

WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2014 AT 7.30PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE WESTONZOYLAND

PRESENT: Cllrs Carson (Vice-Chairman - in the Chair), Alder, Mrs Ballard, Evans, Griffiths and Lamb

Cllr David Hall (County Council Ward Member) was also present

APOLOGY: Cllrs Mrs Fisher (Chairman), and Burge

69/14 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13/10/14 be approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman as a correct record.

70/14 Casual Vacancy

Following the resignation of Charissa Jackson (Min 52/14) notice of the Casual Vacancy had been posted and members discussed the next steps given that the election for the new Council was due in May 2015. Response via the Electoral Registration Officer would be awaited whereupon, if an election was not called, the vacancy could be filled by co-option.

71/14 Minutes - Matters Arising

i. New Cemetery Trees (Min 63/14) - Mrs Ballard had registered the Council's interest with the Woodland Trust and would be notified in the New Year whether this had been successful. The Clerk had also made contact with the Community Pay-back Scheme which could provide a resource for planting. In the meantime work had begun on reducing the height of existing leylandi trees and this was progressing satisfactorily.

ii. Battlefield Memorial Site and Interpretation Panel at Bussex Farm (Min 60/14) - the Parochial Church Council had submitted the grant application for the Battlefield site and the outcome was awaited. Mr Burge would undertake the repair of the damage to the Interpretation Panel as soon as commitments to the Carnival Club were concluded.

72/14 Somerset Levels and Moors Flood Action Plan, Flooding in the Village (New Defence) and Trigger Document (Min 54/14)

John Rowlands of the Environment Agency and responsible for the Trigger Document had been invited but was unable to attend due to other commitments. Such information as available was provided in relation to the Trigger Document and the ten trigger sites and the way in which this was expected to operate. Cllr Hall assisted in identifying the series of mile-stones which had been secured including the completion of dredging, the prospect of improvements to the Sowey and King Sedgemoor Drain and the way in which this would act with the new defence in Westonzoyland. With the sites identified, the triggers would basically lead to the installation of additional pumps if rain was forecast for the next three to five days

and river levels were expected to continue to rise. An update was given on progress, or lack of it, following the backing given to plans for a Somerset Rivers Authority. The key issue remained the basis of funding. Members were advised of forthcoming meetings including a presentation at the Moors Cluster Meeting on Thursday. This would give the opportunity to question the availability of the Trigger Document, the basis on which it was drawn together, and the impact. Issues with the EA had been raised separately in respect of the King Sedgemoor Drain and effect of over-topping both in relation to Westonzoyland and the Stawell side. Visits by the EA were planned to examine this issue.

73/14 **SCC Ward Member Report - County Cllr David Hall**

Cllr Hall contributed significant information to the previous item in respect of the Flood Action Plan and the Trigger Document. Following on from this he gave an update in relation to the Parrett Barrage or alternative and the two options which had gone forward with high-level costings. In addition he gave updates on the A303 improvements he expected to be part of the Autumn Statement, and continuing progress with the EDF/HPC plans coupled with the creation of the Innovation Centre supported by the County Council which had commenced construction on a site at Bristol Road, Bridgwater. A series of starter business units was also underway at Highbridge. Both Cllrs Hall and Alder drew attention to an SDC Business Conference coming up and Cllr Alder outlined the situation with the working up of the District Council budget.

Cllr Hall indicated that resources were available through the Health and Wellbeing County Councillor Budget and the Parish Council agreed to match-fund a proposal from the Friday Club prepared for submission (this in sum of £500).

74/14 **PCSO Report**

PCSO Helen Whitehead presented her report based on 12 logs of various incidents in Westonzoyland. She gave a short summary of those which were vehicle/highway related, concern/care, and others. Crimes recorded were also reported. Helen was thanked for her Report which would be circulated following the Meeting.

Members suggested that the PCSO Report should also be made available on the Council's website together with updated neighbourhood watch information when submitted.

75/14 **Village Agent Report**

No report had been received.

(Note by Clerk: following the Meeting Alison Hoare, Village Agent, provided a report which has since been circulated).

76/14 **Village Noticeboard at Shops**

RESOLVED: That the proposals from RT Signs be approved and a similar header be considered for a refurbished noticeboard at the Old Cemetery.

77/14

Precept and Grant and Budget 2015/16 - High Level Preparation

Following receipt of information in relation to the Precept request the Clerk advised the overall position in relation to the tax base and estimated Band D precept. Grant had increased slightly as had the tax base. This would show a marginal increase in income although raising the Band D precept from 23.5 to 25 would provide an additional £750 approximately to support local projects.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Budget be prepared on these alternative basis;
2. that in conjunction with the Budget, Cemetery fees be reviewed in comparison with adjoining parishes.

78/14

Planning Applications, Decisions and Appeals

- 53/14/17 Change of use and conversion of barn to dwelling and two double garages at Riverside Kennels, Lakewall
- 53/14/23 Conversion of loft to living accommodation with dormer windows at 7 Oakley Close
- 53/14/24 Construction of approximately 300m long flood defence structure to protect houses in Grays Avenue
- 53/14/25 Erection of dwelling, demolition of garage/store building at 52 Main Road, Westonzoyland
- 53/14/26 Erection of dwelling, formation of parking and access on land to the south of Barretts Farm, Liney Road

RESOLVED: That no objection be raised to any of the applications.

(Cllr Alder declared an interest as a member of the Development Committee of SDC, played no part in the consideration of the applications, and did not vote.)

79/14

Accounts for Payment and Receipts

RESOLVED: That the Accounts listed for payment (including Section 137 payments) contained in the Clerk's Report dated 10/11/14 and the income, be noted and approved with the addition of the Wessex Water bill for services at the Cemetery in the sum of £16.44.

80/14

Moors Cluster Meeting

The Clerk reported on the papers for the forthcoming Meeting of the Moors Parish Cluster Group at Chedzoy which would now include a presentation on the Flood Triggers. It was expected that information would also be given on a review by the Police on their participation in the PACT (Police and Communities Together) process.

81/14

Publications and Correspondence

RESOLVED: That the items recorded in the Report dated 10/11/14 be noted and actioned where appropriate;

1. Parish Magazine - November
2. First Responders - update on Village and wider area - following enquiries the Scheme now expected to operate without direct Parish involvement
3. Defibrillator - offer noted and consideration be given in conjunction with the budget to provision at (Community Centre) village hall
5. SCC Library Services Consultation
6. Hinkley B Power Station - monthly report and traffic update
7. Cemetery Solutions and books updating - to be implemented
8. Somerset Waste Partnership Briefing - November 2014
9. New Heritage Trust for Somerset and Devon - noted
10. War Memorial Shell - publicity including support for Zoyfest 500
11. Magazines, Newsletters, Posters and Product Information

82/14

Next Meeting

19 January 2015

The Meeting finished at 9.20 pm

Signed;
Chairman