

WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.30 PM

AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WESTONZOYLAND

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Fisher (Chairman - in the Chair), Mr Alder, Ms Bicker, Mr Griffiths, Mrs Parfitt, Mr Pearce, and Mr Spurrell, and Ms Perry (late arrival)

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor David Hall

APOLOGIES: Councillor Mr Higgs and District Councillor Anthony Betty

35/21 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 23 August 2021

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 23 August 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

36/21 Matters Arising

- i. **New Cemetery Entrance and Driveway, Widening of Gate, Roadside Boundary and Removal of Rubbish (Min 25/21i)** -The laying of the new stone on the driveway and turning circle had been completed and gave a much improved appearance, arrangements were in hand to widen the gate in the corner to improve access for tractors etc, and rubbish removal had been completed with the hire of a Towans skip. A request had been received to consider planting along the roadside boundary but this was not favoured by members.

Resolved: That these matters be noted.

- ii. **Traffic and Speeding Issues, 20mph Limits and Village Entry Signs, Flooding and Proposed Meeting Follow-up with SCC Highways (Min 25/21ii)** - it was understood that a petition was passing in the Village in relation to speeding and the Clerk confirmed the action which had been taken on all these matters. Confirmation had been received on the proposed meeting and a date was awaited which would deal with all these items including reference to the recent flooding in School Road and the responsibility for the fence and retaining wall alongside the bridge and number 39 Fore Street.

Resolved: That this be noted with the promised actions in the New Year and in the meantime continue to press for the meeting as agreed.

37/21 Reports of Ward Members - County Councillor David Hall

County Councillor Hall gave an update on the One Somerset Unitary Proposals and the Government response. He also gave update on the position with the green bins and the Recycle More projects. Related to his capacity as Chairman of the Somerset Rivers Authority, he also gave an update on the River Sowey enhancements, and the success of injection dredging. There was still no confirmation of Treasury acceptance of the SRA being granted precepting powers. The Clerk made reference to an up-coming conference on 19 November 2021 where the speaker would be Rebecca Pow MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment reference the Somerset Water Forum 2021

Resolved: That these matters be noted.

38/21 Reports of Ward Members - District Councillor Liz Perry

Councillor Perry gave an update on actions by SDC and included the grant availability.

39/21 Police/PCSO Report

No update was available and no report given.

40/21 SCC/SALC LGR and Unitary Conference (Min 27/21 and 33/21.10)

The Chairman and Clerk gave a report on their attendance at the recent conference. This highlighted the preparations being made towards the Government's preference for one Unitary authority for the whole County and the issues to be determined, for example the proposals for local community networks. Preparatory work was underway but the impact on individual Parishes and Towns was as yet unclear. Another key issue was the number of councillors who would be represented on the new Unitary Authority and three options had been put forward which would have a significant impact on the electoral process and the numbers of constituents any elected member would represent. Proposals for 85, 100 and 115 councillors had been modelled.

Resolved: To note the proposals.

41/21 Play Area Replacement Equipment (Young Persons Swings), Solar Lighting and Refuse Bin

A quotation had now been accepted in the sum of £3,879.07 with Sovereign Play for the replacement swings. The solar lighting was awaiting commissioning and an additional refuse bin had been ordered..

Resolved: That this be noted

42/21 Battlefield Signage - Route Marker Posts (Min 30/21), Replacement Panels and Sign for Visitor Centre at the Church

These matters were being attended to and the Clerk had made arrangements to meet with an experienced preservation repair specialist to deal with the Battlefield signage and the route marker posts. The issue with the Visitor Centre sign referred to the sign on the Main Road at the entry to the Village and would be followed up with Somerset Highways.

43/21 Planning Applications, Decisions, Appeals and Enforcements and Other Matters

Reports were received on all applications outstanding and other matters referred to the Planning Authority for enforcement examination.

53/21/00004 Airfield Runway, Folly Farm - Durston Products - outcome still awaited following information supplied.

53/21/14 The Little Paddock, 56 Monmouth Road - approval of all reserved matters for self-build dwelling - granted consent.

Water Discharging Environmental Planning Application, Hinkey Point C - no objection

Solar Farms Westonzoyland, Dunwear and Chedzoy -update awaited from Councillor Betty

Enforcement Investigations::

1. Airfield - no further information received;
2. Barn at Church Farm - no information received other than confirmation of change of ownership.

44/21 Finance - Accounts for Payment and Receipts**Resolved:**

1. That the accounts listed for payment (including Section 137 payments where appropriate) and paid, contained in the Clerk's Report dated 05 October 2021, be noted and approved together with the bank statements and reconciliation, and income received;
2. that the CIL income in total to 31 March 2021 at £4,675.15 be noted;
3. that the current account balance as at 07 October 2021 in the sum of £30,496.55 be noted; and
4. that the report of the External Auditor following completion of the review for 2020/21 be noted together with the publication of the required information on the Parish Council website "Notice of Conclusion of Audit" be noted.

45/21 Publications and Correspondence

Resolved: That the items recorded in the Report dated 05 October 2021 and notified, be noted and actioned where appropriate:

1. Somerset Waste Partnership - monthly and SWP sorted
2. SLCC Branch Meetings and Information
3. Village Housing and Affordable Homes Policy - confirmation of the position from the Affordable Housing Team and Shal Housing local advertisement of availability of Village property
4. SCC Highways - Bins and Gravel for Winter and Footpath Signage - loss of sign at South Drive reported by Ms Bicker
5. Somerset Water Forum 2021 - conference 19 November 2021
6. Sedgemoor Health Walks 2021
7. Somerset Prepared Event and Flood Wardens Newsletter
8. Climate Emergency Community Fund - carbon literacy training
9. Bristol Airport - airport news
10. New Councillors/Register of Interest/Update of Register of Interests - information to be supplied to the Monitoring Officer
11. Magazines, Newsletters, Posters and Product Information

46/21 Additional Items

1. Play Area and Tidiness - to instigate more regular clearing
2. Allotments - complaints reference dust from peat etc storage on the Airfield
3. Next Meeting - Monday 22 November 2021, to include estimates for 2022/23

The meeting finished at 8.55 pm

Signed
Chairman