

# WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 10 DECEMBER 2012 AT 7.30PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, WESTONZOYLAND

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Fisher (Chairman), Cllr Beale (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs Alder, Mrs Ballard, Burge, Carson and Evans.

APOLOGIES: Messrs Griffiths and Milbank, and County Cllr David Hall

### **50/12**      Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 22/10/12

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22/10/12 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **51/12**      Skate Park and Older Children's Play Area

The Chairman adjourned the formal meeting to hear from village representatives Claire Coombes and Denise Timmins, and five youngsters – Andy Timmins, Zac Timmins, Eddie Crocker, Toby Jackson, Charissa Jackson and Alex Timmins. These pressed the need for a play area for older children and had produced ideas and a wish list of the type of feature equipment they would like. Members noted the interest which followed up previous discussions on the possibility of providing a Skate Park but were well aware of the costs involved and the additional management that might be required. It would take funding from other sources in addition to what the Parish Council might be able to provide from the Precept, which was quite clearly limited. Denise Timmins offered to check out what funding opportunities she was aware of.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the suggestions be examined over the coming months, particularly in connection with the budget preparation;
2. That Mr Burge examine the equipment provided in the village of Aller and also check out the insurance position via Ruth Marks in relation to the Community Centre;
3. That Mr Evans check out through the catalogue companies the insurance position;
4. That the Clerk follow up the interest with the companies spoken to in relation to the provision of the equipment and preparation of schemes; and
5. That at the appropriate time a meeting be set up between the Parish Council and the Management Committee to examine jointly taking these ideas forward (see also Min 52/12 below).

### **52/12**      Matters Arising

- i. **Funding for Community Projects (Min 42/12)** – the Clerk confirmed that he had pursued the provision of the fitness equipment which would be combined with a walking/running circuit available to all ages within the Community

Centre grounds. Members wished to pursue this and suggested the Westonzoyland Fitness and Activities Lifestyles Group could be set up to take this forward.

- ii. **County Cllr Derek Alder** – County Cllr Alder confirmed that he had submitted a bid to the Health and Wellbeing Fund and that it could well be possible that these projects could all be linked and supported with additional funds from Viridor, RLT funding from Sedgemoor, sources known to Mrs Timmins and the Parish Council's own funds.
- iii. **Westonzoyland Airfield Museum** – Members noted possible plans for the provision of temporary Museum, in the long term to be made permanent, as a tribute to the Westonzoyland Airfield, those who had served on the Airfield, and its role in the past.

#### **53/12 Code of Conduct**

Members confirmed addresses in full for submission to the Monitoring Officer, designed to complete the forms which had been submitted to comply with the new legislation.

#### **54/12 PCSO Report**

PCSO Helen Whitehead had produced a report covering a variety of incidents in the Parish which was circulated. Members appreciated the report produced by the PCSO for which she was thanked.

#### **55/12 Precept 2013/14 and Tax Base Calculation**

The Clerk reported that as a consequence of Government proposals it would not be possible to consider the Precept requirement in detail at this meeting. The tax base for the Parish was likely to be reduced as a consequence of changes in the way housing benefit and other benefits were being calculated against the standard tax base. Details of this were awaited. It could mean that to secure an equal Precept to that of 2012/13 the band D equivalent would have to be increased. There was some additional grant due, but the way in which this would be distributed was not yet clear. It was also not clear whether this would make up for any shortfall.

In addition, as a result of the Code of Conduct changes it would be necessary for any Councillor resident in the village to seek a dispensation in order to vote in the setting of the Precept. Members, duly completed applications which, under the terms of the Code and the Council's Standing Orders, could and would be signed off by the Clerk.

It was hoped that more detailed information would be available for the meeting in January.

#### **56/12 National Grid HPC Connection Project – draft route**

Details of the draft route proposed by National Grid had been published with various forum meetings already held. Comments were required by 18/12/12. The likely impact as far as the Parish was concerned, was in relation to the sub-station off Westonzoyland Road on the A372 outside Bridgwater. Otherwise major impacts were on the route from Hinkley to the junction points and significantly on the route planned to Avonmouth.

**57/12**      **Moors Parish Cluster 01/11/12**

Members noted the papers which had been considered at this meeting and comments from the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

**58/12**      **SALC Meeting and SDC Town and Parish Council Sessions 29/11/12**

Members received a brief report from the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

**59/12**      **Planning Applications – decisions, appeals and enforcement**

53/12/14      change of use, conversion and extension of disused agricultural barn to 4 holiday lets on land to the North of Meadow View;

53/12/17(CM) extension to Elliot unit to provide SEN therapy Suite at Westonzoyland Primary School;

53/12/18      erection of single storey extension to South elevation, installation of two additional skylights to each side elevation, render elevation and erection of front porch at former Methodist Church, Main Road;

53/12/19      detached dwelling and garage/workshop (demolition of existing commercial building) 23 Liney Road.

**RESOLVED:** That no objection be raised to any of the applications, subject to, in the case of 53/12/14, it being conditioned to be used as a holiday let and not for permanent accommodation.

*(Cllr Alder declared an interest as a member of the Development Committee for SDC, took no part in the consideration and did not vote on any of the Planning Applications under consideration)*

**60/12**      **Accounts for Payment and Receipts**

**RESOLVED:** That the accounts listed for payment (including Section 137 payments) contained in the Clerk's Report dated 03/12/12 be approved and payments noted, including the additional payment to Wessex Water in the sum of £16.67 and the second payment of £7.50 to Account Ability for minute production.

**61/12**      **Publications and Correspondence**

1. Parish Magazine – November and December 2012 - £50 subscription to be paid;
2. Community Warden Scheme – noted;
3. Mendip Community Transport – referred to Parish Magazine, but no grant to be made;
4. NALC Smaller Councils Committee;
5. Homes in Sedgemoor – decent homes funding;
6. Cheddar Reservoir 2 Update;
7. Plant Life – wild plant charity newsletter – referred to Parish Magazine;
8. Household Recycling and Refuse Collections – bank holiday changes 2012/13;
9. Somerset Chronicle Issue 9;
10. Magazines, Newsletters, Posters and Product Information;
11. Sedgemoor Community Hall Survey;
12. Parish Magazine – submit contact details and also provide on notice boards (JB);
13. SDC Benefits Service Newsletter Winter 2012 (addition 7).

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**Additional Items**

1. Westonzoyland Speed Signs – MC to pursue;
2. The Leveller Magazine – CB to pursue;
3. Community Centre Open Day 09/02/13 – possible Parish Council board, CB to pursue;
4. Flooding of Carnival Shed – with CB and JB;
5. Main Road and Willow Close Properties – complaints (JB);
6. Church Lane Conditions (PE) – to be referred on;
7. Cheer Lane Footway – further issues with unsatisfactory surface.

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**Seasons Greetings**

The Chairman and Members exchanged compliments of the Season.

The meeting finished at 9.30pm.

Signed:

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Chairman