the goal posts and general health and safety. **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk write to the Football Club (a) Advising of this incident and (b) Requesting regular inspection and maintained of the goal posts when located on the Village Green, and (c) Requesting confirmation that the Football Club were covered for any potential health and safety incidents that could occur through proper or improper use of the goal posts.

## Parish Plan

21. The Parish Councillors recently met in Weston Village Hall to discuss the Parish Plan in more detail before deciding whether the Parish Council would like to produce a Parish Plan.

At the meeting on 1 June 2009, a number of actions had been agreed:

- Contact had been requested to Hixon, Hopton, Milwich and Salt Parish Councils. Parish Councillor Mrs. Martin reported that she had contacted Salt Parish Council.
- The wording in the questionnaire had been revisited. It was hoped to distribute the questionnaire by September 2009.
- A timescale had been agreed to produce the Parish Plan by January 2010.

Dissuasion ensued regarding the decision to take the Parish Plan forward. It was agreed that the completion of the document would result in a huge amount of work but would result in the centralisation of important Parish information. It was also noted that, if the Parish Council had a Parish Plan then additional funding sources would be available for the Parish Council and Village Organisations.

Following the general discussion all Parish Councillors present were in favour of producing a Parish Plan. It was therefore agreed that a meeting be arranged with all Village Organisations to discuss this.

22. **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk (a) Book Weston Village Hall for the meeting from 7.00pm on Tuesday 7 July 2009, (b) Draft an invitation letter to Village Organisations and forward this to the Chairman for comments, and thereafter invite all Village Organisations to the meeting, and (c) That the Parish Council review the questionnaire.

### **Developments**

23. The following planning applications had been received for the Parish Council to comment on:

- Planning Application 09/12049/FUL – Abbeylands, Weston. Individual mews style development consisting of 10 two and three bedroom dwellings. Parish Councillors Kirby and Hopkin declared an interest in this planning application as they had received neighbour consultations in relation to this planning application. It was noted that, following the circulation of the plans to the Parish Councillors, comments had been forwarded to the Stafford Borough Council. A copy of the final comments was handed to the Clerk. The Clerk was also handed an envelope containing comments from local residents, which had also been forwarded to Stafford Borough Council. The Clerk forwarded these letters to Parish Councillor Mrs. Martin for circulation to and information for the Parish Councillors.  
**RESOLVED** – That the Clerk forward a circulation front sheet to Parish Councillor Mrs. Martin.
- Planning Application No. 09/11814/FUL – Erection of 63 dwellings at Canalside Wharf, Salt Works Lane, Weston. It was noted that the Parish Council's comments had been delivered to Stafford Borough Council. A copy of the final comments were handed to the Clerk.
- Planning Application No. S.09/07/4009 W: Composting Scheme with in-building primary treatment and external windrows, including a reception building, weighbridge offices and facilities, with skip-based waste transfer station for inert materials, which cannot be composted. Location – land at Hixon Airfield, Hixon, Staffordshire. Staffordshire County Council had advised that this planning application had been withdrawn by the applicant on 28 May 2009.

### **Policy**

24. There were no additional matters to report.

### **Property**

25. The following matters were discussed:

- Weston Village Hall.
  - It was noted that the planning application had been submitted to Stafford Borough Council and would be considered by their Planning Committee on 10 June 2009.
  - Parish Councillor Critchlow was awaiting quotations for the required work. It was hoped that the work would be completed in August 2009.

- Parish Councillor Kirby read an article in the Express and Star, date 4 June 2009 regarding the play area and Village Hall.
- A meeting with the Village Hall Committee took place on 2 June 2009.
- Spencer Close, Weston.
  - Discussion took place regarding the grass cutting. It was noted that the new Handyman was cutting the grass in Spencer Close. The residents were happy with this.
  - Discussion took place regarding the letter that Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook had forwarded to the residents in Spence Close. **RESOLVED** – That this item be placed on the July agenda for an update.
- Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).
  - It was noted that the planning application had been submitted to Stafford Borough Council and would be considered by their Planning Committee on 10 June 2009.
  - Parish Councillor Critchlow had applied for a grant towards the cost.
- Memorial Sign for Tom Tavernor.
  - Parish Councillor Critchlow was continuing to action this matter. **RESOLVED** – That this item be placed on the July agenda for an update.

### **Public Rights of Way**

26. Discussion took place relation to the following:

- In relation to the signs on Weston Village Green, the Clerk had contacted John Hicks for appropriate wording, for the signage at the children's play area on the Village Green. She read the email. He had agreed to advise further on his annual inspection in August. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Kirby check what local Parishes included in similar signage.
- It was noted that the bouncy tractor had been removed from the children's play area on Weston Village Green as a bolt was missing and it was unsafe to leave in place. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillors Kirby and Hopkin endeavour to repair the tractor to the correct specification.
- John Hicks had also advised that there should be a sign advising motorists of children playing and reducing the traffic speed to 20 mph. **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk take this up with Highways.
- Discussion took place regarding the previous requests for traffic calming in the Parish. **RESOLVED** - That the Clerk continue to liaise with the County Council.
- That the Clerk had asked the County Council if Weston could have new Village signs, in keeping with the area, and possibly part funded by the Parish Council and stating 'Welcome to Weston, winner of the Best Kept Village competition'. **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk continue to liaise with the County Council.
- Discussion took place regarding dog fouling signs. The Clerk circulated the templates emailed by Parish Councillor Gilbert. **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk order 12 A5 size signs for display in the Village, and ascertain if the posts were included.

### **Best Kept Village**

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

- Mrs. Willing advised that the local school children had completed their annual posters and that Parish Councillor Mrs. Martin had judged them. A cheque was requested from the Parish Council for the annual prize money.
- Discussion took place regarding bins being located by the children's play area. **RESOLVED** - That the Clerk speak to Street Scene.

### **Finance**

28. The Clerk reported on the monthly statement of accounts, receipts and payments and record of Clerks hours worked. The Current Account balance of £3581.68 and the Reserve Account balance of £25259.15 were noted, and the following accounts presented for payment:

Clerk's salary June 2009	307.71
Clerks travel (147 miles)	88.34
Clerks phone calls, emails, etc (20 x 32p)	6.40
Broadband connection June	7.66
Pickering Plant Ltd	46.00
Community Council of Staffordshire Membership Renewal	20.00

The Following additional accounts were also presented for payment:

- Mr. J. Donaldson, grass cutting 271.00
- S.L. Servicing, mower repairs 231.59

Discussion took place regarding the cost of the dog fouling signage for Weston.

Discussion also took place regarding an outstanding invoice from SL Servicing for £696.68.

Discussion also took place regarding the balance in the reserve account.

29. **RESOLVED** – (a) That the monthly Statement of Accounts, Receipts and Payments, additional accounts presented as above and record of Clerks hours worked be approved, (b) That a cheque be forwarded from the Parish Council for £75.00 for the annual prize money for the local children, from three classes, who had won the BKV poster competition, (c) That the Clerk order 12 A5 size signs displaying the green signage at a cost of £8.40 each, (d) That Parish Councillor Kirby make further enquiries with Parish Councillor Critchlow and SL servicing regarding the outstanding invoice from SL Servicing for £696.68 and that if this needed to be paid then a cheque be raised for payment, and (e) That the Clerk arrange for £17,500 to be transferred from the reserve account to the Staffordshire Railway account.

### **Correspondence and Other Matters**

30. The Clerk reported on the following correspondence:

- Stone and Eccleshall Bus Timetable May 2009.
- The Big Lottery Fund initiative - Village SOS.
- The Clerk read a copy letter received from Penkridge Parish Council to the then Right Honourable Alan Johnson, Secretary of State for Health dated 15 May 2009, in to recently publicised events at Stafford Hospital. Parish Councillors Dr. Evans and Gilbert declared an interest in this matter. **RESOLVED** – That this letter be noted.
- The Clerk read a letter received from Weston Wombats in relation to the 'reinstatement of functional gate to playgroup tarmac area'. Weston Wombats were seeking the permission of the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee to install the permanent fence for which quotations had already been received. Discussion took place regarding the proposal, the possibility of having a permanent fixed high gate with emergency access, or a wall as a more substantial boundary. **RESOLVED** – (a) That the contents of the letter be noted, (b) Parish Councillor Hopkin discuss this further with the Village Hall Committee at their next meeting on 23 June 2009, and report back to the Parish Council, and (c) That the Clerk advise Weston Wombats.
- An email had been received from a Parishioner regarding a speeding vehicle in Weston. **RESOLVED** – (a) That the Clerk forward the information to the Police and (b) That Parish Councillor Kirby respond to the Parishioner.
- A copy letter had been received from Mr. Pyatt to Stafford Borough Council regarding the planning application at Abbeylands. This letter was read to the Parish Council. **RESOLVED** – That this letter be noted.

### **Items for the next Parish Council meeting**

31. No additional items were raised for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting.

32. **RESOLVED** – That there be two additional items on all future agenda entitled “Chairman’s Actions’ and ‘Action List’.

**Date of the next meeting**

33. Future meeting dates were as follows:

- There would be a meeting of the Parish Council and Village Organisations at 7.00pm on Tuesday 7 July 2009 to discuss the Parish Plan.
- The next meeting with Weston Village Hall Committee was to take place at 7.00pm on 14 July 2009 in Gayton Village Hall.
- The next Parish Council Meeting to take place at 7.30pm on 14 July 2009 in Gayton Village Hall.

**DAVID KIRBY  
CHAIRMAN**