

WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL **HELD ON MONDAY 14 AUGUST 2017 AT 7.30PM** **AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WESTONZOYLAND**

PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Fisher (Chairman - in the Chair), Alder, Mrs Ballard, Carson, Ms Perry, and Spurrell

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

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Burge, Evans, and Griffiths

26/17 Resignation of Cllr Chris Burge

The Clerk reported a letter received by the Chairman from Cllr Chris Burge tendering his resignation.

RESOLVED:

1. That the resignation be accepted with regret, and Cllr Burge thanked for his contribution during his period as a member of the Parish Council; and
2. that the Clerk put in train due process to fill the resulting vacancy.

27/17 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26/06/17 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

28/17 Matters Arising

- i. **Airfield, Storage of Grit and Gravel and Highway Materials (Min 16/17) and Noise Issues Previously Raised** - Members noted the various issues in relation to noise nuisance from various parts of the Airfield was continuing to be monitored by residents and, together with a number of planning issues was under investigation by SDC. The removal of the highway materials was still due to be completed by the end of the road maintenance season.

(The Chairman, Cllr Mrs Fisher, declared an interest in all matters connected with the Airfield.)

28/17 County Councillor Ward Report

County Cllr David Hall confirmed latest developments involving the County Council, who were still facing a budget shortfall of some £18m although this was less than in the previous year. There was still no information from Government on proposals for changes in business rates or other sources of financing and unlikely that proposals for precepting the Somerset River Authority would come forward this year. The Chairmanship of the Somerset River Authority had been confirmed.

Cllr Hall also confirmed arrangements he was making for meetings of officers and members of County Highways with three parish councils with reference to speeding issues, and other related highway matters, with a separate meeting planned for each village.

29/17 **Police and PCSO Report**

No officers were in attendance and no report was available. Reference was made to the Neighbourhood Watch reports circulated.

30/17 **Village Agent Report**

Kate Symonds had presented her apologies but in doing so had confirmed her activities in the Village. The main issues faced by clients were to do with benefit changes, and the real danger of getting into debt with the introduction of Universal Credit paid monthly in arrears. Older clients' main concerns were still transport and care provision. Kate welcomed any contact with details provided in the Parish Magazine.

In following up the discussion in Min 21/17, at the previous meeting, Cllr Alder gave an overview of the activities of the Sedgemoor Community Transport operation and its availability to clients in the Village. The Sedgemoor Community Transport telephone number was confirmed as 01278 434881.

31/17 **Local Plan Review**

The Clerk confirmed that SDC had submitted the Local Plan and supporting documents to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for independent examination. Formal notice had been given and hard copies of the submission were available, as well as online at www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/ldf. This included those elements related to affordable housing, which had been the subject of specific consultation in the Village.

32/17 **Westonzoyland New Cemetery - Rules and Regulations Governing Memorials**

Two issues had arisen from the Regulations governing memorials in the New Cemetery.

1. A request had been received for the erection of a small additional headstone with vase to be located on a grave with an existing headstone permitted by the Regulations. The positioning of an additional headstone had been suggested and members considered possible alternatives following representations from the parent during debate. A flat stone of approximately A4 size had been suggested as an alternative and other options were discussed.

RESOLVED: That this be deferred - and the options, including locating a headstone adjacent to the existing headstone, be re-examined;

2. Kerbing trim and stones placed without consent (Min 14/17.4 refers) -

the kerbing and trim had been placed on the grave contrary to the Rules and Regulations and following a letter requiring removal, a submission had been made requesting that the Rules be changed. The Chairman read a letter from the applicant in full and members discussed the emails and representations, including submission of a petition which had been received. Debate ensued on all issues read and all options examined.

RESOLVED: That no change be made to the Rules and Regulations, effectively in place since the opening of the New Cemetery, and the Parish Council stand by the decision to require the removal of the kerbing trim and stones in accordance with the letter sent.

33/17 **Younger Children's Play Area**

Some questions had been raised about the equipment in the younger children's play area, with the suggestion this could be significantly improved. Some pieces had been added or refurbished when the older children's play area and fitness equipment had been put in place. Members were reminded of the financial implications and the funding sources. Members also noted that the equipment was inspected annually and on a regular basis for safety purposes. Members of the public were welcome to put forward any ideas for improving the offer of the equipment provided this could be safely accommodated within the defined area.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council consider any suggestions brought forward which will be considered on their merits, and subject to finance available.

34/17 **Accounts for Payment and Receipts**

RESOLVED: That the accounts listed for payment (including Section 137 payments where appropriate) and paid, contained in the Clerks report dated 07/08/17 and the income be noted and approved together with the bank statements and reconciliation.

35/17 **Planning Applications, Decisions, Appeals and Enforcement**

In conjunction with the consideration of planning applications, Agents on behalf of the applicant and members of the public were given the opportunity to provide information or make representations in respect of the proposals. A number of questions were raised in respect of application 53/17/16.

53/17/16 Outline planning permission with some matters reserved, for the erection of up to 46 dwellings, land east of Liney Road -
Resolved: to recommend approval of the application subject to the opportunity afforded to the Parish Council to comment in due course on all matters reserved or conditioned.

53/17/18 Erection of 2 field shelters, Springway Farm, Springway Lane - no objection.

53/17/19 Retention of shed, 2 Bussex Square - no objection.

- 53/17/21 Erection of single storey extensions to east and north elevations, 17 South View Road - no objection.
- 53/17/22 Erection of carnival shed for British Flag Carnival Club at Westonzoyland Airfield - landscaping plan - noted.
- 53/17/13 **Decision** - conversion of existing agricultural store building into 2 holiday units, land to east of Hill View, Liney Road - refused.

36/17

Publications and Correspondence

RESOLVED: That the items recorded in the Report dated 07/08/17 be noted and actioned where appropriate:

1. Standards Road - rubble and bark chippings at corner - Cllr Ms Perry to follow-up notwithstanding marginal improvement
2. The late Bernard Storer - request for tree to be planted in Recreation Field - request declined on recent precedent but offer of location within New Cemetery to be made
3. Music on the Levels - request for grant - £100 approved
4. Somerset Web Services - web report May/June and July/August
5. SDC Cluster Meeting (south-east) - 27/06/17- to be checked
6. AON Insurance - withdrawal from Local Council insurance - alternatives being investigated
7. Annual Electoral Canvas - under way
8. Magazines, Newsletters, Posters and Product Information

37/17

Additional Items

1. Towan's Lorries and Stone Crushing, and Access at Westonzoyland Airfield - complaints - use of site and access to be followed up with SDC Planning and by Cllr Ms Perry;
2. Forces March 23-27/05/18 - suggestion of Parish representation - interest to be gleaned through Parish Magazine item;
3. New Cemetery bridge over rhyne on A372 - complaints of noise and danger from surface at the pinnacle of the bridge and need for surface treatment - to be raised with Somerset Highways and at meeting referred to in Min 28/17 above.

The meeting finished at 9.40 pm

Signed;
Chairman