

WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12 January 2016 in Weston Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillor C Critchlow(Chair) present to 8:30pm, Councillor Mrs H Hart (Vice Chair), Councillor D Tams, Councillor Mrs. A Martin, Councillor J Griffiths, Councillor A Hopkin, Councillor Mrs F Beatty (for part of the meeting) Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston

2 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Councillor C Gilbert, Councillor R Norman, Councillor C Critchlow (Chair) from 8:30pm

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 8 DECEMBER 2015 – MINUTES

1169. RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held on Tuesday 8th December 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hart and Hopkin.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1170. There were no declarations of interest

UPDATE ON PARISH PLAN

1171. There were no updates on the Parish Plan that are not included as individual agenda items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

1172. The Parish Council regret to announce that the Slide on the children's play area on the Green must be closed until repair works can be completed, as a safety precaution.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1173. Concern was raised regarding the amount of standing water in Weston and blocked drains. The issue was discussed in detail in item 1180 below.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

1174. Councillor L Bloomer was not in attendance to provide a report.

REPORT FROM STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

1175. Stafford Borough Council will be looking to local parishes to get involved in a community clean up in March and to consider local activities for the Queen's Birthday celebrations later in the year.
RESOLVED – Clerk to obtain further details from Stafford Borough Council.

1176. There will be no increase in Council Tax from Stafford Borough Council this year, despite a significant reduction in funding from central government.

REPORT FROM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

1177. There was no report from the Village Hall Management Committee.

DEVELOPMENTS

1178. Planning application reference 15/23375/HOU at Oxhill Rooks Nest Farm Weston Bank.
RESOLVED – The Parish Council have no objections to this application.

TREES AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

1179. The slide in the Children's play has to be closed pending repair or replacement. **RESOLVED** – that the slide be closed until sufficient funding can be sourced for a replacement or appropriate contractors can be found to complete the repairs.

ACCESSIBILITY OF INSURANCE FOR FLOOD RISK PROPERTIES

1180. The issue of in the inaccessibility of insurance for local residents, or high premiums due to the risk

of flooding was discussed. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to investigate the success of other parishes in having the flood maps re drawn in light of completed flood prevention work, and to bring to the attention of the MP in conjunction with item 1181 below.

MATTERS FOR ACTION BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

1181. Concerns were raised over the number of blocked drains and standing water in both Weston and Gayton. Whilst numerous reports have been made to Highways, the issue has not been resolved. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to draft a letter to the MP and copy to Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs F Beatty to raise at the Internal Drainage Board.

FINANCIAL THRESHOLDS

1182. A discussion was held regarding the financial thresholds identified in the Parish Council Financial Regulations. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Councillor C Critchlow left the meeting and Councillor Mrs H Hart assumed the position of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

BUDGET SETTING

1183. The draft budget for 2016-17 was considered. Unanimous agreement could not be reached on the following two budget lines which were put to a vote

£1000 for Private road reserves – Proposed by Councillor Hopkin and seconded by Councillor Griffiths. Votes for: Councillors Hart, Griffiths, Martin and Hopkin. Votes against: Councillor Tams. **RESOLVED** – to be included in the 2016/17 budget.

£250 Grants to other bodies – Proposed by Councillor Hart and seconded by Councillor Griffiths. Votes for: Councillors Hart, Griffiths, Martin and Hopkin. Votes against: Councillor Tams. **RESOLVED** – to be included in the 2016/17 budget.

1184 The final budget for the 2016-17 Financial year was proposed by Councillor Hart and seconded by Councillor Hopkin. Votes to approve the budget: Councillors Hart, Griffiths, Martin and Hopkin. Votes against: Councillor Tams. **RESOLVED** – the 2016-17 budget is approved and will be submitted by the Clerk.

FINANCES

1185 RESOLVED – that the PC approve the monthly statement of accounts, receipts and payments

1186 RESOLVED – that the PC approve the payments listed on the statement of accounts, receipts and payments.

1187 The PC received a quarterly budget update from the Clerk

CORRESPONDENCE

1188 The Parish Council were informed of an email from a local resident regarding the issue of speeding traffic in the parish. Work to address this issue remains a priority for the Parish Council, and in addition to the speed camera van on the A518, the Parish Council have arranged for a recent traffic count on the A51 and are looking to install traffic calming measures on Green Road. **RESOLVED** – Councillor Tams to gather the evidence base for the Clerk to present formally to Highways. Another traffic count will also be arranged in the next few months.

1189 The PC noted a letter received from the Staffordshire Waterways Group

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

1190. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th February 2016 at 7:30pm in Weston Village Hall.

**COLIN CRITCHLOW
CHAIRMAN**