

WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 03 OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.30 PM

AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WESTONZOYLAND

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

ALSO PRESENT: District Councillor Anthony Betty

APOLOGIES: County Unitary Councillor Diogo Rodrigues

42/22 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 08 August 2022

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 08 August 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to an amendment to Min 35/22 Ward Member Reports:
ii. To delete the word economical and insert “environmental and ecological” declarations”.

43/22 Matters Arising - Co-option (Min 31/22)

The Clerk confirmed that both Mr Andy Dingwall and Mr Richard David Chetwyn had accepted invitations to co-opt to membership of the Parish Council.

Resolved: That both members present be welcomed to membership of the Parish Council.

44/22 Additional (Mins 32/22 and 41/22.5.)

Resolved:

- i. That the resolution to Min 32/22 be confirmed and the additional information circulated by the Bridgwater Area Cycling Campaign and the involvement of Sustrans be noted subject to the report by Councillor Mrs Parfitt in Min 55/22 below;
- ii. that the completion of the WAGs - Notaro Agreement through the completed new lease, be noted together with the payment of £600 paid to Messrs Ash Clifford for the completion of the Agreement.

45/22 Traffic Matters, Speeding, 20 mph Limits and Village Entry and Speeds Signs, including (Min 33/22) and Report on SCC Highways Action

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

Resolved:

1. That the action taken in each respect be noted, including following up the damage to the fencing on the retaining wall at 39 Fore Street;
2. that the Parish Council proceed with SCC Highways to place four poles, two each coming into the Village from both directions;
3. that the speed monitors (SIDs) be obtained, two solar and two battery powered subject to cost and to the availability of contributions from Messrs Towns and other sources referred to; and
4. that in the event of SIDs being obtained which retained information on vehicle speeds, the offer of Councillor Dingwall to process the information be noted .

46/22 Ward Member Reports

- i. District Councillor Anthony Betty - opening due shortly of the Northgate Yard development in Bridgwater with new cinema etc; information on solar farm update showing delay in land agreement prior to submission of application;
- ii. District Councillor Liz Perry - the Council were further updated on grants and project grants with the last meeting of the Grants Committee due shortly, and noted an application submitted by the Westonzoyland Village Hall;
- iii. County Councillor Andy Dingwall - Councillor Dingwall pointed to the appointment of the new CEO for Somerset County Council and subsequently the new Somerset Unitary Authority, Mr Duncan Sharkey; the appointment of a new Lord Lieutenant of the County, Mohammed Saddiq; an exercise with the Taunton Park and Ride reduced to £1 each way fare, and use of electric minibuses within the Town as an experiment; and the estimated deficit of some £23.9m in Children's and Adult Social Care and the likelihood that this may increase to over £40m in the coming financial year. Councillor Dingwall also pointed to the Local Community Network consultation currently underway and a teams meeting planned for 10.10.22, and invited all to contribute to the consultation.

Resolved:

1. That all these matters be noted; and
2. that the information in relation to LCNs be noted, including that Planning decisions are unlikely to be delegated, though not clear by whom decisions would be taken; the need for far better information including location maps of LCN proposals, and the significant benefits of the Levels Links for Westonzoyland with Parishes on this side of the River Parrett.

47/22 Parish Council Payroll

The Clerk reported that one consequence of the proposed Unitary Authority was that payroll services would no longer be provided in the way that Sedgemoor District Council had for small parishes.

Resolved: That the Clerk follow up the alternative provision of payroll services discussed with a view to introduction from the expiry of the current system on 01.04.23.

48/22 Police/PCSO Report

No report had been received but a Village Surgery for police issues had been confirmed on 13.10.22 and it was hoped that as many people as possible would attend.

49/22 Audit of Accounts 2021/22 and AGAR Submission

The Clerk updated members on the communication with the External Auditors and the publication of the Notice of the Audit and right to inspect the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. Issues raised were noted with final sign off yet to be confirmed.

50/22 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 27.09.22, be noted and approved, together with the bank statements and reconciliation and income received.

51/22 Play Area RoSPA Safety Inspection and Equipment Update - Repair of Safety Surfacing, Zip Wire and Spinner and Children's Slide

The works to the zip wire and spinner had been commissioned from Sovereign, the deposit paid and a date for the works awaited. In the meantime, arrangements had been made for the repair of the children's slide which would be carried out by Mr Brian Reed.

Resolved:

1. That these matters be noted;
2. that an information poster be placed explaining the works awaited.

52/22 Battlefield Boards and Visits

The Clerk confirmed that the necessary repairs to reinstate the boards had been organised with a date for provision awaited alongside the repair of two of the Parish Council notice boards. It was noted that the condition of growth bordering the fencing at the Battlefield site left something to be desired, although the Monument and grass cutting within the area were satisfactory.

53/22 Planning Applications, Decisions, Appeals and Enforcements, and Other Matters

There were no further reports on any outstanding applications. In relation to application 53/21/00004 - Durston Products, members noted the continuing expansion of activities and the way that this was now impacting on the condition of Burdenham Road and agreed that in the absence of enforcement action this should be followed up with SCC Highways.

54/22 Publications and Correspondence

Resolved: That the items recorded in the Report dated 27.09.22 and notified, be noted and actioned where appropriate.

1. Somerset Waste Partnership - monthly briefings and newsletters
2. Security Review of Website - completed. Information on options for improvements to website and rebuild still awaited
3. Battle Boards and Visits - recorded above
4. SLCC Meeting 23/09/22 and Resilience Workshop
5. New Cemetery - request for Garden of Rest plot - agreed
6. Marking the Death of a Senior National Figure - advice notes
7. Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation - members to respond if desired
8. Somerset Day 2023
9. Somewhere House, Somerset - request for funding - refused
10. Civility and Respect for the Local Council Sector - invitation to sign Pledge - noted
11. Magazines, Newsletters, Posters and Product Information

55/22 Additional Items

1. LGA Code of Conduct Training Session - to be followed up for attendance by Liz Parfitt on 12/10/22.
2. Report by Liz Parfitt following BACC Meeting, issues discussed in relation to Westonzoyland/Bridgwater link, involvement of other Parish Councils, and SCC and Sustran's involvements related to Bridgwater Area Cycling Plan.
3. Report of overgrown hedgerows onto footpath in vicinity of 1 Broadstone and other areas within Village.
4. Representations to be passed onto Sedgemoor Planning in relation to arrival of one mobile home on land part of newly erected bungalow between Nos 40 and 38 Main Road, and use of rear access.

5. Completion of Declarations of Acceptance of Office and information for Register of Members Interests from co-opted members.

The meeting finished at 9.10 pm

Signed
Chairman