

WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18 AUGUST 2014 AT 7.30PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE WESTONZOYLAND

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

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

APOLOGY: Cllr Mrs Fisher (Chairman) and Cllrs Burge and Ms Jackson

36/14 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 June 2014 be approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman as a correct record.

37/14 Battlefield Memorial Site and Interpretation Panel at Bussex (Min 21/14)

The Clerk suggested that in the light of the response from SDC to the application for match funding for works at the Battlefield Memorial, the Parochial Church Council might be invited to submit the application given that the Church held the Battle Exhibition and was an integral part of the route for Interpretation.

Regarding the necessary repairs to the Interpretation Panel, a claim had been submitted to WTBS (Western Timber) for the cost of repairs.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Vice-Chairman approach Mr Wylde relating to the proposed re-application to SDC;
2. that Mr Burge be asked to follow up the claim on WTBS.

38/14 Somerset Levels and Moors Flood Action Plan, and Flooding in the Village (Min 22/14)

Members were given information from the Flood Action Plan Progress Update July 2014, an update on the dredging of the rivers Parrett and Tone, detail of the response on the effectiveness of dredging which had been questioned locally, and a paper on the effectiveness of additional dredging. Responses had also been received to concerns about the manner in which the dredging was being conducted and specific questions related to the Aller Spillway and further works, possibly, on the Sowe and King Sedgemoor Drain. It was confirmed that the barrier surrounding Grays Avenue was to be permanent but detail was not available yet.

At this point the Vice-Chairman adjourned the formal meeting to enable members of the public (five) present to comment and raise issues. This included relevance to the public sessions which had been held, and a further meeting of the Drainage Board which Mr Rudge planned to attend and where Cllr Alder would follow up the concerns raised locally.

The Vice-Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

In relation to additional works which would serve to protect Westonzoyland, it was confirmed that partnership money was available for work in 2015 and a scoping exercise was underway to prepare for implementation.

It was emphasised that residents and the public generally needed reassurance and it was essential that the Environment Agency showed how implementation would take place. This also applied to other areas affected and the Vice-Chairman agreed to raise this at the forthcoming Cluster meeting.

Mr Rawnsley offered a series of photos taken in 2013 and 2014 which illustrated that the flooding problems in the village in that particular part were exaggerated by issues with the surface water runaway into the Hamrod Rhyne, a Wessex Water Authority responsibility.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council continue to press for regular updates, and invites to the Environment Agency representatives and continue to press for full public involvement as plans go forward.

39/14 **SCC Ward Member Report - County Cllr David Hall**

Following on from the previous item, Cllr Hall gave an update on the visit of the new Secretary of State to the Levels. He indicated that consideration was being given to the funding structure for a “Rivers Board” likely only to be an interim solution initially.

Cllr Hall gave further updates on EDF HPC, further government grant funding for broadband roll out and the Bridgwater Gateway plans.

Cllr Hall also undertook to consider the request for a contribution from the Health and Wellbeing Fund towards equipment for First Responders in Westonzoyland. His attention was also drawn in this context to plans recently notified in relation to a Community First Responder Scheme for the Polden Hills villages which included the Parish.

40/14 **First Responders - Somerset Ambulance Service - Request for Volunteers**

Members understood that some volunteers had come forward, including Cllr Evans, and that the match funding to which the Parish Council were prepared to sponsor 1/3 was being pursued.

RESOLVED: That in taking a local scheme forward, this be examined in the context of the information now received relating to the Polden Hills villages. Mr Evans would also pursue the issue of grant application to SDC with Sean Briffet.

41/14 **PCSO Report**

PCSO Helen Whitehead’s report had been circulated and was noted. Some sponsorship had been offered for Helen’s charity efforts.

42/14 **Village Agent**

No report had been received.

43/14 **Older Children's Play Area & Fitness and Skate Park (Sovereign Plans) (Min. 27/14)**

The information had now been received on alternative funding packages and the Viridor application which was being pursued.

RESOLVED: That the full proposal put forward by Sovereign be adopted including the Skate Park and surround.

44/14 **Play Area Inspection Report 2014**

Members were appraised of the outcome of the inspection. Mr Moore would attend to those items which needed attention.

RESOLVED: That in the light of the report as part of the Sovereign Scheme the two junior springers be replaced.

45/14 **New Cemetery Trees**

Following discussions with Mr Moore, plans were put forward to reduce the height of cemetery trees at the back of the cemetery as had been done previously. Discussions took place on the provision of a laurel hedge parallel to the hedge at the back of the cemetery which would enable that to be taken out completely and an extension to the line of laurel previously planted. The Council were also asked to restore the fencing designed to protect the line of laurel which had become detached in many places.

RESOLVED:

1. That the reduction in height of the row of lelandi at the rear of the cemetery proceed;
2. that suitable laurel hedging be planted to the rear of this line and as an extension of the planted laurel hedge; and
3. that Mrs Ballard pursue enquiries of the Woodlands Trust on the sourcing of laurel hedge plants

46/14 **Accounts for Payment and Receipts**

RESOLVED: That the accounts listed for payment (including Section 137 payments) contained in the Clerks Report dated 11/08/14 and the income be noted and approved.

47/14 **Planning Applications, Decisions and Appeals**

53/14/10 - erection of dwelling to west of 52 Main Road - APPROVED
53/14/15 - erection of conservatory and single storey extension to side elevation of garage, 7 Kicks Farm Close (amended application)

53/14/19 - tree works to fell Robinia and replace with Birch, reduce Yew and Ash at the Vicarage, Church Lane

RESOLVED:

1. That no objection be raised to either of the applications /15 or /19;
2. that the confirmation of notice to residents in King's Drive ref /15 be noted; and
3. that in relation to the dwelling west of 52 Main Road ref /10 the position with the RLT 2/3 payment due be checked and works to the existing dwelling which appear to include demolition and replacement be checked.

48/14

Publications and Correspondence

RESOLVED: That the items recorded in the Report dated 11/08/14 be noted and actioned where appropriate;

1. DCLG Open and Accountable Local Government – draft guide
2. LDF news Update
3. Moors Parish Cluster Group Meeting - 21/08/14 - referred to Vice-Chairman for attendance
4. Sedgemoor CAB - request for funding - grant of £50 APPROVED
5. National Grid - notice of acceptance of application for DCO (HPC Connection Project (ref ENO20001))
6. Somerset Crane Chronicle Issue 15 - Great Crane Project
7. Grassed area between King's Drive and Broadstone, restoration of flood area ex-tree line - promised restoration and replacement with oak trees noted
8. Pathway laid adjoining 47 King's Drive - to chase authorisation
9. Need for footway, new cemetery to drove on edge of village

RESOLVED:

1. To pursue with Highway Authority;
2. to examine alternative sources of funding; and
3. to pursue with Sustrans in relation to combined footpath and cycleway and improvements to the cycling route between Westonzoyland and Bridgwater
10. Signpost to Westonzoyland - missing arm at Dunwear Lane - to be followed up in light of cost notified by the Highway Authority
11. Sedgemoor Deanery - meeting with Bishop of Bath and Wells on 20/10/14 at Westonzoyland Community Centre - noted
12. Edington and Woolavington PPG meeting minutes - noted
13. NDA monthly update - August 2014
14. EA - Steart Coastal Management Scheme - briefing note
15. Sustainable Communities Act - actions
16. Magazines, Newsletters including Avon and PCC, Posters and Product Information
17. SDC Annual Performance Report
18. SID Results - Vice-Chairman to raise at Cluster Meeting and to follow up request for what response given the reinforcement of the speeding issues.

49/14

Website - www.westonzoylandparishcouncil.org.uk

Although there were still additions to be made, the website had been populated and was about to go live.

RESOLVED: That this be publicised.

50/14

Additional Items

1. Vehicles on Grass Verge at Gelosia Close including van permanently parked and 4 x 4 - to be referred to PCSO;
2. Village Hall Committee - intention to remove metal barriers and replace with wooden and cherry trees;
3. Oak trees and overhanging hedges - Peter Evans to check addresses;
4. Surface water flooding in Liney Road - issue remaining, although understood gully clearing work underway;
5. Shop owner consent to erect Parish Noticeboard - Peter Evans to pursue;
6. Hamrod House - issue of dropped kerbs;
7. Flower Show success - congratulations offered;
8. Church Lane - request for dog bins - to be pursued alongside a reminder in Parish Magazine;
9. Play area and Community Centre car park - need for new bins to be pursued;
10. Parking on pavements - Vice-Chairman to contact PCSO;
11. Drove off Main Road - report of further fly tipping including lorry load of tyres in vicinity of WWA Pumping Station - to report and seek enforcement and action to prevent recurrence.

51/14

Next Meeting

13 October 2014

The Meeting finished at 9.25 pm

Signed;
Chairman