

WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15 MAY 2017 AT 7.00PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WESTONZOYLAND

PRESENT: Mrs Fisher (Chairman – Westonzoyland Parish Council), Messrs Alder, Mrs Ballard, Carson, Evans, Ms Perry and Spurrell

County Cllr David Hall (County Council Ward Member) was also present

APOLOGIES: Messrs Burge and Griffiths and Jill Bartholomew

13 parishioners were in attendance

The Meeting was Chaired by Mrs Fisher (Chairman of Westonzoyland Parish Council)

01 Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16/05/16 had been circulated, were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

02 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

03 Westonzoyland Parish Housing Need Assessment 2016 and Follow-up on Affordable Housing and Core Strategy Review

The Chairman and Clerk reported on the programme to examine the scope for additional housing including affordable housing elements on identified sites and the Parish Consultation held on 03/05/17. This follow-up was given pending a report on the outcome of the questionnaire etc from SDC which was currently being prepared by Esther Carter. Copies of the presentations, the questionnaire etc, had been circulated by email and were available on the Parish Council website.

Some issues had been raised about the types of affordable housing and the respective numbers of dwellings proposed including requirements relative to number of bedrooms in each category. The Affordable Housing Team were carrying out this assessment as a result of the ongoing consultation and were expected to be in a position to report to the next meeting of the Parish Council. Cllr Alder pointed out that affordable elements were paid for by the open market sales, in the main, and that the submission of planning applications would determine the eventual mix. Various options for acquiring or renting affordable accommodation were now available.

The Clerk outlined the next stages, the review of the assessed need of 24 dwellings and the steps to be gone through before the eventual grant of planning permission. Feed back through the process would be reported at each stage. This would include the assessment of identified sites and any other sites to come forward.

04 **Chairman's Report and Resume 2016/17**

Mrs Fisher had prepared a report on the activities of the Council during the preceding year. This was her seventh year in the office of Chairman.

She emphasised that this was purely a resume and did not cover everything which had been carried out by the Parish Council which was fully reflected in the Minutes of the regular meetings. The members of the Parish Council continued to take an interest in all issues affecting the whole community and endeavored by whatever means possible to keep residents fully informed.

In particular, she mentioned the work of the Cllrs, the Clerk and the Ward Members at District and County level. She regretted that police representation was no longer a regular feature of attendance at Parish Council meetings. She did, however, thank Ian Moore for his continued work in the cemetery, footpaths and play areas. She remarked again on the Parish website as a most reliable source of information.

05 **Village Agent Project - Report from Kate Symonds**

The Village Agent gave an update on the Village Agent Project which had now been operating for some five years or so. She outlined the main activities and involvement and contribution to village life. The role was appreciated, particularly in supporting the elderly, usually over 75 years of age. Since the New Year, she had supported 33 new clients including eight in Westonzoyland. The principal issues through 2017 related to traffic, bus service cuts, lack of transport particularly for hospital visits, and the impact of changes in Universal Credit. Provision of care services had also become a major issue for many older people.

06 **Public Issues**

Standards Road - through to Willow Close - rubble left on verge and fly tipping - to be followed up;

Ornaments on signs at entry to the Village and scarecrows on the allotment - complaints to be followed up.

(The Chairman, in accordance with tradition, adjourned the formal meeting during the open question and public speaking session.)

The meeting finished at 7.55 pm.

Signed:

Chairman