

WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting that took place on Tuesday 13 April 2010 in Weston Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT:

Councillor 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 J Gilbert

Also in attendance: Borough Councillor F Beatty (part), County Councillor L Bloomer (part)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Mrs A Brook, Councillor C Critchlow

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 9 MARCH 2010 – MINUTES

221. RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9 March 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Gilbert and Bowers

222. RESOLVED – that the Parish Council receive the reports from the Borough Councillor and County Councillor at this point, after which the Borough Councillor left the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

223. Parish Councillor Tonge declared an interest in Planning Application No.10/13439/FUL – Old Station Yard, London Road, Weston at Minute 233 below. He took no part in the discussion or decision relating to this matter.

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIONS

224. RESOLVED – that the Chairman's suggestions for changes to the structure of the agenda be adopted.

UPDATE ON ACTION LIST

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

226. RESOLVED: - that the Parish Council noted the success of SCC 'Mineral Madness' campaign

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

227. There were no requests for public participation

REPORTS

228. Report from County Councillor

County Councillor Len Bloomer updated the Parish Council on the following County matters:

- There had been a misunderstanding over his selection as a new Governor for St Andrews School, which he explained had been an appointment by the LEA. Councillor Bloomer went on to explain that a position had become available for a Community Governor, which meant that the Parish Council's nomination of Councillor Mrs A Martin, could now go forward.
- The new SCC Chief Executive would be taking up his post on 21 April
- Councillor Bloomer gave his apologies from Parish Council meetings until September

229. Report from Borough Councillor

Borough Councillor Beatty updated the Parish Council on the following Borough matters:

- She had 'called in' Planning Application No. 10/13260/FUL discussed at the March meeting and it had subsequently been withdrawn

- The 'call in' of the Abbeylands development was still being processed, with the applicant making amendments to the application and site visits taking place.
 - That 'Leader Funding' was available for a variety of projects of £3000 or over and that she was happy to brief Parish Councillors and/or community organisations about the scheme.
- RESOLVED** – that the Parish Council consider the submission of possible projects at its May meeting
- There was the possibility of another public enquiry into Stafford Hospital

Councillor Beatty was asked to enquire, on behalf of the Parish Council, about the current status of the planning appeal regarding the multi sports area time-of-use restrictions.

230. Report from Police

The Police were not present at the meeting, but had submitted a report containing details of priority incidents/crimes recorded in the Parish between 9 March and 12 April. This included the theft from a motor vehicle.

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

231. Report from Parish Councillor and Parish Clerk who attended the Special Council Forum on Rural Exception Housing on 24 March 2010

As a result of discussion on the written report submitted, it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Clerk arrange for a presentation by the Housing Associations at a future meeting.

PARISH PLAN

- 232.** In view of the decision to review and re-present the Parish Plan questionnaire later in the year, there was nothing to report.

DEVELOPMENTS

233. Applications, Decisions and Appeals:

Application No 10/13439/FUL Old Station Yard, London Road, Weston

The Parish Council felt that the proposed development would open up development on the other side of the A51 and railway, which form a natural boundary to the village, and that this would potentially change the nature of the village to a town. On this basis, the Parish Council objected to this application.

- 234. Salt Works Lane:** Councillor Kirby gave a report on the site meeting held between Councillors and officers of the Planning Department. He said that they had discussed the issues raised in the Parish Council's letter to Stafford Borough Council (SBC) of 24 February 2010. It had been established that a planning amendment to remove the canal towpath had been approved by SBC Planning in August 2008. It had not been issued for consultation because it was deemed to be a minor amendment, which was in accordance with planning rules. The Councillors had questioned the planning officers on how such a fundamental change to the original Design Master Plan could be considered a minor change and not be raised for consultation with the Parish Council. Three residents of the Salt Works Lane development had joined Councillors and Officers and had expressed satisfaction with the development.

The Parish Council agreed that there were three issues left to consider:

- Whether due process had been undertaken over the planning permission amendment or whether there was a case for complaint,
- Whether the Parish Council was representing a balanced view on behalf of the residents of the development and residents of the rest of the village who had fought to secure and retain the key features of the original Design Master Plan
- Whether the Parish Council's concerns with the development were an intrusion into the lives of its residents.

RESOLVED – that the Parish Council continue to pursue with the Planning Department the issue of due process

RESOLVED - that the Parish Council attempt to regain the best possible provision of public access to the canal given the already approved and developed amendment to the planning permission

RESOLVED - that the Parish Council not pursue the enforcement of the exact fence around the culvert that was originally granted permission but, instead, request that the existing open fence around the culvert be made more secure, perhaps with wire stock fence on the culvert side,

RESOLVED - that the Chairman draft a letter to Stafford Borough Council giving the Parish Council's views as above and the reasons for its concerns about the effect of the lack of public access to the canal. The letter also to raise with the planning officers the importance of the key features of the Design Master Plan on the Eastern phase of the development around the Canal basin through to the new open space and the need for these features to be protected.

POLICY

235. Staffordshire County Highways Department restructure

Councillor Gilbert described the restructure of the Highways Department and the future delivery of the three tiers of services provided.

Discussion took place about the list of priority work to be carried out by the Neighbourhood Highway Team on 20 May 2010.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk add one item to the list and that Councillors submit other suggestions. Work not carried out in May would be put forward again for the visit in September.

County Councillor Bloomer offered to enquire about the current status of the A518 Strategy when he next met with the Highways Department. He then left the meeting.

236. Complaints from parishioners regarding dog fouling on the Village Green

The Clerk gave details of correspondence received on this subject. A revised notice had been placed on notice boards and published in 'Compass'. Discussions took place about the possibility of passing a bye-law requiring that all dogs be kept on leads.

RESOLVED – that the Parish Council initially attempt to encourage good practice by dog owners by asking for the support of residents with the production of a leaflet to be delivered to all homes around the Green.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk ask the Environment and Health Department of SBC if any advice or assistance could be given.

237. Parish Clerk's attendance at Clerk's Day organised by SPCA on 17 June 2010 in Birmingham

RESOLVED - that the Parish Council approved.

238. Clerk's attendance at SLCC Branch AGM in Lichfield

RESOLVED - that the Parish Council approved.

239. Delivering the Plan for Stafford Borough - Issues & Options' consultation

The closing date for comments had passed whilst the Councillors were circulating the document

RESOLVED – that the Parish Council's comments be submitted as soon as possible. These were that the document, if approved, would provide a useful reference document and that the policies it contained, whilst somewhat aspirational, were to be supported.

240. Draft Administration of Meetings Schedule

RESOLVED - that the Parish Council approved the use of this document.

241. Draft Correspondence Log

RESOLVED - that the Parish Council approved the use of this document.

242. Notice of amendment to time of scheduled meeting in March 2011

RESOLVED - that the Parish Council approved the change of time and that this be publicised

PROPERTY

243. Weston Village Hall

Councillor Hopkin gave an update on work in progress and drew attention to some work that had taken place on the boundary fence.

244. Security

Discussion took place about incidents of anti-social behaviour and security problems at the Village Hall and the Games Area (GA). The Clerk had been in correspondence with a resident who had agreed to report incidents to the Police as close to the event as possible so that it could be recorded and appropriate action taken.

RESOLVED – that all involved with the Village Hall remain vigilant to this issue and report them

RESOLVED – that members of the Parish Council meet with members of the Village Hall Committee following the completion of the building works to discuss what measures might be taken

245. Triangle of Grass outside the Saracen's Head

It was noted that the piece of land, owned by the licensed premises, was not being well maintained by the occupier.

RESOLVED – That the Parish Clerk write to the landowners to offer to provide a basic maintenance service through the Parish Council Handyman.

246. Enquiry from The Woolpack about a bouncy castle

The Woolpack Inn had asked for permission to site a bouncy castle on the Village Green at the front of the Inn for use as part of a private function. Discussion took place about the inconvenience this might cause to other users of the public space and possible safety issues and whether the Parish Council was insured to allow this.

RESOLVED – that the request be refused on the grounds that this was a commercial venture that was not within the Parish Council's remit.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

247. Councillor Gilbert said that he had reviewed the document describing the Community Paths Initiative and could not identify any areas in Gayton that would be suitable for this funding and support.

RESOLVED – That Councillors Hopkin and Martin make an application for an initiative for Weston.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE (BKV)

248. The relevant Parish Councillor was not present to give an update on the possible BKV event in April 2010.

RESOLVED – That the Clerk arrange a meeting as soon as possible

FINANCES

249. Statement of Balances/Receipts and Payments

The Clerk reported on the monthly statement of balances, receipts and payments.

The following accounts were presented for payment:

	£
Clerk's salary April 2010 (standing order authorisation)	318.77
Audit Commission	334.88
Mr. Roger Thomas, Internal Audition re 2009/10 accounts	60.00
Pickering's Plant	47.00
SPCA Clerk's Induction	40.00
SPCA Annual Subscription 2010/2011	296.00
SPCA Area Committee subscription 2010/2011	25.00
Community Council of Staffordshire subscription	22.00
Handyman's excess hours	56.00
Handyman's expenses	140.00

RESOLVED – That the Parish Council approved payment of the above accounts.

Two invoices, amounting to £37198.55 were presented relating to the Village Hall extension works.

RESOLVED – That the expenditure be approved, and payment made, subject to confirmation by Parish Councillor Critchlow that these were in accordance with interim payments already agreed.

The Clerk reported that confirmation had been received of Civic Amenity visits 2010/2011 at cost of £294.00. These had been advertised in both villages.

The Clerk reported that confirmation had been received that the precept payments would be made to the Parish Council in April and September 2010.

250. Concurrent Function 2009/10

The Clerk reported that confirmation had been received that the Concurrent Function payments would be made to the Parish Council in April and September 2010.

CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER MATTERS

251. Direct correspondence received

The Parish Council noted the receipt of, and considered, the letter from Staffordshire County Councillor Ellis regarding 'Community Wellbeing Fund'.

RESOLVED – That the Clerk pass details to parish organisations who might benefit from the Fund.

252. Indirect correspondence received.

The Parish Council noted the receipt and contents of correspondence received by the Clerk during March and April.

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETINGS

253. Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 11 May 2010 in Weston Village Hall at 7.30pm

254. Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 19 May 2010 in Weston Village Hall at 7.30pm

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

255. RESOLVED – that the public be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Paragraph 1 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, due to the possible disclosure of confidential information.

**DAVID KIRBY
CHAIRMAN**