

WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting that took place on Tuesday 14 September 2010
in Gayton Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT:

Councillor D Kirby, Chairman
Councillor Dr. K Evans
Councillor C Gilbert
Councillor C Hotchkiss
Councillor Mrs A Martin

Parish Clerk Mrs J Gilbert

In attendance for part of the meeting: Borough Councillor Mrs F Beatty; 4 parishioners; K Armitage, Stafford and Rural Homes; U Bennion and T Price, Housing Plus and J Lancaster, Rural Housing Enabler.

APOLOGIES: Councillor D Bowers, Councillor C Critchlow, Councillor A Hopkin
Councillor R Tonge

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

344. There were no declarations of interest in any of the matters on the agenda.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 13 JULY 2010 – MINUTES

345. RESOLVED - with the exception of an incorrect date shown for the next meeting, that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 July 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Gilbert and Martin.

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIONS

346. There were no Chairman's actions to report

UPDATE ON ACTION LIST

347. Outstanding actions contained in the list were discussed and further action agreed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

348. There were no announcements or notices to report

The order of the agenda was adjusted to accommodate the members of the public who had attended in connection with the agenda items on Rural Exception Housing, Neighbourhood Watch and the Best Kept Village Competition, and the Housing Association representatives who had attended to give a presentation on Rural Exception Housing at the request of the Parish Council.

RURAL EXCEPTION HOUSING

349. A presentation was given by the representatives of Stafford and Rural Housing and Housing Plus.

RESOLVED - that the Parish Council consider at its next meeting whether to take this initiative forward.

REPORTS

350. Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs F Beatty gave an update on the following items of business:

- The latest draft of the Local Development Framework, to be published for consultation in November would contain site specific industrial site recommendations but not for housing. The requirement for design statements would be strengthened. There would be policy statements to explain to developers what would be required of them.
- The Public Enquiry into Stafford Hospital had begun and Cllr Beatty said that she would be happy to pass on views.
- Cllr Beatty said that she would be interested in passing on views to the Environmental Scrutiny Committee.
- It was hoped that the Government spending review would not have too detrimental an impact on Stafford Borough Council as it was not a high-spending authority.
- The development at the site of the Plough at Amerton was still under consideration.
- Cllr Beatty encouraged applications for Leader funding and asked to be kept informed of potential projects so that she could provide support.

DEVELOPMENTS

351. Applications, Decisions and Appeals:

RESOLVED - that the Parish Council had no objections to application number 10/14178/FUL Bridge Cottage, Green Road.

352. The Clerk reported that there did not appear to be an appeal lodged regarding the multi-sports area time-of-use restrictions.

RESOLVED - that the Parish Council reconsider its position in the light of discussions within the Village Hall Games Area Committee

POLICY

353. The Chairman reported that the resignations of Councillors Bowers and Critchlow had been received with their wishes that it took effect immediately.

RESOLVED - that the Parish Council accept the resignations of both Councillor Bowers and Councillor Critchlow.

RESOLVED - that the Parish Clerk notify Stafford Borough Council of the need to fill vacancies in Gayton and Weston respectively.

354. **RESOLVED** - that the Parish Council did not have any suggestions of items, for completion of the Staffordshire Local Flooding Survey, of which the County Council were not already aware.

355. **RESOLVED** - that the Parish Council did not have any suggestions for items to be discussed at the Parish Forum on 30 September 2010.

356. **RESOLVED** - that Councillor Gilbert accompany the Parish Clerk to the Parish Forum.

357. **RESOLVED** - that the request from the Handyman for payment in lieu of holiday be refused and that he be encouraged to take his holiday entitlement.

PROPERTY

358. **RESOLVED** - that Staffordshire County Council's Neighbourhood Highway Team be asked to carry out the following jobs during their visit on 21 September 2010:

- Applying preservative to the fence alongside the eastbound A518 approaching the traffic lights at the junction with the A51
- Strimming around, levelling steps, painting handrail and possibly creating stepping off point at Gayton bus shelter
- Cutting back ivy etc around Gayton phone box

359. An update from the Village Hall Games Area Committee was given by the Chairman.

RESOLVED - to change the Committee's Terms of Reference at 2.4, to include the words "and Parish Council" after "Village Hall Committee".

RESOLVED - to include the Games Area (GA) in the annual inspection of play equipment from 2011 onwards.

RESOLVED - to convene a working party to lop some of the trees, owned by the Parish Council, to reduce leaf fall into the GA, subject to any tree preservation restrictions.

RESOLVED - that the Parish Council was willing to fund the purchase of a notice board, matching the one on the Green, to be placed at the front of the Village Hall for Village Hall information purposes, subject to the receipt of competitive quotes.

RESOLVED - that the Parish Council consider alternative ways to consider requests for it to fund items that have not been budgeted for.

- 360.** The Clerk reported that, during discussions with the Parish Council's solicitor, it had been suggested that the Lease and Trust Deed for Weston Village Hall be redrafted and agreed with the Village Hall Committee to bring it up to date.

RESOLVED – that an estimate of cost be obtained for the drafting and agreement of a new Lease and Trust Deed.

- 361.** The Clerk reported that registration of Weston Village Green with the Land Registry was underway.

RESOLVED - that the solicitor had historical knowledge of the Parish Council's assets and that he was best placed to resolve a number of these issues.

- 362.** The contents of the report on the annual inspection of the play equipment on Weston Village Green were noted. Councillor Hotchkiss Councillor reported that he was aware of an incident that had occurred resulting in a head injury to a child.

RESOLVED - that the incident be investigated, immediate action taken as appropriate and the report be further considered at the Parish Council's next meeting.

- 363.** Designs for 'Welcome to Weston' signs had been obtained and a preferred option chosen.

RESOLVED - that Staffordshire County Council Highways Department be consulted and, subject to their approval, the Parish Council proceed with the sourcing, purchase and installation of these signs.

- 364.** A report had been received from the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator that identified three options for improving the display of Neighbourhood Watch signs in Weston: replacing faded signs by repositioning existing ones; purchasing a number of replacement signs and repositioning others, or installing larger signs at entry points to the village.

RESOLVED - that the Parish Council fund the purchase of five new replacement signs, subject to approval by EON onto whose lampposts the signs would be fixed.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE (BKV)

- 365.** The Parish Council expressed its congratulations and thanks to the Best Kept Village volunteers and to the Parish Council Handyman that Weston had been awarded third prize in its category. However, some disappointment was noted that the result had not improved from the previous year and it was suggested that additional co-ordination and encouragement of greater community involvement may be required to achieve this improvement.

RESOLVED - that the Parish Council await the publication of the Judges' comments and consider options for additional co-ordination and encouragement of greater community involvement in 2011."

WESTON POST OFFICE CLOSURE

- 366.** It was reported that the existing premises could not now be considered for reinstatement of Post Office services and that the possibility of another retail facility becoming available had been ruled out.

RESOLVED - that the option to lease part or all of the existing shop to use as a post office/community shop be excluded and that efforts continue to investigate the option of setting up a community shop and post office.

RESOLVED - that the Post Office Committee organise a public meeting to communicate the option under consideration, assess public opinion and seek public involvement

FINANCES

367. Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments

The Clerk presented the monthly un-audited Financial Statement.

The following payments were presented for approval:

D Kirby - reimbursement for domain hosting subscription	10.00
Clerk's additional hours July	99.40
Clerk's mileage Aug	13.40
Reimbursement to Handyman for petrol purchased during August	80.01
Petty Cash top up	30.00
'Grafters' Grounds maintenance contract August 2010	154.00
Hand, Morgan and Owen, fees for registration of Weston Village Green	489.00
Alco Beldan - WVH moveable wall installation	3,820.28
Transfer from NatWest Current Account to SRBS	25,000.00

RESOLVED - that the Parish Council approve the payments listed above.

368. Signatories to the Parish Council's Bank, Building Society and National Savings Accounts

RESOLVED - that Councillors Martin and Hotchkiss be appointed as signatories as a replacement signatory for Councillor Critchlow and a fourth signatory.

CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER MATTERS

369. RESOLVED - that the Parish Council noted the receipt of, and considered, the following items of direct correspondence received:

- Letter from County Councillor Tim Corbett - 'Help us to set the rules to cut waste'
- Department of Communities and Local Government consultation on the Community Right to Build
- Department for Culture Media and Sport consultation on proposed changes to the Big Lottery Fund
- Invitation to Community Council of Staffordshire AGM on 23 September 2010
- Invitation to attend AGM of Staffs Playing Fields Association on 20 October 2010 and subscription request

370. RESOLVED - that the Parish Council noted the receipt and contents of the following items of indirect correspondence received:

- Consultation on Emerging Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Core Strategy 2010 - 2026
- Consultation on SBC's Statement on Licensing Policy
- Invitation to attend briefing on Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Electoral Review of Staffs on 15 September 2010
- Nominations for Members and Elected Officers of the SPCA Executive Committee 2010 - 2012

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

371. Tuesday 12 October 2010 in Weston Village Hall at 7.30pm

**DAVID KIRBY
CHAIRMAN**