Minutes of the Weston with Gayton Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th November 2026 at 7.30 pm in Weston Village Hall

Present: Councillor Jan Griffiths (Chair), Councillor Mark. Edwards, Councillor Hilary Hart (Vice), Councillor M. Davis, Councillor Julie Gair, Councillor Liz Lee, Councillor James Tallentire, Councillor Simon Wilson and Stafford Borough Councillor Karine Aspin.

Parish Clerk B Nicholls.
Three members of the public.

26/092: To Receive Any Apologies and Record Any Absences - Councillor Duncan Leake, Stafford Borough Councillor Frances Beatty and Staffordshire County Councillor Andrew Mynors.

26/093: To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of Parish Council on 13th October 2026

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm on the 13th October 2026 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

26/094: To Note Any Declarations of Interest and Councillor Requests for Dispensation Relating to Items on the Agenda – None.

26/095: Public Participation - Members of the public are invited to address the Council on any issue over which it has power, for up to 5 minutes each.

A member of the public thanked the organisers of the Remembrance Sunday event, noting that it was very well organised.

Another member of the public shared photos of a poppy display in a nearby parish, made from spray-painted plastic bottles for under £20 and suggested that Weston consider a similar display in future.

26/096: Receive Announcements and Notices – The Clerk informed Councillors that there was an update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and Devolution. Stafford Borough Councillor K. Aspin advised she would cover it in her report.

26/097: To Receive a Report from the Borough Councillor – Cllr K. Aspin reported:

- LGR - The Government has withdrawn its previous decision on the proposed two-unitary authority structure for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and following an earlier pause is now undertaking a further review. A further update is expected in early 2027. Shadow unitary elections expected to take place in May 2028.
- Devolution - The first Mayoral election for Stoke and Staffordshire announcement will be made in Autumn 2027 expected to take place in May 2028.
- Stafford Borough Council elections and ordinary Parish Council elections are scheduled for May 2027.
- Stafford Borough Council has published its timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan, with adoption currently scheduled for 30 April 2029.
- Stafford's Christmas Lights Switch-On will take place on Saturday 21 November 2026, with live music and entertainment throughout the afternoon and the official switch-on countdown to commence at 5pm.
- Lecture The 17th Annual Lecture, entitled 'From Sand to Surf', will take place at NSCG Stafford College on Thursday 12 November 2026.

26/098: To Receive a Report from the County Councillor – None

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26/099: To Receive a Report from the Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Gair gave an update:

- Christmas event taking place on Friday 20th November.
- Two quotations have been requested for the refurbishment of the toilets. The flooring in the accessible toilet will be replaced, while the existing fittings and fixtures will remain unchanged.

26/100: Consider VHMC's Request to Apply Anti-vandal Paint – Cllr Gair reported the VHMC had requested whether the Parish Council GM contractor could apply anti-vandal paint to two shed roofs during winter hours to prevent antisocial behaviour and vandalism. VHMC would pay for the paint.

Action: Clerk to contact GM Contractor to ask whether the work can be completed within winter hours; otherwise, a quotation will be requested for VHMC to fund the work.

26/101: To Receive an Update on the Village Hall Lease – Working group meeting details to be confirmed to discuss further details required by solicitor.

26/102: To Receive an Update on Planning Application

a) 25/40960/OUT – Land off Green Road – Cllr Hart reported that SBC's planning committee considered the application and overturned the planning officer's recommendation to approve the application. The planning committee refused the application for two reasons: (i) Density and (ii) the land classification is 'best and most versatile agricultural land, (BMVA).' As the proposal is for up to 150 houses, the application must now be referred to the Secretary of State, who is required to respond within 21 days.

Cllr Tallentire acknowledged Cllr Hart's role in representing the Parish Council and presenting its reasons for objecting to the application in a three-minute address.

26/103: To Discuss Village Green, Trees and Children's Play Area issues

a) To review Village Green Terms of Use- Clerk to circulate draft Village Green Terms for further consideration.

26/0104: To Discuss Highways and Rights of Way issues

a) To discuss increase of traffic on A518 due to Sandon Road closure – Clerk advised analysis of the SID data is still in process.
b) Update on Weston 6 and 13 – The Clerk noted that PRoW had emailed Network Rail following the Clerk's report of the overgrown footpath. No further update was available.
c) The Clerk reported that a site visit with a SCC Highways representative and SCC Cllr A. Mynors has been arranged for early December to review raised speeding concerns.

26/105: Receive an Update on the Parish Plan – The Chairman had circulated the findings of the Village Plan Survey ahead of the meeting and presented the key results. It was reported that responses had been received from 126 households (96 in Weston and 30 in Gayton), representing a total of 307 residents. The Chairman recommended that Councillors review the findings in advance of further discussion at the next Parish Council meeting.

26/106: Discussion of Quiet Garden Space – The Vice Chair provided an update following a meeting with the landowner and the Clerk's telephone call with the landowner's solicitor. The solicitor has confirmed that the current landowner would cover all legal fees and the solicitor is clarifying final details regarding the deeds. Clerk reported there had been no update from Severn Trent Water (STW) regarding the large trees located on the edge of the land which were previously reported.
Action: Clerk to contact STW and obtain confirmation of land which the reported large trees are sited.

26/107: To Consider Finance Matters

a) To approve the monthly Statement of Accounts, Receipts and Payments - Clerk presented monthly statement of accounts which the Clerk had distributed to Cllrs prior to the meeting,

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this was approved and signed by the Chair. Cllrs **approved** payments listed below and included on the monthly Statement of Accounts/Receipts and Payments. * Note a clerical error was identified in the pension calculation in the Gross Column and the Total payment. The correct amounts are noted in brackets below.

	Net	**VAT**	**Total**
Payments approved to be made:			
Salaries	760.87	0.00	760.87
Office Expenses	30.50	0.00	30.50
LGPS Employer Contribution	157.81	0.00	185.63 Correct figure (157.81)
LGPS Employee Contribution	44.28	0.00	44.28
Grounds Maintenance October	2104.00	420.80	2524.80
	Total Net	**Total VAT**	**Total**
Total payments to be made:	3097.46	420.80	3546.08 Correct figure (3518.26)

b) Review the initial draft budget – The Clerk circulated the first version of the draft budget prior to the meeting and advised that the taxbases for 2027-28 have not yet been received from the Borough Council and are expected to be received during November prior to the next Parish Council meeting. Councillors asked to review the budget for further consideration at the December meeting.

26/108: To Request Items for the Next Meeting Agenda – None requested.

26/109: To Confirm the Date, Time, and Venue of next meeting – ***Tuesday 15th December 2026*** *at* Weston Village Hall. ****Please note change of usual date.***

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