

WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.40 PM

AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WESTONZOYLAND

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Fisher (Chairman), Mr Chetwynd, Mr Dingwall, Mrs Parfitt, Mr Pearce, and Mr Spurrell

APOLOGIES: Ms Perry and Somerset Unitary Councillor Rodrigues

49/23 Appointment of Vice Chairman - Ratification

Resolved: That in the continued absence of the nominated Vice Chairman, Ms Bicker, and recent communications, the Ratification be held over until the next meeting.

50/23 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 02 October 2023

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 02 October 2023, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

51/23 Matters Arising

- i. Security Review of Website and Re-Build (Min 38/23i)** - The general review of the upgraded website continued. still with a number of omissions. Information was still awaited to meet with SWS to complete the re-build. In the meantime, through SWS and to satisfy requirements advised by external audit, a website specific to the Parish Council which would run alongside a clerks website currently in use, had been set up as follows "clerk@westonzoylandparishcouncil.org.uk".
- ii. Traffic Matters, Speeding, Village Entry and Exit and Speed Signs, and SIDs Update including Demolished Post at Exit from Village onto Airfield (Min 38/23ii)** - All of these items had been forward with the exception of the replacement pole at the exit from the Village onto the Airfield (30mph limit) and the submission of the application to the Police for additional SID funding. awaiting on SID statistics from Councillor Dingwall.
- iii. Music on the Levels - Grant Request (Min 48/23.1)** - It was advised that the Committee of the Music on the Levels would be meeting in January and would be requested to confirm their grant requirement.

51/23 A372 Road Safety Measures (40mph Limit) Notice and PC Submission and Sustrans Follow-Up (Min 39/23)

Information was still awaited on possible improvements at junctions, which should enable assistance from Sustrans towards safety improvements to be obtained.

52/23 Ward Member Reports and LCN Update

Members were given an update on the Local Community Network - Levels and Moors, and the meeting at Somerton on 13.11.23, from which the minutes were still awaited. It was advised that one working group to be established was involved as Active Travel and Mrs Parfitt expressed an interest in representing the Parish Council.

Councillor Dingwall gave an update on Somerset Council specific matters. This included budget prospects and the detail of the letter on asset and service devolution from the Leader of Somerset Council, which had been circulated and included a list of services potentially at risk or providing devolution opportunities to local councils as a consequence of the precarious Unitary Council finances. Members noted the level of deficit and possible ramifications including possibly on the Parish Council precept. The Clerk was shortly to attend a meeting where further information might be forthcoming on the way that this situation might be taken forward.

Resolved: That the reports be noted, and the LCN meeting notes and initial information in relation to asset and service devolution circulated to all members as soon as available.

53/23 Police/PCSO Report

No additional information had been received other than that circulated. The Chairman would chase contact with the Police about a further Police Surgery to be held in the Village.

54/23 Finance - Accounts for Payment and Receipts

Resolved: That the Accounts listed for payment (including Section 137 payments where appropriate) and paid contained in the Clerk's Report dated 15.11.23, including updated salary payments, be noted and approved, together with the bank statements and reconciliation and income received, and outstanding expenses payments for 2019-2023.

55/23 Budget 2024/25 High Level Overview

Drawing on the letter from the Leader of Somerset Council referred to above, and awaiting information on the 2024/25 tax base, the current financial position, possible planned projects and regular payments, the Council reviewed the prospects for the next budget.

Resolved: That taking into account the current financial position at both Parish and Unitary Council levels, bearing in mind possible planned projects and regular payments, the Clerk bring forward a budget proposal as an example for 2024/25 viewing an increase in precept in the region of 2.5%.

56/23 Play Area - RoSPA Safety Inspection and Meeting with Sovereign

As a result of this meeting to consider work over and above that which Ian Moore would be carrying out, the Clerk outlined details of packages for inspection and maintenance on a continuing basis received from Sovereign.

Resolved: That the Parish Council proceed with the five-year safety inspection and maintenance service at a cost of £399.

57/23 Village Hall Playing Pitches, Footway around Ground, and Track Maintenance and Repair

The Chairman and Clerk outlined quotations obtained which covered the playground parking area, Village Hall car park, including major pothole, the roadway in section 1 and section 2, and the footpath, with a total of £36,600.

Resolved: That in order to complete desirable works, investigations be carried out for possible grant aid sources, including Viridor (JF), HPC Community (AD) and Football Foundation (Clerk) and to consider further in light of outcome.

58/23 Planning Applications, Decisions, Appeals and Enforcements, and Other Planning Matters

Updates were given on outstanding applications and other matters referred to the Planning Authorities for enforcement examination. No further information was yet forthcoming in respect of the Solar Farms proposals.

Follow-ups were given on planning highways, minerals and waste, and the Environment Agency. The Clerk also gave a full report on representations made on behalf of the Parish Council at the Somerset North Planning Committee (application 34/23/00007) - land to the North of Oliver's Road, Middlezoy.

53/21/00004 Durston Products, Airfield Runway, Folly Farm - storage and blending of horticultural growing media - decision still awaited.

53/23/00019 Durston Products, Airfield Runway, Folly Farm - erection of building for the manufacturing of horticultural growing media.

Resolved: That objection be lodged to the application on the basis that the footprint of the building is outside the previously applied area of the Runway and to seek more information about the on-going processes and composting, and the on-going delay in approval of the application above.

SCC/4048/2023 Towens - Development of Inert Material Storage Facility at Springway Business Park - **decision awaited.**

Resolved: That the detailed submissions be noted, in particular the SSSI impacts and traffic issues, including the Highways submission of required conditions and the on-going expansion of uses on this and adjoining sites.

34/23/00007 Environment Agency off Oliver's Road - **conditional approval granted.**

53/23/00018 Notaro - Reserved Matters at 1 Broadstone - **no objection.**

53/23/00016 Gardiner, The Annex, 27 Fore Street - holiday let use - **no objection.**

53/23/00017 Baird, 21 Dwellings, Springway Industrial Estate - **objection submitted** based on inappropriate location for residential development outside Village build and within largely industrial complex.

59/23 Publications and Correspondence

Resolved: That the items recorded in the report dated 15.11.23, and notified be noted and actioned where appropriate:

1. Somerset Council -Waste Services - monthly briefings and newsletters
2. Parish On-line (UK Network) - renewal and CO² calculator - decision held over
3. Pensions Regulator Deadline 30.04.24
4. Homes in Sedgemoor Open Evening - Tuesday 28.11.23 (Councillor Dingwall to attend)
5. SLCC AGM 01.12.23 and SALC AGM 02.12.23 and Review - Chairman to attend SALC and Review to be completed
6. Somerset Levels and Moors Winter Readiness Events 05 and 07.12.23 - open to all
7. Noticeboards - information being obtained for repair and/or replacement of two boards
8. Somerset Levels and Moors Update 15.11.23 - circulated

9. Dog Notices for Playing Field - being followed up
10. Planet Somerset - Planning Policy News - circulated
11. Magazines, Newsletters, Posters and Product Information
12. Airband Community Liaison Officer - Faye Cross - invite - road closure permit applications submitted at Andersea and Old Orchard Farm.

60/23 Additional Items

1. Letter from Brownies with thanks for use of Committee Room (Parish Council Meetings to commence at 7.40 pm during occupation)

Resolved: To note and offer contribution to heating costs.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairman offered Season's Greetings to all present.

The meeting finished at 09.25 pm

Signed
Chairman