

# **WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL** **HELD ON MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2017 AT 7.30PM** **AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WESTONZOYLAND**

PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Fisher (Chairman - in the Chair), Alder, Mrs Ballard, Burge, Carson, Evans, Ms Perry and Spurrell

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr Griffiths

### **69/16 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21/11/16**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21/11/16 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **70/16 Matters Arising**

i. **Supply and Erection of Fencing to the Play Area, Cheer Lane (Min 96/15 and 30/16 2.)** - Messrs Moore and Peppard had completed the new fencing along Cheer Lane.

**RESOLVED:** That as agreed the Village Hall Management Committee be billed for the sum of £925, being 50% of the cost.

ii. **WAGs - Agreement between Notaro and Parish Council (Min 64/16)** - The agreement had been completed and exchanged and the fee for 2017 of £1,000 paid to S Notaro Ltd.

iii. **Pensions Auto Enrolment (Min 57/16iii & 53/16 2.)** - The next stage in the auto enrolment process had been completed.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the cost to the Council of £250 be paid.

2. that the services of DFP Wealth Management be employed to recommend an appropriate pension and the Clerk be authorised to sign the Corporate Client Agreement for the purpose of setting up the pension arrangements.

iv. **Removal of Public Call Box (Min 60/16)** - SDC had confirmed their formal response to the British Telecommunications consultation and in so doing accepted the view of the Parish Council and the box in Main Road would be removed.

### **71/16 County and District Councillor Ward Reports**

County Cllr David Hall reported the sudden death of Environment Agency Officer Nick Linus who had held a prominent role in dealing with the

demands of the severe flooding in 2014. He gave an update on the HPC development where Rob Jordan had taken over as Site Director (Operations) with Nigel Cann promoted to Principal Director. Since the go-ahead, quite amazing progress had been made on site. He also reported on the broadband coverage, with the new supplier agreed for the next roll-out and confirmed works being undertaken under the umbrella of the Somerset Rivers' Authority with revised funding arrangements not expected until next year. Works to the Sowey were well underway.

Finally he commented on the financial implications of the Autumn Statement and the County plans for balancing the budget in 2017/18.

Cllr Ms Perry commented on the move to three weekly refuse collections with the additional recycling proposals and Cllr Alder explained Government financial allocations for new housing, some of which would be targeted at unallocated land although it was unclear how this would fit into the Core Strategy and impact on rural villages.

**RESOLVED:** The Reports be noted.

**72/16**      **Housing Needs Follow-up and Local Plan Review - Affordable Housing Projects (Min 62/16)**

The Clerk and Chairman reported on an email communication from Esther Carter which had been circulated to all members responding to questions which had been raised about the Briefing Notes previously circulated and their confidentiality. This also confirmed that there were no thoughts of any compulsive purchase of land/sites in Westonzoyland. The two sites which had been identified for the development of market and affordable housing awaited confirmation from both land owners before they would move to the next phase of public consultation. This was expected to be in early Spring.

**RESOLVED:** That this be noted.

**73/16**      **Budget and Precept 2017/18 (Min 63/16)**

Following from the previous meeting and the information supplied, the Clerk circulated copies of draft estimates for the financial year ending 31/03/18 based on the continuation budget and precept requirement.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the detailed budget paper and estimates as presented based on 27 per Band D be agreed;
2. to note that this will give a precept of £17,018.64 and together with grant of £664, a total income of £17,682.64;
3. that a grant of £911.39 be made to Westonzoyland Village Hall (Community Centre) Management Committee to cover insurance under the terms of the renewal (grant made under Section 137); and

4. that the grant request from Mendip Community Transport be declined and any further grant requests be considered in year and any new projects reviewed as the Council moves into the new financial year.

**74/16**      **SDC Parish Cluster Arrangements Review and Proposals for Change**

Advice had been received that SDC notwithstanding comments, had approved the change of the Cluster arrangements. Although generally preferable from the Westonzoyland point of view, the approved plans did exclude Bridgwater Without, which formed part of the Kings Isle constituency for District members.

**RESOLVED:** That the continuing objections from some quarters and the changes be noted.

**75/16**      **Police and PCSO Report**

Once again, no officers were in attendance although a Bridgwater Community Day of Action on 20/01/17 was noted. Members were extremely disappointed to learn of the response from the Police and Crime Commissioner to another Parish Council request in relation to police attendance at Parish Council meetings.

**RESOLVED:** That this be followed up, whilst understanding the pressure on police resources, with regret that the quality of service provided by the police through PCSO attendance in the past will no longer be applied.

**76/16**      **Village Agent Report**

The Clerk had circulated an email from the Village Agent recommending that the Parish Council give consideration to a grant or loan scheme for Parish residents who may be in financial difficulties.

**RESOLVED:** That this is not a role for the Parish Council, of doubtful validity and administrative capacity, and other agencies exist for this purpose.

**77/16**      **Planning Applications, Decisions, Appeals and Enforcement (Min 65/16)**

53/16/22      Erection of building for storage and construction of carnival cart on land at Westonzoyland Airfield - **Resolved:** That no objection be raised subject to observations of Highway Authority on access requirements to A372 and installation of appropriate security measures, eg CCTV.

53/16/25      Erection of agricultural workers dwelling, Bull Horn Farm, Andersea Road - **Resolved:** That no objection be raised provided agricultural need assessment justifies the proposal.

53/16/26      Retention of rebuilding of North gable and wall and repairs to end 3m of roof, timber shoring to front wall and infilling of windows at 10 Load Lane (listed building) - **Resolved:** That no objection be raised.

53/16/14      Redevelopment of football ground, Middlezoy Rovers FC - The Clerk reported the impact of conditions which had been attached to the grant of approval but which following discussions, including the Football Association and Sport England were less onerous than appeared.

**78/16      Accounts for Payment and Receipts**

**RESOLVED:** That the accounts listed for payment (including Section 137 payments where appropriate) contained in the Clerks report dated 09/01/17 and the income be noted.

**79/16      Publications and Correspondence**

**RESOLVED:** That the items recorded in the Report dated 09/01/17 be noted and actioned where appropriate:

1. Parish Magazine - December 2016 and January 2017
2. Council Tax Referendum Proposals - MPs Letter
3. Speeding on Main Road - lack of support for community speed watch noted - suggestion for mirrors opposite Cemetery access declined, adopting advice from the Highway Authority
4. South West Regional Conference - Taunton 16/03/17
5. Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan and Awards
6. Somerset Web Services - web reports - November and December
7. Quantock Walking Festival
8. Register of Electors - usage
9. Magazines, Newsletters, Posters and Product Information

**80/16 Additional Items**

1. Christmas Tree - this had been well received by the public and sufficient finance had been raised to do similar in 2017;
2. Village Hall Min 42/16 1) - issues raised in terms of need for much better promotion and works required to the exterior shell of the building. Recommended to pursue previous suggestions for grant applications in terms of Viridor, Somerset Community Foundation and other sources to be provided (this now includes SDC where grants of up to £2,500 may be available until the end of the current financial year).

**81/16      Adjournment of Meeting for Public Statement**

In accordance with procedure and the Chairman's discretion, Dr Emma Stone made a statement outlining a series of events and issues since moving to the Village. The statement was noted but was not considered to be within the purview of the Parish Council and raised issues which required private legal advice or the support of other agencies such as the visit of SARI.

The meeting finished at 9.05 pm

Signed:

Chairman

