

MINUTES OF THE WESTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN WESTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 9th MAY 2017 AT 7PM

Present:

Councillor J Griffiths (Chair), Councillor A Hopkin, , Councillor D Tams, Councillor C Gilbert, Councillor H Hart, Councillor K Barber

Mrs A Kingston, Parish Clerk

7 members of the public, five of which were representing the following local groups; the Angling Club, Mums and Babies, the Bowls Club, Ladies Badminton and Scouts.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Councillor C Critchlow, Councillor Wray, and the following groups; the Women's Institute and the Headmaster of St. Andrew's Primary School.

Welcome

Councillor Griffiths welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the Weston Annual Parish Meeting held at 7pm on the 10th May 2016 be confirmed as proposed and seconded by Parish Councillors Hopkins and Tams.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Report of the Parish Council

Councillor Griffiths presented a report covering the key activities and achievements of Weston with Gayton Parish Council during 2016/17. In addition to the usual running of the council, monthly meetings (for 11 months of the year) and attendance on other local groups, the council;

- have delivered considerable improvements to the play area in Weston including the installation of a new item of play equipment, funded primarily by the Tesco Bags of Help scheme.
- Repaired the flooring of the play area, and carried out repairs and maintenance to the existing equipment including the slide.
- Worked with Staffordshire County Council and a private developer to install traffic calming measures in Greed Road.
- Established a new Community Speedwatch programme following a successful application for grant funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Worked with both the Borough and County Councils on a range of issues from the speed of traffic and highway maintenance, to blocked drains and dog fouling.
- Worked closely with Stafford Borough Council on the development of the Local Plan for Stafford Borough Part II. Details can be found on the Stafford Borough Council website.
- Have arranged Civic Amenity Visits for the coming year. Details are displayed on the Notice Board by the Village Green.
- Awarded a new Ground Maintenance contract to run for the next three years to continue the high standard of maintenance and upkeep of trees, street furniture and open spaces within the village.

Reports of Parish Organisations

Reports were received from the following Village Organisations:

Mums n Babes

The Mums n Babes group have had a good year and sessions have been very well attended, by up to 30 mums with their children. They are desperate for volunteers to help run the group and sadly face the prospect of closure if they are unable to recruit more people willing to help. Volunteers do not have to be parents themselves, anyone is welcome to volunteer. They have organised a fund raiser table top sale at the Village Hall on Saturday the 20th May from 10am to 12pm.

Ladies Badminton

The ladies badminton sessions are running well and are well attended by between 10 and 12 ladies each week.

Bowls Club

The Bowls Club have recruited a number of new members over the past year and currently have around 20 core members. They are a very social group providing a relaxed, fun environment and welcome members of all abilities. They have also raised funds to support a number of village activities.

Scouting

The 7th Stafford Scout Group have their headquarters in Hixon and cover all the villages in the Trent Valley area. The Group consists of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, and all sections are very active. Whilst children from Weston attend, there have been no requests to start up a section in Weston itself. The last scout troop closed in Weston in 2001.

Angling Group

The Saracens Head Angling Group have had a healthy membership of 89 members over the past year, of which 25 are Juniors. The committee, which has 9 members, organised 18 events which involved fly fishing days, weekends away, fly verses wormers match, junior and senior matches and work parties.

Pollution in Gayton Brook in 2015 killed all the fish but finally some have now returned and more work parties have been arranged with the Environment Agency to repair the wooden fencing and gates and building cattle drink areas to help create a better habitat for the fish when they naturally return.

Their water portfolio consists of the Canal in Weston, One Acre Pool in Hixon, Bramshall Pool, River Blythe, Gayton Brook and the River Tean at Uttoxeter.

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School

The past twelve months have been a very busy period. On 1st February 2016 St Andrew's Church of England Primary, St Peter's Church of England Primary and Colwich Church of England Primary formed the Mid-Trent Multi Academy Trust. This has been a challenging but worthwhile endeavour. This formation has joined the three schools in such a way that their futures are now bound to each other. It is in each school's interest that their "sister schools" succeed. To this end a number of groups have been formed. The three headteachers meet very regularly. The early years teachers, English, maths, science, IT and special educational needs co-ordinators have already met to share a new vision and good practice. A meeting will soon take place between religious education coordinators. A board of directors has been formed and they too have met at least once a term. This is an exciting future for Weston because it brings with it security.

The numbers on roll remain stable at 177 pupils. Staff are extremely committed and make St Andrew's the vibrant and loving place it is. The Government has introduced a new national curriculum and has raised the bar in terms of what we should expect from our children. Last

summer St Andrew's achieved the Sainsbury's Silver Mark for sport, and are also a dyslexia friendly school – this has been renewed in the past twelve months. The school is becoming more diverse. MOD Stafford brings in children from around the globe which is fantastic.

The arrival of Reverend Mike has been noted. His carefully crafted assemblies have entertained the children whilst at the same time carrying a clear message of God's love.

Holiday clubs continue to provide support to local families and not just St Andrew's families by any means. We open the school for an additional 8 weeks a year: 3 half term weeks, 4 weeks during the summer break and a week at Easter. The sports clubs are very well attended.

The Headteacher Mr Paul Hayward would like to encourage any interested local residents to make contact if they would like to know more or visit the school, they would be very welcome.

St. Andrews Church

St. Andrew's Church has recently undertaken a full structural survey of the building which has identified some issues including dry rot in the flooring which must be replaced. They are looking to raise money to cover the other repair needs.

Neighbourhood Watch

The past 12 months have been relatively quiet. There was a break in at a property in Old School Close and an incident of anti social behaviour. There were also concerns regarding a BT telephone scam earlier in the year. Weston has a low crime rate, and local people are encouraged to sign up to the Staffordshire Smart Alert system to find out about any local crime incidents.

Wombats Pre-School

There are currently 24 Children attending the pre-school, with more planned to attend from September. Wombats Pre-School will be 50 years old in July. A celebration is planned for the 14th July, to which old and present staff, committee members and children are welcome. There will be a hog roast, and the Mayor and Mayoress will be in attendance. Tickets are available from Wombats Pre-School.

Facebook Group

A member of the public informed the meeting of a local facebook group, with over 400 members of the local community. It was suggested that key meetings such as the Annual General Meeting might be posted on the facebook site in future and may hopefully reach more people.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 8th May 2018, 7pm in Weston Village Hall

**JAN GRIFFITHS
VICE CHAIRMAN**

Additional Note

Weston Village Hall Management Committee were unable to attend the meeting but provided a report following the closure of the meeting. This is summarised below.

Weston Village Hall Management Committee

A new management committee was formed on 5th September 2016 following a public meeting. The committee comprises

- Angela Martin - Chair
- Sharon Norman - Bookings Secretary
- Irene Winter - Treasurer

- Alison Elsmore - Secretary
- Gail Wray - Parish Council Representative
- Eileen Barber -Publicity
- Jackie Park - Minutes Secretary

The committee meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month and the Annual General Meeting is held in April.

In addition to the committee a Building User Group has been established comprised of representatives from groups regularly using the hall. The group meets quarterly to discuss practical issues such as premises management (health and safety, cleaning) and fees. Attendance has been good and the committee would like to thank their regular users for their support.

The padlock on the front entrance gate has been replaced and key safety arrangements improved.

The Parish Council has continued to provide support and advice concerning the fire risk assessment and other policies and procedures. Our subscription to the Staffordshire Community Council enables us to access a variety of resources and get help and advice when required, as well as providing networking opportunities with other village halls.

The old Doctors consulting room has been cleared out, and general repairs and maintenance have been undertaken, reminding us of the importance of keeping a sufficient level of funding in reserve.