

WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2015 AT 7.30PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE WESTONZOYLAND

PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Fisher (Chairman), Carson (Vice-Chairman - in the Chair by agreement), Alder, Burge, Evans, Griffiths and Lamb

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

APOLOGY: Cllr Mrs Ballard

83/14 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17/11/14 be approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman as a correct record.

84/14 Casual Vacancy - Co-option

The Clerk reported that following advertisement no request had been received for election to fill the casual vacancy on the Parish Council. In the event members were invited to put forward nominations for co-option.

RESOLVED: That Mr Steve Spurrell of Potter's Peace, 19B Fore Street, Westonzoyland TA7 0EE, be elected to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council until the end of the current electoral term.

The Vice-Chairman welcomed Cllr Spurrell to the Parish Council who then took part in the remainder of the business.

85/15 Minutes - Matters Arising

i. **Battlefield Memorial Site (Min 71/14ii)** - The Grant Application by Westonzoyland PCC had been successful, the replacement stone had been ordered and the railings would be replaced. As agreed, the balance over and above the Grant would be paid by the Parish Council.

ii. **Interpretation Panel at Bussex Farm (Min 71/14ii)** - Mr Burge confirmed that the repairs to the Interpretation Panel had been completed.

iii. **Village Notice Boards** - The notice board at the shops had been completed and the header erected by RT Signs.

RESOLVED: That Mr Evans be requested to complete the cork covering of the board at the Old Cemetery and RT Signs commissioned to place a similar header on the board.

86/14

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

The Clerk gave a brief update covering each of the matters above together with developments and approvals in relation to the creation of the Somerset Rivers' Authority. County Cllr David Hall added to the information related to the Rivers' Board to the extent that £1.9m had been provided by Government with a balance to take this figure up to £2.7m for year 1 being sourced. The continuing pressure was for the future funding. In addition EA funding had been made available for the planning and feasibility studies of a surge barrier or barrage on the River Parrett in the vicinity of Dunball. Options would be considered with a precise location to be identified. Monies for the future construction had also to be identified.

In relation to the impact on Westonzoyland, attention was drawn to the public consultation report and survey related to the River Sow and King Sedgemoor Drain enhancement options. Work on these improvements had begun and following a recent public exhibition and meeting a survey issued seeking the views of local people. Improvements to the Sow and KSD were seen as an essential element to protect Westonzoyland in the future, allied to improvements at Dunball.

It was emphasised that whilst the views of local people and pressure from local Councils for work to be undertaken was required, professional engineering detail would be the key to success. It was suggested that the Environment Agency (Mr John Rowlands), should be invited again in due course to attend the Parish Council as this progressed.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council with local people continue to keep a watching brief on developments, particularly in relation to the River Sow and KSD and pursue this interest at every opportunity, and the report of the Cluster meeting including the operational trigger point information circulated be noted.

87/14

SCC Ward Member Report - County Cllr David Hall and SDC Ward Member Report - Cllr Derek Alder

In addition to the contribution to the previous item, Cllr Hall referred to other major involvement including the exhibition of Landscapes Of Power at the Taunton Somerset Museum, the display and return of the Alfred Jewel and the discovery of the sculpture of St Peter from 1000 AD. He also referred to the recent Economic Development Conference led by Sedgemoor District Council together with a Chamber of Commerce business meeting. Mr Hall handed over a cheque for £500 from the Health and Wellbeing fund for the benefit of the Friday Club at Westonzoyland which the Parish Council had agreed to match fund. This would be presented in due course.

Cllr Alder gave an update on the budget position at the District Council and planning policy information in relation to village boundaries and the process of dealing with planning applications

88/14

PCSO Report

PCSO Helen Whitehead presented her report based on various logs in the past month; a period in which police activity had generally been light.

89/14 **Village Agent Report**

No report had been received. (*Note by Clerk: Any report received will be circulated by email.*)

90/14 **Precept 2015/16 and Budget (Min 77/14)**

Following on from the request for budgets to be prepared on an alternative basis as agreed at the previous meeting, the Clerk submitted detailed estimates for the financial year ending 31/03/16. This was again based on a continuation budget with major items of expenditure in relation to the play area/fitness area and possible skate park, further funding for which was being sought and where the total budget would depend on grants and funding sources available.

The Clerk gave further information as circulated by SDC with their initial precept request for 2015/16. This gave a tax base of 600.57. The grant estimate was £1,385 which was a reduction of £13. Members examined precept based on 23.50 per Band D property as in 2014/15 and an alternative at 25 per Band D property. The latter would give total income of £16,399.25 with the precept element £15,014.00.

RESOLVED:

1. That the detailed budget paper and estimates as presented based on 25 per Band D be agreed;
2. that a grant of £862.37 be made to Westonzoyland Community Centre (Village Hall) Management Committee to cover insurance under the terms of the renewal;
3. that the 20% deposit for the playground equipment under the first phase of the scheme accepted from Sovereign Play in the sum of £7,655.21 be paid;
4. that any further grant requests be considered in year; and
5. that the revised cemetery fees following review and comparison with other local Councils be approved and the increase effective from 01/04/15.

91/14 **New Cemetery Trees (Min 71/14i, 63/14, 45/14 and 28/14)**

Members received comments with the progress on the works to lower the height of the leylandi trees at the cemetery and the way in which the scheme was progressing. Comments in relation to the way in which the works were being carried out were noted and would be reviewed in line with the Parish Council's original intentions and requirements. Mrs Ballard was awaiting confirmation on the offer of trees/hedging (mainly laurel) from the Woodland Trust, and there was the possibility of utilising the Community Pay-back Scheme to provide labour.

RESOLVED:

1. That the position be noted and the Chairman and Clerk meet with the contractor to progress the site work, and

2. that in due course consideration be given to the future of the land between the line of trees and the rhyne, and in particular the interest from an adjoining land owner.

92/14 **Provisional Calendar of Meetings**

RESOLVED: That the Meetings Calendar for 2015/16 be approved.

93/14 **Accounts for Payment and Receipts**

RESOLVED: That the accounts listed for payment (including Section 137 payments where appropriate) contained in the Clerk's Report dated 12/01/15 and the income be noted and approved, including the WAGs allotment rental payment of £1,000 due to Notaro.

94/14 **Planning Applications - New Applications, Decisions, Appeals and Enforcement**

- 53/14/27 Erection of part single storey part two storey extensions - 23 Bussex Square (believed to have been determined)
- 53/14/28 Installation of PV panels, erection of shed and screen heating system related equipment and foul drainage connection - St Mary's Church
- 53/14/29 Erection of single storey extension rear and front - 2 Francis Reed Close
- 53/14/30 Erection of dwelling and garage, access off Load Lane etc - rear of 17 Fore Street
- 53/14/31 Erection of two storey extension, single storey extension and refurbishment including cob wall - 57 Liney Road

RESOLVED:

1. That the position with application 53/14/27 be checked;
2. that no objection be raised to applications 53/14/28, 29 and 31; and
3. that in respect of 53/14/30 an issue relating to access to the property be checked but otherwise no objection be raised.

(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, and Cllr Burge declared a personal interest in relation to 53/14/27 - 23 Bussex Square.)

95/14 **Meeting of the Moors Parish Cluster Group**

Members noted the issues raised at the meeting held on 28/11/14 as referred above together with reports on broadband roll-out and expected information on a review by the Police of their participation in the PACT (Police and Communities Together) process.

96/14

Publications and Correspondence

RESOLVED: That the items recorded in the report dated 12/01/15 be noted and actioned where appropriate;

1. Parish Magazine - December 2014 and January 2015 and change to temporary editor;
2. Register of Electors - Parish copy - public inspection;
3. St Mary's Church - letter of support for re-ordering scheme issued;
4. Temporary Road Closure of Bower Lane;
5. Temporary Road Closure of Riverside, Burrowbridge;
6. Parish Councils' Transparency Code - turnover not exceeding £25,000;
7. LG Financial Settlement and National Salary Award 2.2% - AGREED
8. Rural Community Support Funding Threat - petition;
9. Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2 - SCC Consultation;
10. Rural Community Energy Fund;
11. Recycling Sites (10) - acceptance of commercial waste;
12. Police P&CC Newsletter;
13. Magazines, Newsletters, Posters and Product Information.

97/14

Additional Items

1. Mr Burge provided names and addresses of Secretary and Chairman of Westonzoyland Carnival Club for the completion of the Agreement;
2. Proposed ZoyFest events commencing 20/02/14 - list to be posted on website;
3. Westonzoyland Community Centre (Village Hall) - exterior re-rendering and painting - all to explore funding and grant opportunities;
4. Sedgemoor CAB - letter of thanks for grant received.

98/14

Next Meeting

16 March 2015.

The Meeting finished at 9.20 pm

Signed;
Chairman