

# WESTON WITH GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Gayton Annual Parish Meeting held in Gayton Village Hall on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7pm.

**1. Welcome**

The Vice Chair of the Parish Council Councillor J Griffiths welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Present**

Councillor J Griffiths (Vice Chair), Councillor Mrs. H Hart, Councillor C Gilbert, Councillor D Tams, Councillor Mrs G Wray, Councillor D Leake, Stafford Borough Councillor Mrs F Beatty, Parish Clerk Mrs A Kingston.

5 Members of the public

**3. Apologies:** Councillor C Critchlow, Councillor K Barber.

**4. Minutes**

That the minutes of the Gayton Annual Parish Council meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 were approved and signed by the Chair of the Parish Council as proposed and seconded by Councillor Mrs H Hart and Councillor C Gilbert.

**5. Matters Arising from the minutes of 8th March 2016**

There were no matters arising from the minutes

**6. Cherry Lane**

Councillor Gilbert has been working with Stafford and Rural Homes and the residents of Cherry Lane to gain agreement for resurfacing work to go ahead. Quotes are being obtained, and some final details need to be worked through with private residents. If all goes well, resurfacing work could go ahead early this fiscal year.

**7. Highway Maintenance**

Councillor Gilbert, Councillor Hart and the Parish Clerk attended a workshop between Staffordshire County Council Highway's Department and the Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association. Budget restrictions and increasing financial pressures make it difficult for the Highways Department to undertake non-statutory work. As a result, they are looking to work with Parish Councils to make up the shortfall. Details are yet to be agreed, but it is possible Parish Council precepts will need to increase substantially in the future to pick up some of this work. Councillor Gilbert and the Clerk recently met with representatives from Staffordshire County Council Highways to discuss the issues of blocked drains and flooding in the Village. The County Council are committed to undertake the necessary work to clear drains and remove debris, however due to limited resources they are unable to say how long this will take.

**8. Report of the Parish Council**

Parish Councillor Gilbert gave an overview of Parish Council activity over the past 12 months including:

**8.1.** The Parish Council have seen two local councillors step down over the past year and have been pleased to welcome Councillor Ken Barber, Councillor Duncan Leake and

Councillor Mrs Gail Wray onto the Parish Council representing the parish of Weston. Councillor Hart re-joined the Parish Council following a brief period of absence representing the parish of Gayton.

- 8.2. Work has continued towards the delivery of the Parish Plan, including improvements to the play area in Weston and traffic calming measures in Green Road. Councillor Gilbert has been instrumental in taking forward work to resurface Cherry Lane.
- 8.3. The Parish Council have worked closely with both the Borough and County Councils on a number of issues ranging from the speed of traffic and highway maintenance to blocked drains and dog fouling. This continual liaison with both County and Borough Councils ensures issues of concern in both Weston and Gayton are addressed as swiftly as possible.
- 8.4. The Civic Amenity refuse vehicle has been booked for the coming year and will be in Gayton on the 8th July 2017 between 10am and 11am. Further details are available on the parish noticeboards and on the website at [www.westonstaffs.org.uk](http://www.westonstaffs.org.uk)
- 8.5. The Parish Council have provided the grass cutting at Gayton Village Hall and at the Church. A new Ground Maintenance contract has been awarded for the next three years and will ensure this continues to March 2020.
- 8.6. The Parish Council have been successful in two grant applications over the past year, securing £8000 funding from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme for play area improvements in Weston, and £689.70 from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to establish a Community Speedwatch Programme in Weston and Gayton.

## 9. Reports by Parish Organisations

All Village Hall Clubs are running well. Councillor Gilbert also read out reports from the Gayton Flower Club and the Coffee Morning.

- 9.1. During the past 12 months there are been 22 coffee mornings with an average attendance of 24 people. They have also held a number of events over the past year including an Easter tea which enabled a donation of £140 to be given to Gayton Church from the proceeds.
- 9.2. Gayton Flower Club began again in February 2017 followed by six evenings over the following four months. They have 20 names on the books and 17 paid up members. A contract for willow workshops has proved popular with groups of 10 doing two separate workshops making baskets in the spring and Christmas decorations. Membership continues to thrive and there is still a waiting list for new members. Members come from Caverswall, Seighford, Yarlet, Stone, Stafford, Fradswell, Great Haywood and Stowe by Chartley.

## 10. Any Other Business

- 10.1. Councillor Mrs F Beatty provided the following update on developments in Stafford. Stafford Borough Council are moving forward with the development of the Stafford Western Access Road which will run from Doxey to the A34 Stone Road at Greyfriars. Planning applications are in for up to 3000 houses, schools, retail, parks and sports areas within an already approved Masterplan for the new settlement, lying between Cresswell and Hopton.

- 10.2.** The redevelopment of the town centre is moving forward with the North Walls retail area opening planned for June. The new riverside cinema opens in 2018. Plans (Stafford Gateway project) for redevelopment of the station area west of the town are going ahead, taking into account that Stafford Station will take HS2 compatible trains, in a comprehensive plan that will incorporate redevelopment of the north end of Stafford and include Victoria Park. More residential accommodation, including apartments above town centre shops are being made available, which is expected to increase the footfall in the town centre. Stafford is looking at a period of significant development over the next few years.
- 10.3.** The former university campus in Beaconside has been purchased by a Chinese investor and will be turned into an international education centre hosting a boarding school for children from the age of 13 and a university. The sports facilities will remain available for use by the local community.

**11. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018 in Gayton Village Hall at 7.00pm**

**COUNCILLOR JAN GRIFFITHS  
VICE CHAIR**