

WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting that took place on Tuesday 13 September 2011
in Weston Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT:

Councillor A Hopkin (Chairman), Councillor D Kirby, Councillor Mrs A Martin, Councillor R Norman, Councillor Mrs H Hart
Parish Clerk Mrs S Tunnicliffe
Staffordshire County Councillor L Bloomer (part of meeting)
One member of the public (part of meeting)

APOLOGIES: Councillor C Critchlow, Councillor C Gilbert, Councillor Mrs C Thorpe, Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs F Beatty

EXTRA ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 9 AUGUST 2011 – MINUTES

133. RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9 August 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Martin and Kirby.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

The order of the agenda was adjusted to accommodate the member of the public who had attended out of interest in the item on Smartwater and the War Memorial. Public participation was allowed at this point and then the items on Smartwater and the War Memorial were discussed before returning to the main agenda.

UPDATE ON ACTION LIST

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

136. The Parish Council would like to pass on its condolences to Parish Councillor Critchlow and his family and to Mike and Toni Brayne for their recent losses

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

137. A member of the public present at the meeting asked the Parish Council about the progress of the Smartwater plans. Councillor Hopkin stated that he would be putting the idea out to the local community through the Compass magazine to get some feedback and decide whether interest is high enough to proceed. She also raised the issue of the maintenance and options for improvements of the War Memorial and surrounding area. Councillor Hopkin stated that he is happy that the memorial itself is well maintained, cleaned and looked after and also noted that there are currently mixed views regarding making any changes to the area. She then raised the issue of the Parish Council website not being up to date. **RESOLVED** – that Councillor Kirby and the Parish Clerk will be meeting to discuss the website issue further.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

138. Councillor Bloomer reported that the Council will shortly be moving in to their new offices. He also discussed the minimal changes that the planned boundary alterations would make to his own constituency. Councillor Bloomer then suggested that he would investigate possible funding streams and opportunities for the Community Shop project.

REPORT FROM STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

139. Councillor Beatty was not present to present a report.

DEVELOPMENTS

140. RESOLVED – that there were no applications, decisions or appeals for the Council to consider.

POLICY

- 141. RESOLVED** – that opinion and feedback will be sought from parishioners to gauge interest and likely take up of the Smartwater scheme before making a final decision.
- RESOLVED** – that Councillor Hopkin will attend the Stafford Borough Council's Parish Forum on 29th September 2011.
- RESOLVED** – that councillors will arrange a meeting to discuss further the plans for the distribution of a parish questionnaire to inform a parish plan.
- RESOLVED** – that the Parish Council have no objection to make to the proposal by SCC Highways Department for pedestrian and bus stop improvements to the A518 in Weston.

PROPERTY

- 142. Further consideration for the resolution of problems experienced by neighbours of the Weston Village Hall Games Area.**
Prices and quotes are in the process of being obtained for fences and pedestrian gates. It was discussed that the council would need to consider its financial situation before committing to anything further at this stage.
- 143. Consideration of options for improvements to the area around Weston's War Memorial.**
The Parish Council feel that it is too late to consider making changes to the memorial this year but will consider ideas for next year. **RESOLVED** – that Councillor Hopkin will make contact with local garden designers to try and get some ideas to take forward for consideration by the Parish.
- 144. RESOLVED** – that the issue of land registry be put on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.
- 145. Annual Report of the Parish Council's playground equipment**
Councillor Kirby discussed that he noticed that one or two grassed areas around the play equipment appear to be a little sunken and agreed to ask the maintenance contractor to look at this.
RESOLVED – that the contents of the report have been noted and that no further action is required

REQUEST FOR A NEW POST BOX FOR WESTON

- 146.** It was discussed that it may be better to wait until an agreement has been reached about the post office/shop site before placing a permanent post box. Councillor Hart raised the question of the possibility of having a temporary, moveable solution in the interim **RESOLVED** – that the Parish Clerk will contact Royal Mail to see if this would be possible.
Councillors Hopkin and Norman suggested that it would be best to get some opinions from local residents about the possible site for a new box **RESOLVED** – that this item be put back on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting for discussion after feedback has been sought from local residents and Royal Mail.

FINANCES

- 147. RESOLVED** - that the Parish Council note the contents of the Financial Statement for September 2011
- RESOLVED** – that the Parish council approve the payments listed below
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| ex Clerk's mileage for August | 6.66 |
| ex Clerk's utilities payment | 42.18 |
| ex Clerk's holiday pay on leaving | 190.00 |
| new Clerk's mileage for August | 31.03 |
| new Clerk's additional hours for August | 19.88 |
| PR Moore Scaffolding – Temporary fencing for Games Area | 1080.00 |
| Grounds Maintenance Contract for August 2011 | 877.62 |
| Audit fee for 2010/11 | 660.00 |
- 148. RESOLVED** – that the Parish Clerk will get some clarification from the bank regarding the necessary updates to bank signatories.
- 149. RESOLVED** – that the Parish Council note the completion of the Annual Audit by the Audit Commission for 2010/11

CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER MATTERS

- 150. RESOLVED** - that the Parish Council noted and considered the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from Stafford Borough Council offering donation of old benches/seats from Stafford town centre to Parish Councils
- Correspondence from Stafford Borough Council regarding Polling District and Polling Place Review 2011
- Invitation to attend the Community Council of Staffordshire AGM on 28th September 2011
- Invitation to attend Remembrance Day Church Service and Parade from Stafford Borough Council Mayor's Office
- SPCA Annual Report and letter regarding "Engaging Communities Staffordshire"
- Information regarding the Stafford Borough Local Development Framework Consultation
- Correspondence from Ian Nott regarding the Woolpack FC's use of the Village Green for a bouncy castle
- Certification for 2nd place in the Best Kept Village competition

151. RESOLVED – that the Parish Council would like to express a vote of thanks to the outgoing Parish Clerk Mrs J Gilbert.

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

152. Tuesday 11 October 2011, 7.30pm at Weston Village Hall.

**ALAN HOPKIN
CHAIRMAN**