

WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024 AT 7.40 PM

AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WESTONZOYLAND

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Fisher (Chairman), Mrs Parfitt (Vice Chairman), Mr Alder, Mr Chetwynd, Mr Pearce, and Mr Spurrell

APOLOGIES: Councillor Dingwall

74/23 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 08 January 2024

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 08.01.24, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

75/23 Matters Arising

- i. Security Review of Website and Re-Build (Min 63/23i)** - The Clerk reported feedback from the meeting with SWS and the actions which were now being taken. A link had been provided to the website with the password sws in lower case. Members were asked to review and bring forward suggestions for additions, including an update of photographs.
- ii. Traffic Matters, Speeding, Village Entry and Exit and Speed Signs, and SIDs Update (Min 63/23ii)** - The replacement pole at the exit from the Village onto the Airfield (30mph limit) was still awaited as was the submission of the application to the Police for additional SID funding. SID statistics from Councillor Dingwall were still awaited and the Chairman undertook to follow this up with Councillor Dingwall to enable Councillor Chetwynd to record the statistical information.
- iii. Music on the Levels - Grant (Min 63/23iii)**

Resolved: that upon application a grant of £200 be made to Music on the Levels.

76/23 A372 Road Safety Measures, Westonzoyland to Bridgwater (WZ/ACC and BACC) and Planned Active Travel Route

The actions being taken were supported, including pursuance of the “quiet route”. It had been advised that no support would be forthcoming from Sustrans, although the improved route was still being pursued with likely support from ENSO Solar Farm interests and part of the link on land owned by Mr Miller. Relevant members were continuing to engage with the LCN Highways Group. Contact had also been made with Councillor Rigby’s replacement, Councillor Richard Wilkins. Members maintained their support for these efforts.

77/23 Ward Member Reports and LCN Update including Working Group - Highways (Active Travel)

In a continuation of the previous minute, members noted the upcoming meeting of the Highways Working Group. This would be followed by a meeting of the Levels and Moors LCN, to be held at Westonzoyland on 25.03.24. The Clerk had also made contact and received the papers for the Bridgwater LCN, meeting tonight, to try to ensure that the best interests of the Village were covered.

78/23 Police/PCSO Report

No additional information had been received other than that circulated. The Chairman undertook to try to obtain information on police actions in terms of traffic management.

79/23 Finance - Accounts for Payment and Receipts

Resolved: That the Accounts listed for payment (including Section 137 payments where appropriate) and paid contained in the Clerk's Report dated 05.03.24, be noted and approved, together with the bank statements and reconciliation and income received, as well as the continuing outstanding expenses payments for 2019-2023.

80/23 Play Area - Sovereign (5-Year) Scheme for Future Maintenance Service

The Parish Council had entered this Scheme. The first inspection had been received and the quotation for the required works received in the sum of £8,637.33. The Clerk was in discussions with Sovereign about how these works could be carried out to the Parish Council's advantage, bearing in mind the financial impact.

Resolved:

1. That this action be noted;
2. that the planned repairs of the bin at the Youth Shelter be noted.

81/23 Village Hall Playing Pitches, Footway Around Ground and Track Maintenance and Repair - Options and quotations - quote received and payment options/grant options.

Possible options for grant funding were still being pursued from which there would be an assessment of what might be achievable with the finance available. This also opened discussion in respect of the use of the playing pitches, car parking, and signage in relation to dog walkers. The new signs were planned to remind dog walkers of the obligations. One closing date for grant had been missed with another due by end April/May. The Chairman was following this up, together with a contact to Councillor Dingwall where another source of funding might be available.

82/23 Planning Applications, Decisions, Appeals and Enforcements, and Other Planning Matters

Updates were given on outstanding applications and other matters referred to the Planning Authorities for enforcement examination. No further information was yet forthcoming in respect of the Solar Farms proposals, other than a proposed battery location adjacent to the M5 motorway in the adjoining village.

Follow-ups were given on planning, highways, minerals and waste, and the Environment Agency interests, including revised route proposals for movement of "spoil" to reservoir sites. A prospective Member of Parliament for the Constituency had visited to assess various impacts, which included the SSSIs, silage and materials, activities on the Rocket Gro site, the Towns site and Durston Products, where a planned building had been refused. Councillor Parfitt explained further contact through the Minerals and Waste section and the Planning Application follow-ups and expressed concern that Environmental Health had not been, apparently, consulted on applications where residents might be considered to be impacted.

53/21/00004 Durston Products, Airfield Runway, Folly Farm - storage and blending of horticultural growing media - decision still awaited.

53/23/00019 Durston Products, Airfield Runway, Folly Farm - erection of building for the manufacturing of horticultural growing media - **Refused** in line with Parish Council objection.

- SCC/4048/2023 Towens - development of inert material storage facility, Springway Business Park - decision awaited, see references above.
- 53/23/00020 Caravan and Motorhome Club 20 Pitch Site, Springway Farm - **objection lodged.**
- SCC/4090/2024 Concrete Yard Renewal, Penzoy Farm - **approved.**
- 53/24/00003 Bedford, garage extension etc, Brookfield, Church Lane - **no objection.**

83/23 Publications and Correspondence

Resolved: That the items recorded in the report dated 05.03.24, and notified be noted and actioned where appropriate:

1. Somerset Council -Waste Services - monthly briefings and newsletters
2. Parish On-line (UK Network) - renewal and CO² calculator - decision held over
3. Pension Regulator Deadline 30.04.24
4. SLCC Meeting - 08.03.24
5. Westonzoyland Allotments Correspondence - payment of £1,000 rental received, issues raised in relation to take-up plots, apparent drop in natural water levels and reference to location of SID - noted and followed up
6. Noticeboards - still to take forward plans for renewal or replacement at King's Drive and ex-Post Office
7. Somerset Levels and Moors Update 05.01.24
8. Dog Notices for Playing Field - new signs to be provided
9. Valuation Office - New Cemetery registration for non-domestic rating
10. Defibrillator Maintenance - correspondence from Andrew Depford - batteries and door seal to be followed up by Chairman
11. Victim Support - to donate the sum of £50 in response to correspondence
12. Elan City SIDs - price information received
13. Community Pay-Back Projects - introduction from Placement Co-ordinator - to be examined for possible scope in the Village
14. Magazines, Newsletters, Posters and Product Information
15. Airband Community Liaison Officer - Faye Cross - to be invited
16. Road Closure Notices - issued
17. Register of Interests - completed and submitted, and placed on Web

84/23 Additional Items

1. Meetings Calender 2023/24 - AGM and APPM confirmed for 13.05.24;
2. Middlezoy Environmental Group - reference to Penzoy Moor Association and information provided;
3. Cherry tree removal from New Cemetery - dead and being replaced.

The meeting finished at 09.30 pm

Signed
Chairman