

WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 02 OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM

AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WESTONZOYLAND

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

APOLOGIES: Somerset Unitary Councillor Rodrigues

36/23 Appointment of Vice Chairman - Ratification

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

37/23 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 07 August 2023

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 07 August 2023, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

38/23 Matters Arising

- i. Security Review of Website and Re-Build (Min 26/23i)** - Members were continuing the general review of the upgraded website and pointed to a number of continuing omissions. The Clerk was still to meet with SWS and Councillor Dingwall undertook to review the detail and provide an update of omissions and required amendments.
- ii. Traffic Matters, Speeding, 20mph Limits, Village Entry and Exit and Speed Signs, SIDs Update including Post at Entry from Bridgwater and Off Airfield (Min 26/23ii)** - As previously confirmed most of the items had now been dealt with and the additional pole erected on the entry to the Village from Bridgwater, and the relocation of the SID having a positive effect. Councillor Dingwall undertook to provide updated SID information so that the application to the Police for additional SID funding could be taken forward.

Resolved: That the position be noted and the issues raised previously taken forward.

39/23 A372 Road Safety Measures Westonzoyland to Bridgwater (W/Z ACC and BACC)

As agreed at the previous meeting, the Clerk had made a formal submission on behalf of the Parish Council and it was understood that a 40mph speed limit was planned along the entire route from Westonzoyland to Bridgwater. Councillor Parfitt gave an update from the Cycling Clubs perspective, although it was now understood that Sustrans would not be able to assist because the route had been removed from the National Route Grid due to the danger of the crossing between River Lane and Ruggs Drove, making this non compliant. For Sustrans support, this would have to be improved and the route reinstated on the National Grid.

Resolved: That the Parish Council maintain their support for the speed limit and follow-up actions, and continue to press for improvements so that assistance from Sustrans can be achieved alongside the monitoring of the speed limits when introduced.

40/23 Ward Member Reports and LCN Update

Members were given an update on the Local Community Network - Levels and Moors, which had met at Westonzoyland on 20.09.23. Discussion took place on points of issue across which was the largest LCN, major issues raised, and plans for two working groups. Councillor Dingwall also gave an update on Somerset Council specific matters.

Resolved: That the reports be noted, and the LCN meeting notes circulated to all members.

41/23 Police/PCSO Report

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

42/23 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 27.09.23, including the payment to Mole Valley, be noted and approved, together with the bank statements and reconciliation and income received, including the VAT recovery amounting to £4,198.17 to end of financial year 2022/23.

43/23 External Auditor Report 2022/23 AGAR Section 3

The Clerk confirmed receipt of the Notice of Conclusion of Audit, together with the External Auditor Report and Certificate. He reported on the issues raised and the action taken by Public Notice and on the website.

44/23 Play Area and RoSPA Safety Inspection and Report, and Equipment Update (Min 32/23)

The Clerk reported further on the work in hand to deal with items requiring attention. Replacement and repair to be dealt with through Sovereign Play was still to be followed up.

Resolved:

1. That this be noted; and
2. that arrangements be made for the repainting of the shelter as soon as possible.

45/23 Standby Agreement Variation and Grass Pitch Maintenance Agreement and Use of Field by Football Club

Resolved:

1. That the variations to the Standby Agreement, as notified, be agreed;
2. that the Parish Council confirm agreement to the planned finance agreement via the Football Foundation;
3. that in view of issues raised in relation to car parking during use of the field for football matches and training, discussions be held with the Football Club to ensure management of the situation and safety of play area users to seek a schedule of use; and
4. that in accordance with the agreement reached with MRFC, an account for £90 be submitted, being the proportion of cuts responsible to them.

(During the discussion on this item, the Chairman adjourned the meeting to permit members of the public, who had raised issues about the use of the field, to comment.)

46/23 Planning Applications, Decisions, Appeals and Enforcements, and Other Planning Matters

Updates were received on information available 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.

Members were informed of the discussion in the Teams Meeting, including Councillors, Planning and Highways Officers, and the follow-up on issues on the Airfield, including the Highways submission of Required Conditions in relation to the Towns Site .

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

53/23/00007 Environment Agency off Olivers Road - submission made, decision awaited.

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

Resolved:

1. That Councillor Mrs Parfit be thanked for her detailed submission; and
2. that the Highways submission of Required Conditions be noted.

53/23/00014 29 Fore Street - Certificate of Lawfulness - **no objection**

53/23/00015 Moorland Farm, 1 Lake Wall - Conversion of Agricultural Barn to Dwelling - **no objection**

(During the discussion on this minute the Chairman adjourned the meeting to enable members of the public present to contribute and express views.)

47/23 Publications and Correspondence

Resolved: That the items recorded in the report dated 27.09.23, 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. Gambling Policy Consultation - noted
4. CIL Regulations - response to be submitted by 08.10.23 - report - CIL Receipts for 2021/22 £3,012.04, CIL Expenditure for 2021/22 £2,400.00 (New Cemetery)
5. SLCC Meeting 15.09.23
6. Pensions Regulator - Employer Duties - to submit nil return
7. Request for Restoration of Pathway around Village Hall Playing Field - agreement on quotations to be obtained and options explored
8. Somerset and Exmoor Coast Festival - 23.09.23 - 01.10.23
9. Planet Somerset - Planning Policy News - circulated
10. Magazines, Newsletters, Posters and Product Information
11. Airband Community Liaison Officer - Faye Cross - invite

48/23 Additional Items

1. Music on Levels - Grant request

Resolved: To match previous at maximum £150 - £200

2. Dog Bins - to make contact with Stonewater ref Liney Road and consider Playing Field, Kings Drive/Monmouth Road, Stonewater Liney Road
3. To price new signs for requiring dogs on leads at Playing Field
4. To request Carnival Club to tidy and cut around bench outside shed
5. Trees at Kings Drive - Councillor Dingwall to follow up
6. Tree at Battlefield Memorial - to consider replacement.

The meeting finished at 09.07 pm

Signed
Chairman