

WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13 OCTOBER 2014 AT 7.30PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE WESTONZOYLAND

PRESENT: Cllrs Carson (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), Mrs Ballard, Burge, Evans & Griffiths
Cllr David Hall (County Council Ward Member) was also present

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Mrs Fisher (Chairman), and Alder

52/14 Resignation of Charissa Jackson

The Clerk reported notice from Charissa Jackson that she wished to resign from the Parish Council, having decided this was not for her.

The Clerk confirmed the procedure for the filling of vacancies and the feasibility of co-option rather than an election given that it was only seven months until the next election.

RESOLVED:

1. That the resignation of Charissa Jackson be accepted with regret; and
2. that a process be put in hand for a replacement.

53/14 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18/08/14 be approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman as a correct record, subject to the amendment of the note attached to Min 38/14 to delete the words “of the Drainage Board”.

54/14 Somerset Levels and Moors Flood Action Plan, and Flooding in the Village (Min 38/14)

Mr Chris Smith of the Environment Agency was in attendance and gave the Parish Council an update on the new defences in Westonzoyland designed particularly to protect Gray’s Avenue where the worst of the threat of flooding had occurred. The Environment Agency had checked out the options and with the preference for an all round permanent solution rather than demotables had undertaken ground checks and worked out the scheme which should be completed by the end of November. A further phase would be completed in early 2015. He explained the relationship to existing water courses managed by the Internal Drainage Board and the Wessex Water Authority. The scheme had emerged from taking advantage of money available for a permanent solution. Members also questioned the permanency of other solutions which might keep the water away from the village completely. This was related to the Trigger Document as part of the Flood Action Plan and the prospect of works in the Sowy River, King Sedgemoor Drain, and work at Dunball.

County Cllr David Hall also commented on the proposals flowing from the Trigger Document and the visit of the new Secretary of State. Much of this additional work to be phased within the Flood Action Plan and initiated through the Trigger Document was dependent upon financing coming forward. There had also been no movement on a possible funding structure for a “Rivers Board” as a long term solution to provide an equitable response to flooding.

During the discussion the Vice-Chairman adjourned the formal meeting to enable members of the public (four) present, to comment and raise issues. In particular these commented on the Trigger Document being prepared as part of the introduction of the Flood Action Plan.

The Vice-Chairman then re-convened the meeting thereafter.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Parish Council's thanks be offered to Chris Smith for the information provided;
2. that the Parish Council request links to the Environment Agency website, in particular to secure examination of the Trigger Document as soon as this becomes public; and
3. that Chris Smith be invited to ask John Rowlands to attend the next meeting so that he may be able to advise on this document and the Flood Action Plan.

54/14

SCC Ward Member Report - County Cllr David Hall

Following up from his report and observations on the previous item, Cllr Hall gave an update on the series of issues including EDF HPC where decisions to enable the final investment decision (FID) to be made were awaited, alternative routes for the A361 in the event of flooding, new processes for renewal of the A39 and prospects for the A303. He also advised further on the broadband roll-out, and the availability of health and wellbeing grant. In the context of the EDF HPC Scheme, information was to be sought on traffic movements on the A372 and the movement of heavy vehicles on the preferred routes via the A38 and A39.

55/14

Minutes - Matters Arising

- i. First Responders (Min 40/14) - **Resolved:** That further checks be made on the way in which this Scheme is being rolled out (Messrs Carson and Evans) and by the Clerk through Martin Davidson;
- ii. King's Drive and Broadstone - **Resolved:** That the issue of rubbish, in particular plastic bottles remaining on the area of the old tree line, due to be reinstated, be followed up; and
- iii. Website - that arrangements be made for the training session to be set up and for additional information to be populated on the website including the "Whats On" section, the local clubs section, pictures and possibly a past and present feature.

56/14

PCSO Report

PCSO Helen Whitehead's report was circulated and was noted. Concerns were still voiced about parking on driveways, kerbs and verges and the response that police or PCSOs would have to witness the actual incident. It was recognised that as opposed to some of those issues raised parking dangerously at road junctions was still an offence.

57/14

Village Agent

No report had been received.

58/14 **Play Area Inspection Report 2014 and Older Children’s Play Area and Fitness and Skate Park (Sovereign Plans) (Min 43/14)**

The Clerk gave a further update on funding and the submission of applications, and the availability of RLT3 money.

RESOLVED: That following on from the Inspection Report the two springers be removed and replaced and, subject to funding, the full scheme be implemented as soon as feasible.

59/14 **Audit 2013/14 (Min 20/14)**

RESOLVED: That the successful completion of the Audit without any issues raised be noted and the invoice in the sum of £120 plus VAT be paid.

60/14 **Battlefield Memorial Site and Interpretation Panel at Bussex Farm (Min 37/13)**

The Clerk and Mr Burge confirmed that arrangements for the repair of the damage to the Interpretation Panel were now in hand and the company whose lorry was responsible had now confirmed liability and agreed how the matter would be dealt with.

RESOLVED:

1. That this be welcomed and the works put in hand; and
2. that the agreement of the Parochial Church Council to submit the grant application for the Battlefield site be noted and actioned.

61/14 **Accounts for Payment and Receipts**

RESOLVED:

1. That the accounts listed for payment (including Section 137 payments) contained in the Clerks Report dated 06/10/14 and the income be noted and approved; and
2. that in making payment to Mr I S Moore in respect of the cutting of the main Community Centre field, advice be sought on the cost of any extra cuts and contribution from other organisations.

62/14 **Planning Applications, Decisions and Appeals**

53/14/22 Erection of agricultural machinery building at storage building on land to east of Manor Farm, Main Road - **Resolved:** That no objection be raised to this application.

63/14 **New Cemetery Trees (Min 45/14)**

Mrs Ballard circulated information she had obtained on the sourcing of laurel trees and alternatives for the replacement of the line of hedging at the cemetery.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council proceed with the work to reduce the height of the leylandi trees to a height as previously;
2. that the availability of plants from the Woodland Trust be pursued and Mrs Ballard requested to make the application for a length of 77m with

- laurel hedging to be provided in a line approx 25m following from the existing laurel hedging; and
3. that the Council seek alternative ways in which these may be planted.

65/14

Publications and Correspondence

RESOLVED: That the items recorded in the Report dated 06/10/14 be noted and actioned where appropriate;

1. Parish Magazines - September and October
2. Hinkley Point B Power Station Monthly Reports July and August
3. Regulators GDA Assessment for UK/ABWR
4. SLCC Branch Autumn Meetings
5. RT Signs Production Proof - **Resolved:** That the quotation be accepted subject to the addition of the Council website and the Clerk make arrangements for RT Signs to meet Mr Evans to agree this and he be thanked for his work in providing the notice board;
6. SALC Annual Report and Accounts 2013/14 and Annual General and All Area General Meetings 27/09/14
7. Moors Cluster/PACT Meeting 21/08/14 - responses to questions raised, in particular community speed watch and parking;
8. Community Council for Somerset Parish/Town Council Member Newsletter (Issue 1) October 2014 & networking event & AGM
9. Community Buildings Networking Event and AGM Invite from CCS;
10. Police Station Change of Opening Hours;
11. The Right for Parish Councils to Sell Electricity - **Resolved:** That this be supported.
12. Sign post to WZ @ Dunwear – missing arm.
13. Magazines, newsletters, posters and product information.

66/14

Grants

RESOLVED:

1. That a grant of £50 be made to the Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau; and
2. that a grant of £100 be made to the Zoyfest 500 to support their plans in conjunction with adjoining villages to mark the 500 year anniversary of Westonzoyland.

67/14

Additional Items

1. Hedge notices requiring cutting (referred on by Mr Evans);
2. Check of hammerhead at Miller property in King's Drive (Mr Burge);
3. Carnival Shed invitation to examine before or after the next meeting;
4. Church yard trees - to be referred to SDC (Mr Alder).

68/14

Next Meeting

17 November 2014

The Meeting finished at 9.20 pm

Signed;
Chairman

