

# **WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WESTONZOYLAND**

PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Fisher (Chairman), Carson (Vice-Chairman), Alder, Burge, Evans, Spurrell and Ms Perry

County Cllr David Hall was also present

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Mrs Ballard and Griffiths

### **56/15 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 12/10/15 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **57/15 Matters Arising**

i. **Carnival Club Tenancy Agreement (Min 46/15i)** - Cllr Burge undertook to pass the completed copy of the Tenancy Agreement, duly signed, to the Carnival Club.

ii. **Lloyds Bank Accounts - Mandate (Min 46/15ii)** - The Chairman and Vice-Chairman duly completed the outstanding signatures on the Mandate.

iii. **Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust (ABCT) (Min 51/15)** - The base for the Memorial had been laid at the Community Centre site (opposite the Village Hall entrance) and arrangements were in place for the Memorial to be erected during the week. The opening was confirmed for 10.30 am on Saturday 28/11/15, to be undertaken by the Director General of the Trust Mr Kenneth Bannerman, with the Chairman and members of the Parish Council and a wide range of village representatives invited. The Chairman and Mr Evans undertook to provide tea and biscuits for the event.

iv. **Zoyfest - Commemorative Options (Min 55/15.1)** - Plans were in place and agreements should soon be confirmed for two benches, one at the new play area and one opposite the shops on Main Road. There had not been sufficient finance left to consider the plaque or more substantial history memorial although it was planned that any remaining money should be used to provide Morris men and circus skills at the 2016 Westonzoyland Carnival Club May Day celebration.

v. **Older Children's Play Area - Zip Wire (Min 55/15.3&4)** - Sovereign had not come forward to supply a suitable rubber casing for the zip wire and this was now being sourced by the Chairman. Notices had been provided to display at the play area advising no more than two users on the zip wire.

### **58/15 Affordable Housing Needs in the Village (Min 44/15)**

The Clerk provided a follow up to the presentation given by Esther Carter at the previous meeting. This included identification of some possible options

for affordable housing sites in, or around, the village boundary, and drew on the identification of Westonzoyland as a Tier 3 settlement in the current local plan consultation. Members noted the locations and agreed to give this further consideration once the full outcome of the housing needs survey was available.

**RESOLVED:** That Esther Carter be asked to provide the information as soon as it is available and to indicate any preferred options to satisfy the requirement whereupon the Parish Council will confirm their position.

**59/15**      **Local Plan Consultation - Review of Core Strategy**

The Clerk confirmed that an exhibition had been arranged in the Village for 02/12/15 from 2 pm - 8 pm which would present the details contained in the Stage One Consultation - Scope and Approach for the review of the District Council's Core Strategy produced in October 2015. Details were also available on [ldf@sedgemoor.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@sedgemoor.gov.uk) and a link would be provided on the Parish Council website. Members agreed to give further consideration to views with the benefit of the consultation exercise and examination of the dedicated website.

**60/15**      **County and District Councillor Ward Reports**

County Cllr David Hall gave a further report highlighting the EDF/HPC Strategic Investment Decision (SID) expected to be followed by the Final Investment Decision shortly. He explained that budget impacts at the County Council were likely to be even more stringent and the Chief Executive had recently issued a letter confirming that all non-essential expenditure would be deferred. The broadband roll-out was continuing and he confirmed further dredging agreed by the Somerset Rivers Authority, the fact that there was no clearer decision on a long-term funding mechanism and that the Environment Agency had issued a press release indicating the success of the pumping trials. He also referred to an application from Middlezoy Rovers under the Health and Wellbeing and was provided with background information. Cllrs Alder and Ms Perry commented on issues from the District Council point of view. This included the possibility of benefit to the village from new homes bonus and a general discussion on possible grant sources.

**61/15**      **Police and PCSO Report**

No Officers were in attendance although details of the new operating model and contact details for the members of the police staff covering the Sedgemoor South area surrounding Bridgwater had been issued. This was supplied by Sergeant 2874 Tracey Marlow, the Team Leader.

**62/15**      **Village Agent Report** – no report had been received via Kate Symonds

**63/15**      **Budget 2016/17 - High Level Examination**

The Clerk provided supporting information for examination of the Budget, including the tax base, the grant reduction and sources of funding. Although the grant had reduced by £432, the tax base had increased by 2.9%. This

would mean that the amount lost in grant would automatically be recovered with the same Band D precept figure. Members agreed to prepare a continuation budget with options for a marginal increase in precept to support aspirations in relation to the Community Centre and the improvement of the exterior, the exterior of the standby, the planned skate park, and renewal of fencing at the Community Centre. It was also noted that the interpretation board at the Battlefield was in need of attention. It was also agreed to examine what sources of grant and funding support might be available for a number of these projects.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk bring forward options so that the budget 2016/17 may be finalised at the next meeting.

**64/15**      **Future Audit Arrangements - Sector- led Body Proposals**

The Clerk submitted a fact sheet on the Procurement of Audit for Small Authorities and the changes which would come about as a result of the abolition of the Audit Commission and the new arrangements. The Sector-Led Body, comprising the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and the Association of Drainage Authorities were working together on this to secure the Sector-Led Body procurement. If authorities wished to opt out they would need to do so by 31/01/16 in readiness for 2017/18 Audit.

**RESOLVED:** That the Westonzoyland Parish Council do not opt out of the Sector-Led Body Audit.

**65/15**      **Accounts for Payment and Receipts**

**RESOLVED:** That the accounts listed for payment (including Section 137 payments where appropriate) and to be paid as contained in the Clerk's Report dated 16/11/15 and the income be noted and approved.

**66/15**      **Planning Applications, Decisions, Appeals and Enforcement (Min 52/15)**

No applications had been received in the period and the decision on the Weston Court Farm application 53/15/19 was still awaited.

Application 34/15/12 for the change of use of the former transit gypsy and traveller site to plant hire and groundwork business etc at Langport Road, Middlezoy for Ken Marsh Plant Hire, had been approved.

**67/15**      **Publications and Correspondence**

**RESOLVED:** That the items recorded in the Report dated 16/11/15 be noted and actioned where appropriate:

1. Parish Magazine - November 2015
2. Lloyds Bank - Cheque Signature Mandate Form (Min 57/15ii above)
3. TRO - closure of A372 Main Road/Fore Street - patching
4. Volunteer Drivers for Lifeline Service
5. SIDs - Main Road (October/November)

6. WWA Community Update - testing pump installations (as referred in Min 60/15)
7. SL&M - Risk Management - operational trigger points for action
8. Somerset Libraries Mobile Service
9. Sedgemoor CAB - letter of thanks
10. Moors Parish Cluster Group - 29/10/15
11. Police and Crime Commissioner Attendance at Cluster Group
12. SDC Legal Advice Drafting and Representation Scheme for Town and Parish Councils - offer and cost noted
13. A Guide to Procurement - SALC April 2015
14. Magazines, Newsletters, Posters and Product Information.

**68/15**

**Music on the Levels - Grant Application**

The Clerk submitted a letter from Celia Smith on behalf of Music on the Levels requesting a grant of £275 over and above the grant application submitted to SDC for £1,725.00. The Clerk read the letter and indicated the purpose of the grant request as set out.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That a copy of the grant application submitted to SDC be requested together with confirmation of their decision; and
2. that no objection be offered in principle to the grant subject to the above and this be referred to the Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman for settlement.

**69/15**

**Additional Items**

1. Kings Drive - parking - inability of bus to get through which could affect bus service long term
2. Main Road - parking issues outside Church
3. New Cemetery Solar Lights - **Resolved:** To consider review of regulations and procedure to issue notice advising solar lights not acceptable and in new year to give notice of 28 days for removal
4. SCC Bus Consultation Document - loss of No 6 Saturday bus - **Agreed** that all members submit objections and this be followed up by the Clerk
5. Footpaths - need for clearance from Load Lane **Agreed** to refer to Ian Moore
6. CIL Funding Update
7. Listening/Learning/Changing - the 30 million challenge - SCC communication and consultation on funding

**70/15**

**Seasons Greetings**

Members exchanged compliments of the Season as the last meeting before Christmas.

The meeting finished at 9.20 pm

Signed  
Chairman

