

MINUTES OF WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2009 IN WESTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: D. Kirby (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs. A. Brook
Councillor Dr. K. Evans
Councillor C. Gilbert
Councillor A. Hopkin
Councillor Mrs. A. Martin
County Councillor L. Bloomer

Parish Clerk Mrs. C. L. Hawley

Also in Attendance: PCSO Neil Williams.

Apologies: Parish Councillors D. Bowers, C. Critchlow and R. Tonge.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 September 2009

85. **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 September 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Mrs. Brook and Hopkin respectively, subject to the following amendments: (a) At minute number 61, last sentence to switch 'advice' and 'advise', (b) An additional bullet point to be added at minute number 78 to read 'That Parish Councillor Kirby request timesheets from the Handyman, and (c) At minute number 80, to read that the 'Parish Clerk reply to Mrs Webb and Mr and Mrs Wray'.

Declaration of Interest

86. Parish Councillors Kirby and Hopkin declared an interest in planning application No. 09/12767/FUL – Abbeylands, Stafford Road, Weston. Move two conservation roof lights from west elevation to east elevation and re-roof former positions to match existing roof (to overcome possible 'space about dwellings' problems resulting from proposed residential development on the former orchard to the west), at minute number 96.2 below. They made no comments and did not take part in the discussions thereon.

Chairman's Actions

87. The following Chairman's actions were discussed:

- Parish Councillors Kirby, Mrs. Brook and Borough Councillor Mrs. Beatty had met with Mr. Nigel Senior from Stafford Borough Council at the Leader Funding Workshop at the County Showground. Discussions took place regarding the proposals for a bridge by the canal and a circular walk around the village; there was some positive feedback to these proposals and Mr. Senior would be forwarding an "Expression of Interest" form to the Parish Council. This form would need to be completed and returned after the November Parish Council meeting.
- A joint meeting had been held with the Village Hall Committee. It was noted that the Village Hall Committee minutes were now available on the Weston Village website. Discussions took place with regard to the Village Hall Extension and the Games Area. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Kirby and the Parish Council continue to liaise with the Village Hall Committee regarding the works.
- In relation to the Parish Plan, the Parish Councillors had continued to receive various up dates from the Chairman, and thanks were expressed for all of the comments received so far.

Update on Action List

88. The action list had been updated by the Clerk and this was discussed in detail.

Announcements and Notices

89. The Parish Clerk advised of the following matters:

- Staffordshire Playing Fields Association AGM at 2.00pm on 21 October 2009 at King Edward VI Leisure Centre, King's Hill Road, Lichfield.
- The SPCA 70th AGM to take place at 10.30am on 7 November 2009 in the Council Chamber of Staffordshire County Council, Martin Street, Stafford.

Public Participation

90. There were no additional matters raised.

Police Report

91. The Parish Council welcomed PCSO Neil Williams to the meeting, who presented the Police report:

- The reported burglary was an on-going investigation and appeared to be a "one off" incident as there were no other reported incidents of burglary in the Parish or surrounding villages.
- The laser speed checks that had taken place on the A518 – no prosecutions resulted from these checks.
- An update was received on the Automated Speed and Volume Counting (ASVC) devices. Police had discussed the concerns of the Parish Council with Staffordshire Highways and it had been agreed that the ASVC devices would be installed for one-week within the village, at a date to be confirmed.
- Parish Councillor Hopkin reported an incident that had taken place over the weekend of 10th/11th October whereby a caravan door had been sealed up whilst the occupants were inside and that the flagpole belonging to the Caravan Club had been removed from the area. Councillors expressed concern about the dangers of this incident. PCSO Williams stated that the incident had not been reported to the police but would investigate.

Parishioners were advised to contact the Police non-emergency phone number of 0300 123 4455. In an emergency the usual number of 999 should be dialled.

County Councillor Report

92. Staffordshire County Councillor Mr. Bloomer discussed the recent planning application at Hixon and it was **RESOLVED** - That Parish Councillor Kirby was to meet with the Chairman of Hixon Parish Council on 14 October 2009.

Report from Parish Councillor Gilbert

93. Parish Councillor Gilbert reported on his recent attendance at a presentation on Locality Working on 28 September 2009 in Staffordshire County Council Offices. It was reported that the County Council had not set a model and therefore the District and Borough Councils were able to set a model for localised services, involving local people and multi-agency working. In relation to the reasons for any spending, a Parish Plan should ideally support these.

94. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Gilbert act as the Parish Council's representative in relation to this matter and to speak to the Fire Authority regarding any issues.

Parish Plan

95. Discussion took place regarding the Parish Plan and the questionnaire that had been circulated for comments. The following additional comments were made:

- Questions 29 and 50 were completed to include all current activities taking place within the Parish.
- It was agreed to split the activities into Weston and Gayton activities.
- There was some concern regarding the readability of the questionnaire.

96. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Kirby (a) Update the Parish Plan questionnaire, (b) Arrange for copies to be forwarded to representatives of the Village Organisations as a pilot sample, and (c) That Parish Councillor Gilbert make enquiries with the Plain English Society regarding the readability of the questionnaire.

Developments

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

97.1 Planning Application 09/12608/FUL – 10 Outwoods Close, Weston. Loft Conversion. **RESOLVED** – That the Parish Council have no objections.

97.2 Planning Application No. 09/12767/FUL – Abbeylands, Stafford Road, Weston. Move two conservation roof lights from west elevation to east elevation and re-roof former positions to match existing roof (to overcome possible 'space about dwellings' problems resulting from proposed residential development on the former orchard to the west). **RESOLVED** – That the Parish Council have no objections.

97.3 Planning Application No. S.09/16/4009 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. **RESOLVED** – That the Parish Council object to this planning application on the following grounds: (a) The proposed development will be too close in proximity to Shirleywich, (b) There is concern regarding the resulting noise, (c) Concern regarding resulting airborne smell pollution from the site, (d) The case made by the applicant appears to be based on the fact that the nearest receptor will be 500 metres away, however according to planning applications 08/09765/FUL and 09/11661/FUL, which were both permitted, there may be farm workers and animals within 200 metres of the development, (e) There is concern regarding the resultant traffic flows and also concern on the traffic survey figures supplied as the local infrastructure would not be able to sustain the expected increase in traffic, and (f) The resulting effect on the wild life in the area.

Salt Works Lane

98. Discussion took place regarding the current situation at Salt Works Lane, Weston. Thanks were recorded to Parish Councillors Mrs. Brook, Critchlow and Borough Councillor Mrs. Beatty for their work so far in relation to Salt Works Lane.

Discussion took place regarding affordable housing and Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook read an extract from the Borough Council planning committee minutes.

99. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook continue to keep the Parish Council up to date with issues at Salt Works Lane.

Policy

100. The following matters were discussed:

- Discussion took place regarding the proposed Annual Award Scheme and nominations from Weston and Gayton, to recognise outstanding contributions and/or achievements of Parishioners. The Chairman had drafted a scheme and this was considered. **RESOLVED** – That the Parish Clerk ascertain what the Borough Council do to mark the achievement of members of the community and how nominations can be made.
- Discussion took place in relation to the Handyman. It was noted that an article had been placed in Compass. Parish Councillor Gilbert had provided some additional wording. **RESOLVED** – (a) That the wording provided by Parish Councillor Gilbert be agreed, (b) That the article be updated and circulated by Parish Councillor Kirby, and then advertised, and placed on the notice boards, with the closing date of 6 November 2009, and (c) That an interview schedule then be drawn up.

- Discussion took place regarding the draft Finance Policy, prepared by Parish Councillor Gilbert. It was agreed that the policy should be used for any expenditure up to 20% of the current precept. Consideration was also given to safeguarding and supplier selection. **RESOLVED** - That Parish Councillor Gilbert update and circulate the draft for comments.

Property

101. The following matters were discussed:

- Weston Village Hall Extension:
 - It was noted that Parish Councillor Critchlow was obtaining quotations and moving the project forward.
- Games Area (GA):
 - The work on the Games Area had commenced.
 - It was hoped that the project would be completed in 2 –3 weeks.
 - Discussion took place regarding a risk assessment on the workmen to the site.
 - It was reported that the workmen were all CRB cleared.
- Notices for children’s play area:
 - **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Kirby was collecting information.
- Village Signs:
 - **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk was chasing for a number of signs: flashing speed signs, children playing signs, Welcome to Weston signs.
- Memorial Sign for Tom Tavernor:
 - **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillors Hopkin and Critchlow endeavour to move this matter forward and report back at the next Parish Council meeting.
- Waste Bins:
 - Parish Councillor Martin gave a detailed report on the number of and condition of the bins in the Village. **RESOLVED** – That the Parish Clerk write to the Neighbourhood Watch and ascertain where they felt that new bins and signs were required.

Public Rights of Way

102. The following matters were discussed:

- The alley way from Manor Close to London Road was covered in moss and very slippery. **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk report this.
- From London Road towards the traffic lights was overgrown and in need of maintenance to remove nettles. **RESOLVED** –That the Clerk report this.
- Access to the footpath behind St. Andrew’s Church was difficult and the area was in need of maintenance. In addition the gate was in need of repair. **RESOLVED** –That the Clerk report the damaged gate to Highways for repair.

Best Kept Village

103. Discussion took place regarding the 2009 Best Kept Village Competition. The detailed results had not yet been received.

Finance

104. The Clerk reported on the monthly statement of accounts, receipts and payments and record of Clerks hours worked. The Current Account balance of £2,700.09 and the Reserve Account balance of £16,430.71 were noted, and the following accounts presented for payment:

Clerk’s salary October 2009	307.71
Clerks travel (147 miles)	88.34
Clerks phone calls, emails, etc (25 x 32p)	8.00
Broadband connection October	7.66
Pickering Plant Ltd	46.00
Petty Cash	25.00

The following additional accounts had also been received:

- An invoice had been received from John Donaldson, the Handyman for £744.00.
- An invoice had been received from Mark Spilsbury for topping and shaping 4 conifers at Weston Village Hall for £200.00.
- A receipt had been received from Parish Councillor Hopkin for plants, that had been planted in the Village for £45.94.

105. **RESOLVED** – (a) That the monthly Statement of Accounts, Receipts and Payments, and record of Clerks hours worked be approved, and (b) That the additional accounts mentioned above be confirmed and payment authorised.

Correspondence and Other Matters

106. The following correspondence was reported:

- Staffordshire Parish Council's Association News.
- The XI Bus service was discussed. The Clerk had written to the County Council's Passenger Transport Unit. In addition Bill Cash, MP was aware of the local concerns and was to raise the matter in Parliament. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillors Gilbert and Mrs. Brook were to speak to the County Council regarding the service.
- A letter had been copied to the Parish Council from Mrs Chatwin to Bill Cash MP.
- A letter and response was circulated to Mr. David Machin.
- A letter and response was circulated to Mr. David Heath.
- A letter had been copied with 232 signatures from Mr. Carp.
- The Parish Clerk reported on Stafford Borough Council's process regarding street naming and numbering.
- The Parish Clerk circulated information from the Community Council of Staffordshire regarding the European Social Fund Community Grant Scheme.
- The Parish Clerk reported that the Neighbourhood Highway Teams would be in the area shortly to undertake any outstanding Highway's work.

Items for the next Parish Council meeting

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

Date of the next meeting

108. The next Parish Council meeting was to take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10 November 2009 in Weston Village Hall.

**DAVID KIRBY
CHAIRMAN**