

# MINUTES OF WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11 AUGUST 2009 IN GAYTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: D. Kirby (Chairman)

Councillor D. Bowers  
Councillor Mrs. A. Brook  
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:** PC M. Napier

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

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9 June 2009

38. **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9 June 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hopkin and Mrs. Brook respectively.

## Matters Arising from Parish Council Meeting held on 9 June 2009

39. It was noted that the matters arising were included on the agenda for the meeting.

### Declaration of Interest

40. The following declarations of interest were recorded:

- Parish Councillors Hopkin and Kirby declared an interest in relation to Abbeylands at minute number 48.1. They took no part in the discussion or decision in relation to this matter.
- Parish Councillor Hopkin declared an interest in relation to the item on the Church mower at minute number 53 below. He took no part in the discussion or decision in relation to this matter.

### Chairman's Actions

41. The following Chairman's actions were discussed:

- The Chairman had received details of the outstanding expenses from Mr. Titley.
- The Chairman had received correspondence from Parish Councillors Critchlow and Hopkin in relation to the current handyman. This included a request for additional funding, and an amendment to the previously agreed rate. Discussion took place in relating to this. It was noted that the Handyman had used the hand mower for a period of time during the summer. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillors Kirby and Hopkin meet with the Handyman to discuss these issues in relation to the current contract.

### Update on Action List

42. The action list had been updated by the Clerk and this was discussed. **RESOLVED** – That the Action List be forwarded to all Parish Councillors, on a monthly basis.

### Announcements and Notices

43. There were no additional announcements to report.

## Public Participation

44. The following additional matters were raised:

- Discussion took place regarding Community Speedwatch. If Parishioners were interested in establishing a local Community Speedwatch then they should speak to PC Mark Napier in relation to details on training etc. It was noted that there were a number of safety restrictions as to where the checks could take place. The Police were unable to undertake the speed checks in areas of 40mph, as it was more difficult and more dangerous to try and stop any speeding vehicles. Where the speed limit was 30mph then the checks could take place. It was also noted that a stretch of straight road was required to undertake the speed checks. It was emphasised that Community Speedwatch did not have the power to stop vehicles, just to record speed and registration numbers and to forward the information to the Local Police Commander.

## Reports

45. PC Napier updated the Parish Council on current issues, and the Police report was circulated. He stated that it was hoped that anti social behaviour in the Parish was under control.

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. PC Napier stated that PC Ryan would be attending a future Parish Council meeting to meet those in attendance.

Discussion took place regarding the recent correspondence in relation to speeding vehicles. **RESOLVED** – (a) That PC Ryan was actioning the correspondence, and (b) That PC Napier would visit the Village at agreed times to assess the speed of the traffic and report back to the September Parish Council meeting.

## Parish Plan

46. Discussion took place regarding the Parish Plan. A meeting had taken place on 27 July 2009 with Village Organisations to discuss the Parish Plan. There had been a very good attendance at the meeting and a number of positive suggestions had been made:

- The questionnaire should be simple and brief.
- The questionnaire, once delivered should be collected from residents.
- Further discussion was required in relation to anonymity of the questionnaires.
- The aims of the Parish Plan were very positive.
- Discussion had taken place regarding incentives for completing the questionnaire.
- It was important to include the younger and older members of the community.
- The Parish Council should state what had already been achieved.
- The questionnaire should be eye catching.

Parish Councillor Gilbert advised that he had spoken to the Community Council of Staffordshire and had received additional information from them.

47. **RESOLVED** – That the Parish Council continue to move the Parish Plan forward.

## Developments

48. The following planning application had been received for the Parish Council to comment on:

48.1 Planning Application 09/12049/FUL – Abbeylands, Stafford Road, Weston. An individual mews style development consisting of ten, two and three bedroom dwellings. It was noted that Borough Councillor Beatty had confirmed the Parish Council's letter regarding this development. The planning application remained called in.

#### 48.2 Discussion took place regarding Salt Works Lane:

- A meeting had taken place on 3 August 2009.
- The amended planning application had been referred back to Wimpey's to address a number of issues, including affordable housing, green space and the circular walk.
- There was no legally binding agreement in relation to the affordable housing.
- It was noted that the Homes and Community Agency had a grant scheme in place to ensure that companies were not out of pocket.
- Discussion had taken place regarding the number of affordable houses. Wimpey's had stated that originally there were plans for 10, however in actual fact there had been plans for 15.
- Discussion had taken place regarding the circular walk. Wimpey's had refused to include the circular walk in the plans.
- In relation to the green space, there had been a proposal to increase the green space.
- In relation to footpaths, there was a need for further clarification.
- Discussion took place regarding the fencing around the canal outlet pipe. This had been ranch style fencing, but had been removed. Trees had also been removed. It was noted that this was a conservation area and the culvers had been subsequently covered. The Parish Council noted that Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook had contacted Mr. John Holmes. It was reported that additional trees had been chopped down and burnt at the site. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook speak to British Waterways and the Inland Waterways and the Conservation Authority.
- It was agreed that, if any other fencing was to be changed then it must be to iron rail fencing.
- The current plans were subsequently viewed. Discussion took place regarding Housing Associations and development on Brownfields sites. It was noted that the local residents wanted to secure affordable housing, and that the Parish Council had, and continued to supported this.
- Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook updated the meeting on a number of additional points:
  - Wimpey's had stated that they were speaking to Wrekin and not Stafford and Rural Homes.
  - Wimpey's had spoken to Paul Windmill in relation to the Homes and Community Agency documentation on affordable housing. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook forward a copy of the documentation to Parish Councillor Hopkin.
  - It appeared that Wimpey's and Wrekin were unable to come to agreement.
- **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook: (a) Continue to liaise with Borough Councillor Mrs. Beatty in relation to the request for affordable housing, (b) Advise the Parish Council of any further updates in relation to the planning application, (c) Hold further discussion regarding the commercial buildings, and (d) Propose that there be an amendment to affordable housing and not commercial.

48.3 Discussion took place regarding the recent planning application, which had since been withdrawn, for a composting facility at Hixon Airfield. Hixon Parish Council had stated that they would keep the Parish Council updated in relation to this matter.

### Policy

49. There were no additional matters to report.

### Property

50. The following matters were discussed:

- Weston Village Hall.
  - In relation to the request by Weston Wombats for the reinstatement of a functional gate to the playgroup tarmac area, Parish Councillor Hopkin stated that the Village Hall Committee were in agreement to that.
  - It was noted that there was a need for a pedestrian gate. This could be included with the development.
  - The Village Hall planning application was ongoing.
  - The alterations to the disabled toilets were scheduled to commence three weeks ago. Unfortunately there had been a delay in commencing the work. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Hopkin request an alternative quotation for the work.
  - The plan for the disabled toilets had been revised:

- There would be a new door in the porch next to the ladies toilets, to access the disabled toilets; it was then hoped to be able to have 5 ladies toilets rather than three.
- The disabled toilet would be a separate toilet from the ladies.
- It was agreed that there should be a baby changing facility.
- It was also agreed that non-slip flooring be laid.
- Quotations had been received and were discussed.
- **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillors Hopkin and Critchlow ensure that further quotations be sought and agreement be made for the work to continue with a quotation below the grant allocated to complete the work.
- **RESOLUTION** – That the Parish Council give the authority to the Chairman to liaise with Parish Councillor Hopkin in relation to the quotations and with the agreement to pursue the most viable quotation in order to move the matter forward.
- Spencer Close, Weston.
  - Discussion took place on the request for chain link fencing. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook contact SARH to ascertain if the chain link fencing should be metal or plastic.
  - SARH had advised that the Parish Council were able to paint the posts.
  - In relation to the wish list, Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook advised that she had not received any response from the residents. It appeared that the residents were pleased that the grass was being cut and now asked for the seats to be painted and the trees cut.
- Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).
  - It had come to light that there was some concern about the name of the MUGA. **RESOLVED** – That any suggestions for an alternative name be discussed at the September meeting.
- Memorial Sign for Tom Tavernor.
  - **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Hopkin speak to Parish Councillor Critchlow regarding the current situation and report back.

### Public Rights of Way

51. Discussion took place relation to the following:

- Parish Councillor Kirby stated that he had information on the signage for the children’s play area. **RESOLVED** – That this be discussed at the September meeting.
- The Parish Clerk had contacted the County Council regarding a ‘children crossing’ sign. **RESOLVED** – That this be discussed at the September meeting.
- In relation to the dog fouling signs the Clerk had requested information on whether the posts were included. **RESOLVED** – That this be discussed at the September meeting.

### Best Kept Village

52. Discussion took place regarding the 2009 Best Kept Village Competition. Weston had come joint third in 2009 with Gnosall. Walton–on-the-Hill had been first and Yarnfield second.

### Finance

53. The Clerk reported on the monthly statement of accounts, receipts and payments and record of Clerks hours worked. The Current Account balance of £3,581.68 and the Reserve Account balance of £25,259.15 were noted, and the following accounts presented for payment:

Clerk’s salary July 2009	307.71
Clerks travel (93 miles)	55.89
Clerks phone calls, emails, etc (25 x 32p)	8.00
Broadband connection July and August	15.32
Pickering Plant Hire	92.00
Stafford Borough Council – Civic Visits	95.80

The Following additional accounts had been paid as previously agreed:

- SL Servicing 7.02
- SL Servicing 346.50

The Following additional accounts were also presented for payment:

- Mr. R. Titley – final expenses £425.60
- S.L. Servicing, mower repairs £218.25
- Mr. A. Hopkin – refund of advance payment to S.L. Servicing £823.36 (Church mower)
- John Donaldson – monthly invoice £271.00
- John Donaldson – outstanding costs and expenses £1617.00

54. **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 the Clerk write to S.L. Servicing to ensure that they were in agreement with the paid invoices, (c) That the Clerk contact BT regarding a recent water bill, and (d) That Parish Councillor Kirby write to request a refund following the recent painting of the bus shelter.

### **Correspondence and Other Matters**

55. The Clerk reported on the following correspondence:

- Staffordshire Public Transport Map – June 2009.
- SPAC Newsletter.
- Correspondence in relation to trees:
  - A request had been received for a tree survey. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Hopkin ascertain when the last tree survey took place, and report back to the September meeting.
  - Parish Councillor Mrs Brook had received a quotation for lopping the top off the 4 trees by the Village Hall. It was noted that the Village Hall were in agreement to the trees being cut. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Mrs Brook: (a) Obtain additional quotations, and (b) Liaise with the Village Hall Committee and, if they were in agreement then arrange for the work to be undertaken.
- Discussion took place in relation to an email had been received requesting a bench in memory of a residents grandparents. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Kirby respond and ask if the family would be willing to provide a native tree as an alternative.
- Correspondence had been received regarding flooding. **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk forward details to Highways.
- Discussion took place regarding the Gayton post box and a petition against its removal.
- Details of an online survey had been received from Highways. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Kirby complete this.

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

56. The following additional item was raised for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting:

- Sign in Cherry Lane, Gayton as the lettering was wearing off.

### **Date of the next meeting**

57. The next Parish Council meeting was to take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 15 September 2009 in Weston Village Hall.

**DAVID KIRBY  
CHAIRMAN**