

WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting that took place on Tuesday 11th October 2016 in Weston Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT:, Councillor J Griffiths (chair), Councillor Mrs G Wray, Councillor K Barber, Councillor A Hopkin, Councillor Mrs H Hart, Staffordshire County Councillor L Bloomer, Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston

6 Members of the public

APOLOGIES: Councillor C Critchlow, Councillor C Gilbert, Councillor D Tams, Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs. F Beatty

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 13 SEPTEMBER 2016 - MINUTES

1384.RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held on 13th September 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Barber and Griffiths.

CO-OPTION TO FILL VACANCIES

1385.Co-option to fill the vacant post on the Parish Council was discussed. **RESOLVED** –by unanimous vote to co-opt Reverend Duncan Leake to the post of Parish Councillor for Weston.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1386.None

UPDATE ON ACTION LIST

1387.The Parish Council are awaiting feedback from Staffordshire County Council as to the status regarding the adoption of Saltworks Lane. Councillor Bloomer informed the meeting that he has been in contact with Highways and there are some concerns regarding the condition of the road.

1388.Michelle Shaker, the Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator from Staffordshire Police attended the meeting and provided an overview of the Community Speedwatch programme. The Parish Council submitted an application for funding to the Police and Crime Commissioner in September, which if successful, will enable the Parish Council to purchase the equipment and signage required to establish a programme in Weston. It is important the Parish Council recruit a sufficient number of volunteers to help run the scheme. The Police will provide full training, and would like to encourage volunteers to come forward, even if they are only able to offer a small amount of time to support the project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

1389.Councillor Hart provided feedback from the Parish Forum held on the 29th September 2016. Key points included, the move for leisure and culture services to a charitable trust. The transition will take place over the next six months, but users of leisure and culture facilities are unlikely to notice a change. Following recent changes in the Affordable Housing Policy, the Borough Council are looking at reforming the delivery model for social housing. With regard to HS2, consideration is being given to housing a maintenance facility in Yarnfield, Stone.

1390.The Clerk informed the meeting of a new date for the Chairmanship skills training course provided by the SPCA.

1391.A new campaign, Cyber Safe Staffordshire, has recently been launched by the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to raise awareness of cyber-crime and to provide advice on how people can protect themselves and their families on line. More information can be found at www.staffordshire.police.uk/cybercrime **RESOLVED** - awareness posters to be displayed on the Parish

Council notice board on the Green.

1392. Following independent examination, the main modifications to the Plan for Stafford Borough Part 2 have now been published and the Borough Council are inviting representations on the modifications. Documents can be viewed and representations made via the Stafford Borough Council website www.staffordbc.gov.uk/examinationpart2 and the online consultation portal <http://staffordbc-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/> The deadline for representations is 12 noon on Friday 4th November 2016.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1393. A member of the public raised concerns regarding current issues at the Woolpack Public House, and formally requested that the Parish Council consider registering the pub as an 'Asset of Community Value'. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to add to the Agenda of the next meeting to be held on the 8th November.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

1394. County Councillor Len Bloomer updated the meeting on the new machines used by the County Council to repair potholes. There are three wagons in operation covering the whole of the county and the Clerk receives regular updates on which areas have been covered each week and which are planned for the coming week.

REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

1395. Councillor Mrs F Beatty was not in attendance.

DEVELOPMENTS

1396. None

TREES AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

1397. The Parish Council will be meeting with the approved contractor for the new item of play equipment, in the next couple of weeks. The earliest date for work to commence will be mid-November. Once timescales are agreed, the Parish Council will set a date for a working party to dig out and remove the old equipment and flooring. The Parish Council would welcome anyone who is able to spare some time to help with the working party.

1398. The Parish Council were successful in their application to Tesco Groundwork for £8000 of funding which will cover the majority of the cost for the equipment, with a £500 shortfall. However, the Parish Council must still raise the additional £500 for the equipment, along with sufficient funds to cover all the costs associated with removal of existing waste, ground preparation and security. Anyone wishing to donate funding towards the new item of play equipment, or anyone requiring further information should contact the Clerk by email: parishclerk@westonstaffs.org.uk or by calling 07594 002590

CHERRY LANE GAYTON

1399. The work undertaken by Councillor Gilbert to help co-ordinate the resurfacing of Cherry Lane in Gayton has progressed well and the funding pledged by SARH and local residents is almost at the required level. **RESOLVED** – Councillor Gilbert to arrange an awareness session for local residents in Gayton. Date, Time and Venue to be confirmed.

FOOTBALL ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

1400. A discussion was held regarding the use of inappropriate language by footballers on the Green. The football club have taken steps to address this issue and have also installed signage in the changing rooms to remind players of the need to be mindful of local residents and to refrain from the use of bad language on the pitch. Unfortunately, residents are still reporting some incidents of inappropriate language by players. The football club are keen to address the issue and are working with managers of opposition teams to impress the importance of players minding their language when playing in Weston. **RESOLVED** – Clerk to write a letter on behalf of the Parish Council for the football club to share at the next meeting of managers on the 24th October.

FINANCES

1401. RESOLVED – that the PC approve payments listed on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments.

1402. RESOLVED – that the PC approve the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments

1403.The quarterly budget statement was presented and discussed.

1404.The Clerk requested that the finance regulations be amended to fall in line with NALC recommendations, and raise the threshold limit for tendering from £5000 to £50,000. Thus preventing the Parish Council from incurring the increased costs associated with tendering for projects above the £5000 threshold and below £50,000. **RESOLVED** – by unanimous agreement to amend the current financial regulations to reflect the NALC national guidance.

1405.The Clerk informed the meeting of the current consultation paper relating to the 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement, and in particular the proposed capping and referendum principles relating to local authorities. **RESOLVED** – All Councillors to read the consultation paper and questions and to feedback responses to the Clerk.

CORRESPONDENCE

1406.The PC noted and considered the following items of correspondence

- Email from a local resident regarding overhanging trees at the entrance of old school close
- Panto Gala Evening
- Invitation to a ladies lunch from the Mayoress
- Invitation to Remembrance Sunday 2 minute silence in Market Square.

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

1407.Parish Council meeting, Tuesday 8th November 2016 at Weston Village Hall at 7:30pm

**JAN GRIFFITHS
VICE CHAIRMAN**