

MINUTES OF WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2009 IN WESTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: D. Kirby (Chairman)

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

Parish Clerk Mrs. C. L. Hawley

Also in Attendance: 1 Parishioner.

Apologies: Parish Councillors D. Bowers, C. Critchlow and R. Tonge and County Councillor L. Bloomer.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 November 2009

130. **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 November 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Mrs. Martin and Gilbert.

Declaration of Interest

131. The following declarations of interest were recorded:

- Parish Councillors Kirby and Hopkin declared an interest in discussions regarding the planning application at Abbeylands, at minute number 141 below.
- Parish Councillor Gilbert declared an interest on matters relating to the resignation of the Parish Clerk and appointment of new Parish Clerk.

Chairman's Actions

132. The following Chairman's actions were discussed:

- Following the resignation of the Parish Clerk, an advert of the position had been placed in Compass. Four applications of interest had been received and acknowledged. Discussion took place regarding the SPCA being advised and advertise the position also. **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk speak to the SPCA.
- Discussion had taken place with the Village Hall Committee regarding the Parish Council website, and the Village Hall Committee contact details being included.
- In relation to the letter from the Caravan Club regarding their events taking place at Weston Village Hall, following discussion with the Village Hall Committee, a letter had been sent to the Caravan Club by the Village Hall Committee.
- The planning application at Hixon Airfield had been deferred until February 2010. Further information and reports were required. **RESOLVED** – Parish Councillor Kirby to meet with the County Council and Brendan McKeown on 15 January 2010.

Update on Action List

133. The action list had been updated and this was discussed in detail.

Announcements and Notices

134. There were no additional announcements or notices.

Public Participation

135. The following matters were raised:

- Discussions with Wimpey in relation to the footbridge should be carefully phrased in relation to the type, style etc.
- There was some discussion regarding the standard of grass cutting during the summer of 2009 and what the Parish Council were doing about it.

Police Report

136. The Police were not in attendance, but their report was circulated. It was noted that the Police had been seen in the Village.

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.

137. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Hopkin include information on the Police and their contact details in Compass, and that they be invited drop into local community events.

Borough Councillor Report

138. Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs. Beatty reported on the following:

- Borough Councillor Mrs. Beatty advised that she sat on three Borough Council Committees:
 - Health Committee
 - There were ongoing issues in relation to Stafford Hospital.
 - It was hoped that confidence would return in the Hospital.
 - Jogging and fitness were current issues being promoted.
 - Environment Committee
 - Discussions were taking place regarding wind farms.
 - Discussion was also ongoing regarding telecommunication masts.
 - Planning and Regeneration Committee
 - The Stafford Borough Council 5 year policy was due to be updated.
 - The Local Development Framework (LDF) was to progress to the site specific stage.
 - The next LDF consultation would be in March 2010.
 - Borough Councillor Mrs. Beatty was asking Parishes to report any issues that they were aware of locally and for the local Parishioners to speak to their Parish Council.
 - The original comments on the LDF were available on the Borough Council website.
 - In relation to the A518 Strategy Meeting, a number of issues had been discussed but not addressed. Discussion took place regarding the infrastructure. **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk contact Paul Windmill/John Holmes/Chris Mitchell for an update.
 - It was reported that the Planning Officers were to discuss planning issues with Councillor Beatty in February 2010, and possibly speak to the Village also.

Parish Plan

139. Discussion took place regarding the Parish Plan. The questionnaire had been agreed and the Parish Clerk and Parish Councillor Gilbert had forward to the Chairman the agreed contact details to enable the pilot questionnaire to be distributed.

140. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Kirby arrange for copies of the questionnaire to be forwarded to representatives of the Village Organisations as a pilot sample.

Developments

141. There were no planning application received for the Parish Council to comment on.

It was noted that the Abbeylands planning application was ongoing. Parish Councillors Kirby and Hopkin declared an interest in the matters relating to the planning application regarding Abbeylands.

Salt Works Lane

142. It was noted that the affordable housing was still an issue at Salt Works Lane, Weston.

Policy

143. The following matters were discussed:

- Handyman.
 - Discussion took place in relation to the Handyman. It was noted that five applications had been received for the position following the job advert being placed in Compass and on the Parish Council notice boards. The closing date had been set for 6 November 2009 and interviews had taken place. Two applicants came for an interview. **RESOLVED** – (a) That further discussion take place and the job offer and contracts confirmed before Christmas, and (b) That Parish Councillor Kirby ascertain if CRB clearance was required.
 - The current Handyman had written to the Parish Council to confirm that he had now completed his work for the Parish Council unless requested to undertake any specific tasks.
 - Discussion took place regarding the sit on mower. It was agreed that it be serviced. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Hopkin arrange the servicing of the mower.
- Remembrance Day Service.
 - Discussion took place regarding future arrangements for the Remembrance Day Service, particularly the post service refreshments. It was noted that refreshments were served in the Woolpack for up to 280 people. Consideration was given to a marquee, or other ways to support the event in future years. It was noted that the Parish Council would not be able to provide any alcoholic beverages for any event. **RESOLVED** – That the Parish Council would be able to support refreshments after the Remembrance Day Service in future years and would agree the details at a future meeting.

Property

144. The following matters were discussed:

- Weston Village Hall Extension:
 - Parish Councillor Kirby was awaiting further information from Parish Councillor Critchlow.
- Games Area (GA):
 - That security and cameras etc be discussed at a joint meeting with the Village Hall Committee.
 - Parish Councillor Kirby advised that signage had been completed and was to be erected.
- 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.
- Tree Survey:
 - **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook was obtaining three quotations.

Public Rights of Way

145. The following matter was discussed:

- Discussion took place regarding a previously requested path across Weston Village Green. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Mrs. Brook check the Deeds in relation to this.

Best Kept Village

146. There was nothing to report on the Best Kept Village Competition.

Finance

147. The Clerk reported on the monthly statement of accounts, receipts and payments and record of Clerks hours worked. The Current Account balance of £1,227.44 and the Reserve Account balance of £8,674.95 were noted, and the following accounts presented for payment:

Clerk's salary December 2009	307.71
Clerks travel (93 miles)	55.89
Clerks phone calls, emails, etc (20 x 32p)	6.40
Broadband connection December	7.66
Pickering Plant Ltd	46.00
Auditor	50.00
SBC – Civic Visits	95.80

The following additional accounts had also been received:

- An invoice had been received from John Donaldson, the Handyman for £385.00.
- Visual D'Sign Ltd for £345.00. This had been paid by Parish Councillor Kirby so he was to be reimbursed by the Parish Council.

148. **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

149. The following correspondence was reported:

- Discussion took place regarding the Governor to St. Andrews' School. A meeting had taken place and, as the school was a designated school and the numbers on roll were expected to go up, there would be a decision in 2010 regarding the budget and funding for the school.
- St. Andrews' School had put in a planning application for an extension.
- Correspondence was received regarding street furniture.
- Discussion took place regarding the hedge along the road into Gayton. **RESOLVED** – That Parish Councillor Gilbert advise Highways and Sandon Estates.
- A letter had been received from the Woolpack Football Club regarding the removal of the football posts on the Village Green. The Parish Council were in agreement to this.
- Discussion took place regarding Councillor attendance at meetings. **RESOLVED** - That information on Parish Councillor attendance at meetings be presented to the February meeting.
- It was noted that Elections would be taking place in 2010.

Items for the next Parish Council meeting

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

Date of the next meeting

151. The next Parish Council meeting was to take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12 January 2010 in Weston Village Hall.

**DAVID KIRBY
CHAIRMAN**