

WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.30 PM

AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WESTONZOYLAND

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Fisher (Chairman - in the Chair), Mr Alder, Mr Chetwyn), Mr Dingwall, Mrs Parfitt, Mr Pearce and Mr Spurrell

APOLOGIES: Ms Bicker, County Unitary Councillor Diogo Rodrigues and District Councillor Anthony Betty

56/22 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 03 October 2022

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 03 October 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

57/22 Matters Arising - Declarations of Acceptance of Office and Information for Register of Member's Interest (Min 55/22.5)

The Clerk confirmed that some of this information was still outstanding from individual members.

Resolved: That completion be sought and submitted as soon as possible.

58/22 Additional Matter Arising - Security Review of Website and Rebuild (Min 54/22.2)

Councillor Andy Dingwall had examined the information provided by SWS and sought out comparative information.

Resolved: To proceed with SWS with the Clerk to seek to meet with the Company and report back.

59/22 Traffic Matters, Speeding, 20 mph Limits and Village Entry and Speeds Signs, including (Min 45/22), Report on SCC Highways Action and Information on Locations and Types of SIDs following Receipt of Quotation

The Clerk gave an update on all the matters which had been covered in the previous Minutes and the follow up to meetings with SCC Highways.

Resolved:

1. That the update be noted and additional information in relation to the Battle of Sedgemoor Visitor Centre and brown signs be awaited;
2. that the location for the two Village entry signs, both on white gateways, be approved;
3. that the three locations for SID devices be approved, SCC requested to proceed with the erection of the posts, and the SIDs to be obtained in accordance with the quotation received from Elan City;
4. that the Chairman and Clerk meet with Messrs Towans to follow up their offer of a contribution to the cost of the SIDs; and
5. that the Parish Council continue to press SCC Highways for action on a number of outstanding matters.

60/22 Finger Post Training

Councillor Chetwyn had attended the course, received the certificate of attendance, and outlined the issues including health and safety matters which had been dealt with. Volunteers were still being sought and reference was again made to the particular issue of the finger post at Corner Cottage, Lake Wall, requiring replacement.

61/22 Ward Member Reports

- i. County Councillor Andy Dingwall - an update was given on the County financial position in the lead up into the New Authority. The LCN Consultation was now complete and responses, including the duties and responsibilities and number of LCNS, was being reviewed. Winter gritting was ready to go and email links had been circulated for information and seeking volunteers. Another series of Covid boosters had been put in place.

62/22 Police/PCSO Report

The Village Surgery had been held on 13.10.22 and a further evening surgery was now planned, whereupon PCSO Georgia Coles was planning meetings on a quarterly basis.

63/22 Audit of Accounts 2021/22

The Clerk confirmed that the Audit had been completed and the final report and certificate issued. As required, notices had been published and placed on the website.

64/22 Budget 2023/24 - High Level Overview

The Clerk reported a letter from the Leader of SCC indicating that in future Parish Precepts would be paid in a single payment, outlining issues for the Somerset Council budget and giving notice of information to follow for the 2023/24 Tax Base and requirement for Precept requests to be submitted by Friday 20.01.23.

Resolved: That taking into account the current financial position, planned projects, and regular payments, the Clerk bring forward a budget proposal for 2023/24 viewing an increasing in Precept in the region of 2.5%.

65/22 NJC Salary Review

The Clerk reported information received from the Somerset Association of Local Councils following the Local Government Association Agreement on the 2022/23 pay offer.

Resolved: That the Clerk's salary be revised and paid in accordance with the NJC pay scale agreement, based on the current scale and range agreement.

66/22 Finance - 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 16.11.22, be noted and approved, together with the bank statements and reconciliation and income received, including CIL payment.

67/22 Play Area and Equipment Update - Repair of Spinner and Slide

The Clerk confirmed that the works commissioned from Sovereign and the repair of the children's slide by Mr Brian Reed were in hand.

68/22 Planning Applications, Decisions, Appeals and Enforcements, and Other Matters

The Clerk gave a resume of the position with the application 53/31/04 - Durston Products at Folly Farm, Highway representations in respect of application 09/21/0007 - Follerts Farm, Dunwear Lane in the Parish of Bridgwater Without; new applications numbers 53/22/00012 - 6 Francis Reed Close, 53/22/00013 - 15 Liney Road; 53/22/00014 - 6 St Mary's Road - no objections raised; and the responses, or lack of, from the Enforcement Section at SDC in respect of hangers and tipping on Westonzoyland Airfield, and storage of mobile home at 38 Main Road, and additionally activity on Messrs Towans site including tipping and machinery processing.

69/22 Publications and Correspondence

Resolved: That the items recorded in the Report dated 16.11.22 and notified, be noted and actioned where appropriate.

1. Somerset Waste Partnership - monthly briefings and newsletters
2. Othery Village Design Statement
3. Somerset - a cultural destination
4. Avian Influenza (bird flu) Advice
5. Somerset Code of Conduct (circulated)
6. New Cemetery - tree planting request - difficulty of using this location discussed. Alternative possibilities also discussed with agreement that Councillor Dingwall would respond to the resident who had raised the matter through the Parish website (location off Kings Drive)
7. Tree at Recreation Field overhanging dwelling (Twose family) - Clerk to seek advice from Cannington College
8. Magazines, Newsletters, Posters and Product Information

70/22 Additional Items

1. War Graves - sign at Church for New Cemetery - Chairman to refer to Westonzoyland Parochial Church Council.
2. Issue of flyer and drop-in at Community Centre in relation to Housing Association and Affordable Housing site off Liney Road.

71/22 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Meeting would be held on 09.01.23.

The meeting finished at 9.20 pm

Signed
Chairman