

# WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 30 JUNE 2014 AT 7.30PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE WESTONZOYLAND

PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Fisher (Chairman), Carson (Vice-Chairman), Alder, Mrs Ballard, Burge, Evans, Griffiths and Ms Jackson

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

APOLOGY: Cllr Lamb

### **19/14** Minutes of the Previous Meeting

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 May 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **20/14** Audit of Accounts 2013/14 (Min 09/14)

Arising from the previous Minutes, the Clerk reported that the Accounts had been completed, approved by the Internal Auditor including the Governance Statement of Assurance, and were now ready for submission to the external Auditors.

**RESOLVED:** That the confirmatory report be noted and approved.

### **21/14** Battlefield Memorial Site and Interpretation Panel at Bussex (Min 16/14)

Members noted that the grass at the Memorial Site had been cut by Mr Moore. He had identified that the gate was no longer secure and there was a need for this to be replaced, together with two railings. It was estimated that this would cost in the region of £150. It was agreed that this should be added to the Grant application for the replacement (mushroom) stone.

It had also been reported that the Interpretation Panel at Bussex had been damaged after a lorry had apparently reversed into it. An eye witness had identified the vehicle and an approach would be made to the company WTBS to recover the cost of repairs.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the repair of the gate and two railings at the Battlefield Memorial be added as part of the application, for the replacement stone, to the Sedgemoor District Council Small Grants Panel;
2. that the quotation from Mr Chris Burge in the sum of £215 be accepted subject to reimbursement by WTBS and the Clerk make the claim to the company.

**Flooding in the Parish and 20 Year Forward Plan**

Following on from Min 77/13 of the meeting of 17/03/14 and the discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting, members noted the submission which had been made highlighting Village concerns and commenting on the priorities for the 20 Year Plan.

*At this point the Chairman adjourned the Formal Meeting to enable members of the public (five) present, to comment and raise issues. Mr Rudge commented on a meeting of the Internal Drainage Board which he had attended and a request from the IDB to the Environment Agency for a public meeting or for representatives to be invited to a discussion particularly in relation to Aller Moor Spillway. At this meeting an Environment Agency flooding update had also been given.*

*The Chairman then re-convened the meeting.*

Members debated the various issues supporting the call for representatives of Parish Councils affected to be included in discussions, which should include not only Westonzoyland but Bawdrip, Chedzoy and Aller, and any others affected. This was essential in relation to the use of the Sowy and the Kings Sedgemoor Drain. To this end members supported the view that this should be an item for discussion on the Moors Cluster Agenda as well as any other additional meetings set up by the Environment Agency.

Cllr Hall gave a County Council perspective. This included the possibility of a Somerset Rivers Board, closer working with the Environment Agency but also with greater local consultation. To this end, a Project Manager had been appointed and was working on a scheme for this. The 20 Year Plan had addressed both long term and short term needs. This included examination of alternatives for funding long term including the upper reaches of the rivers, and also focussed on the agricultural business and land use programmes. In the short term dredging continued, the A372 road was to be addressed, the road into Muchelney but there appeared no money for work on the Sowy channel or King Sedgemoor Drain at this point. The Minister retained interest in the issues and had promised a further visit. Hard standings for pumps were being created at Dunball and the bunding around Westonzoyland would be made permanent. The A372 work was expected to be completed by Christmas and plans for the Muchelney road were being prepared.

The possibility of a Parrett barrage had also been included in the 20 Year Plan with two options. High level costings were being requested by September for a project which would be in the nature of either a surge barrage or a tidal barrage.

**RESOLVED:** That the reports and updates be noted and the Council seek a definitive response on the question of the Aller Moor Spillway raising and on the continuing involvement of the Parish Council and public representatives.

**SCC Ward Member Report - County Cllr David Hall**

Cllr Hall gave an update in addition to his report on flooding, in relation to HPC and EDF, Junction 23 and VMS (Vehicle Management System) proposals; broadband match funding increase; the availability of further grant funding from the Health and Wellbeing source; small flood mitigation schemes; and the economy upturn generally in the County.

**24/14 Sedgemoor Ward Member Report - Cllr Derek Alder**

Cllr Alder reported the return of staff of SDC involved with the flooding and restoration and their return to regular jobs. He also offered to email a copy of the report on funding and staffing levels.

**25/14 PCSO Report**

PCSO Helen Whitehead's report had been circulated and was noted. Members also agreed individually to support sponsorship of her Kilimanjaro mountain climb in support of the multiple sclerosis charity.

**26/14 Village Agent**

No report had been received.

**27/14 Older Children's Play Area & Fitness and Skate Park (Sovereign Plans) (Min 05/14)**

Alternative options for initial funding from the Sovereign company were awaited, whereupon applications would be submitted. Members also agreed to chase other sources of funding which had been mentioned in previous meetings.

**28/14 New Cemetery Trees**

The Clerk reported on representations about the height of the trees at the rear of the Cemetery plots parallel to the Main Road. Given the way in which the laurel hedge had grown behind the other row of Ielandi, members considered a similar proposal. This might be in conjunction with the lowering of the trees.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Clerk further discuss this with Ian Moore;
2. that the Chairman approach Cannington College; and
3. that the WAGS be asked to comment on the sourcing of laurel hedge plants.

**29/14 Planning Applications, Decisions and Appeals**

53/14/11 - erection of single storey dwelling, land to the East 38 Main Road  
53/14/13 - erection of single storey extension to North West elevation, 15 School Road  
53/14/15 - erection of conservatory to rear (North West) elevation and single storey extension to side (West) elevation of garage, 7 Kicks Farm Close

**RESOLVED:**

1. That no objection be raised to any of the applications but in respect of 53/14/15 SDC be asked to confirm that Kings Drive residents were notified;
2. that the position with decisions awaited on Planning Application 53/14/10

and Planning Appeal in respect of Application 53/14/03 be noted.

**30/14**      **Accounts for Payment and Receipts**

**RESOLVED:** That the accounts listed for payment (including Section 137 payments) contained in the Clerk's Report dated 23/06/14 and the income be noted and approved. Payment of £1,820 to Mr I S Moore for works itemised, also confirmed.

**31/14**      **Rural Housing Survey**

**RESOLVED:** That the Chairman complete the Housing Survey on behalf of the Council.

**32/14**      **First Responders - Somerset Ambulance Service - Request for Volunteers**

Mr Carson brought forward a proposal from Mr Sean Griffiths, the Butcher in the Village, to seek volunteers to act as First Respondents (five needed) for which full training would be provided. A full set of kit would be needed and could initially be provided by South West Ambulance but purely on loan. Members wondered whether Cllr Hall's Health and Wellbeing fund could contribute up to the £1,800 needed.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the proposal be supported;
2. that a request for volunteers be pursued through the Parish Magazine;
3. that the Parish Council are prepared to sponsor one third of the cost, provided requests are also submitted to SDC and to County Cllr David Hall.

**33/14**      **Publications and Correspondence**

**RESOLVED:** That the items recorded in the Report dated 23/06/14 be noted and actioned where appropriate;

Parish Magazine – June 2014

Rural Housing Survey

Governance & Accountability Regs

Match funding for Superfast Broadband

NALC Policy Consultation – Local Audit

Fly-tipping operations

AON Insurance renewal

Temporary Road Closure – Riverside & River Road Burrowbridge

TRC – Fowlers Plot Road Chedzoy

Dredging update No. 17 & Improvements to Northmoor Pumping Station

Wildlife Trust & Hawk & Owl Trust – Barn Owl boxes

Emergency Volunteers – Report

Mendip Community Transport – Funding request

Avon P & CC – Policing Plan 2014/17 & Awards

Magazines, newsletters, posters & product information

**34/14**

**Additional Items**

1. Carnival Club Replacement Building - work progressing but costs now reaching some £62,000 as a result of requirements by Building Control in relation to firewall and surface water drainage (irrigation pipe);
2. Church Lane and Cheer Lane - overgrowth onto highway and onto footway to be reported to Somerset (Sedgemoor) highways.

**35/14**

**Next Meeting**

18 August 2014

The Meeting finished at 9.20 pm

Signed;  
Chairman