

WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15 AUGUST 2011 AT 7.30PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE WESTONZOYLAND

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

APOLOGY: Mr Griffith
(following her co-option, Mrs Ballard completed her declaration of acceptance of office)

25/11 Minutes of the Meeting held on 27/11/11

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27/11/11 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

26/11 Allotments – Update (Min 19/11)

Prior to the meeting the Council had met for an inspection at the new cemetery.

The Clerk outlined the history of the search for an allotment site in the village and the consideration that had been given to this over a number of years. This culminated recently in the presentation of the petition by the Westonzoyland Allotment Gardeners (WAGs). The Parish Council had responded to the petition in a positive way and had actively sought suitable ground to be rented or leased. A proposal had also been put forward to utilise the un-used land at the cemetery. This raised a number of issues that had also been considered in the past.

At this point the Chairman adjourned the meeting and invited local residents to give their views.

Mr Wilkins on behalf of the Hamrod residents outlined their objections, including the presentation of a petition of over 200 signatures opposed to the WAGs submission. He explained the factors why residents were not happy with the proposals. Other residents supported this view and pointed to the fact that the Parish Council had previously decided against the use of the land.

Mr Tucker on behalf of the WAGs explained their desire for an allotment site pointing out that the cemetery land was not a favoured option but in the absence of a suitable site coming forward, they wished this to be considered.

The difficulties associated with the new cemetery land, including proximity to residents, health issues, access to the site and the lack of a pavement from the village were acknowledged.

The meeting also heard from Mr Alan Cavill of the National Allotment Gardeners Association.

Members of the Parish Council discussed the situation and the reports on the various sites that had been considered, but for one reason or another were not available. The possible sites were referred to.

RESOLVED:

1. That a decision be deferred pending further examination of the use of the cemetery land, advice from the Health Protection Agency, the Environment Agency and Highway Authority;
2. that further investigation continue of alternative, possibly preferred, sites at Battlefield, Liney Road, adjacent to the Middlezoy football pitch, Springway and Notaro land.

27/11

Matters Arising from the previous minutes

- i. **Standby Building – update on RLT3 funding and Levels & Moors grant (Min 15/11).** The Clerk confirmed that the Cluster Group had approved the project for funding and this would now go before the grants panel at SDC. £2552.00 remained to be spent on the Standby Building, to retain the whole of the grant received from the Levels & Moors project. This was in hand.
- ii. **Community Centre Recreation Field and Carnival Shed (Min 15/11ii).** Mr Burge confirmed that the storage area had been cleared and tidied up as promised.
- iii. **Townsend Road Calming and One-Way suggestion.** The Clerk reported the reply from the Highway Authority explaining why neither proposal was recommended, or likely to be implemented.
- iv. **Somerset County Council Wards Boundary Review.** It appeared that a proposal submitted by the County Council to reduce the number of County Councillors from 58 to 55 was acceptable to the Boundary omission. Mr Alder explained the impact on the ward covering Westonzoyland. Members found these proposals acceptable.
- v. **Contribution towards the disposal of rubbish.** The Westonzoyland Community Centre Management Committee had confirmed their acceptance of the offer of £150.

28/11

PCSO Report

The Clerk circulated a report from PCSO Helen Whitehead outlining the log of various incidents in the village over the past month.

29/11

Audit of Accounts 2010/2011 and Governance and Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

The Audit of the Accounts had been completed satisfactorily with the Auditors drawing attention to the low level of reserves. This was due to expenditure on the cemetery fencing that had been well received in the village.

RESOLVED:

1. That the outcome of the Audit be noted including the matters to which attention has been raised not affecting the auditors' opinion and;
2. that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be approved as presented at the previous meeting, subject to paragraph 11.1.i being amended to read "where the value is above (£250) and below (£2500) the Clerk or RFO shall strive to obtain three estimates." and hereby adopted.

30/11 **Play Area Safety Inspection Report**

RESOLVED: That the report of the inspection conducted on 07/06/11 be accepted and the steps taken to deal with the only high-risk matter noted.

31/11 **Planning Applications – decisions, appeals and enforcement**

53/10/27&80 residential development (17 units) at Broadstone Farm. Members received representations from local residents about this development as a result of the changes to the scheme introduced with the approval for 17 houses (representations had been made to SDC and an inspection was due the following day).

53/11/18 use of land to site agricultural workers' mobile home for lifetime of applicant at Lower Lakewall Farm

53/11/20 variation of conditions to retain existing access on land to west of 44 Monmouth Road

53/11/21 change of use from former airfield runway to storage and blending of horticultural growing media at Westonzoyland airfield (letter of objection from local residents reported)

53/11/22 display of one sign board and two flagpole signs at Broadstone Farm

RESOLVED:

1. That representations by local residents in respect of Broadstone Farm residential development be supported and followed up by Cllr Alder;
2. that objection be raised to application /18 on the basis that the applicant is no longer employed in agriculture full time;
3. that no objection be raised to application numbers /20 and /22;
4. that objection be raised to application /21 on the basis of the adverse impact on the surrounding area and agricultural land and facilities in particular and the objections be supported;
5. that following the appeal against the refusal of permission on application 53/11/07 – erection of agricultural works dwelling on land to the south east of Lakewall, the Parish Council's comments be referred to the Planning Inspectorate.

32/11 **Tree Preservation Order Westonzoyland (6) 1996 – proposed tree removal**

The Council noted the action to deal with two poplar trees identified as a potential health and safety risk and possible requirements for future action affecting trees covered by this order adjacent to the footpath linking Grays Avenue with Kings Drive and through to Broadstone.

(Cllr Alder declared an interest in all applications as a member of the SDC Development Committee and took no part in the consideration and did not vote thereon – Minutes 31/11 and 32/11).

33/11 **Accounts for Payment and Receipt**

RESOLVED: That the accounts listed for payment (including Section 137 payments) contained in the Clerk's report dated 08/08/11 be approved.

34/11 **Publications and Correspondence**

RESOLVED: That the items recorded in the report dated 08/08/11 be noted and actioned, where appropriate:

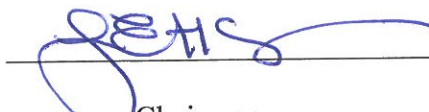
1. EDF Hinkley C changes to preferred proposals Junction 24 and Highways in Bridgwater (resolution from 1987 regarding by-pass noted);
2. Somerset County Council Electoral Divisions Review (recorded above)
3. Wessex Water sewer ownership
4. Parish Magazine – July 2011
5. Somerset West Care & Repair Ltd – request for financial assistance - £200 approved without commitment to future years
(Cllr Alder declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the consideration and did not vote thereon)
6. Royal Horticultural Society – Britain in Bloom
7. Sedgemoor CAB – request for funding - £25 approved
8. Avon & Somerset Community Policing Awards – PCSO Helen Whitehead to be nominated
9. Policing Plan noted
10. Empowerment of parish councils with regard to major planning applications – support motion
11. Magazines, posters and product information

35/11 **Additional Items**

1. Cemetery trees – offer of cherry picker to assist maintenance
2. New Cemetery – green netting – to be reinstated
3. Parish noticeboard Kings Drive area – post to be erected
4. Identification of grants for local societies
5. Support for hedgerows – registration through Chris Burge

The meeting finished at 9.33pm.

Signed:



Chairman