

WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 08 JANUARY 2024 AT 7.40 PM

AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WESTONZOYLAND

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor Dingwall

61/23 Appointment of Vice Chairman

In the continued absence of the nominated Vice Chairman, the Chairman invited nominations for Vice Chairman.

Resolved: That Councillor Mrs Liz Parfitt be elected Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.

62/23 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20 November 2023

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20 November 2023, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

63/23 Matters Arising

- i. Security Review of Website and Re-Build (Min 51/23i)** - The Clerk confirmed a planned meeting with SWS to complete the re-build and update all content.
- ii. Traffic Matters, Speeding, Village Entry and Exit and Speed Signs, and SIDs Update including Demolished Post at Exit from Village onto Airfield (Min 51/23ii)** - The replacement pole at the exit from the Village onto the Airfield (30mph limit) was still awaited as was the submission of the application to the Police for additional SID funding, including awaiting on SID statistics from Councillor Dingwall. Councillor Chetwynd offered to support this by obtaining information from the SIDs for which the pin code was required.
- iii. Music on the Levels - Grant Request (Min 51/23iii)** - It was agreed to offer a grant of £200 with the meeting of Music on the Levels to be advised later this month.

64/23 A372 Road Safety Measures (40mph Limit) Notice and PC Submission and Sustrans Follow-Up (Min 51/23)

Some discussions had taken place with local organisations and the cycling groups related to the proposed speed limit on the Main Road. Confirmation was still awaited with possible assistance from Sustrans to be followed up.

65/23 Ward Member Reports and LCN Update

In the absence of Ward Members, the Clerk gave an update on the meeting of the LCN Levels and Moors held on 13.11.23, and the upcoming meeting to be held on 15.01.24 at Long Sutton Village Hall. One of the sub groups established was Active Travel, on which Councillor Parfitt was a member and gave an update on actions and issues raised by local parishes and the intention to visit relevant groups including Westonzoyland. The Clerk also referred to, and had circulated, notes from the Somerset Council Executive

meeting and specifically identifying areas under consideration in response to the need for significant financial savings. Some of the issues would also be applied to the Council's consideration of the budget and precept later in the meeting.

Resolved: That the reports be noted, including those applicable to possible asset and service devolution.

66/23 Police/PCSO Report

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

67/23 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 04.01.24, be noted and approved, together with the bank statements and reconciliation and income received, as well as outstanding expenses payments for 2019-2023.

68/23 Play Area - RoSPA Safety Inspection, Outstanding Work including Shelter and Sovereign 5-Year Package

The Council had taken up the 5-year agreement with Sovereign providing a maintenance package with twice yearly inspections/repairs and the first inspection planned in the week ending 26.01.24. A full report on impacts would be submitted to the next meeting.

69/23 Village Hall Playing Pitches, Footway Around Ground and Track Maintenance and Repair

The Clerk reported on the quotations obtained totalling some £36,600. The Local Council had referred to the use of CIL monies although the total available was currently some £8,000. Other options for grant funding were being followed-up with a further report to follow which would also allow consideration of which parts of the overall project might be achievable.

70/23 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. Councillor Parfitt reported on the paper she had submitted identifying the various sites within the Article 4 Direction area and impacts including SSIs, silage and materials, and activities on the Rocket Gro site, the Towens site, and Durston Products. This included need for relevant planning permission, for example in relation to composting guidance, the equipment installed with or without environmental permit, and heights of buildings and structures impacting on the Airfield. Response was still awaited from Somerset Planning (AN) and reference to minerals and waste (RE). The contact with the Environmental Law Foundation was noted.

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 in addition to the objection lodged, reference be made to the height of the proposed building in relation to the active Airfield.
- SCC/4048/2023 Towens - Development of Inert Material Storage Facility at Springway Business Park - decision awaited, see references above.
- 53/23/00018 Notaro - Reserved matters at 1 Broadstone - **approved.**
- 53/23/00016 Gardener, The Annex, 27 Fore Street - holiday let use - **approved.**
- 53/23/00021 Turnbull - Tree works at The Vicarage - **approved.**
- 53/23/00017 Baird, 21 Dwellings, Springway Industrial Estate - **refused.**
- 53/23/00022 Selway, 19 Townsend - single storey extensions - **no objection.**

71/23 Budget and Precept 2024/25 (Min 55/23)

Following on from the previous meeting and information supplied, the Clerk circulated copies of draft estimates for the financial year ending 31.03.25 based on a continuation budget, a precept requirement to provide sufficient finance to undertake the responsibilities of the Parish Council and provide for projects identified and listed for consideration, without commitment given balance of funding to carry over and possible issues in terms of the impact of the creation of the Unitary Somerset Council and the Unitary Authority budget shortfall, with consequent risk to services and provisions. The earlier information was noted in terms of cuts, service and devolution. In this light, to attempt to secure continuity of current services members viewed consideration of an additional assurance of 10% and

Resolved:

1. That the detailed budget paper and estimates together with additional assurance in the particular circumstances current be approved;
2. that based on the tax base of 68.1, a Band D figure of 40.45 be agreed;
3. to note that this would give a precept of £27,557.77 as the total income for the year; other than usual sources, cemetery fees, VAT recovery etc; and
4. that a Section 137 grant for assistance in maintaining weekly meetings at the Village Hall for the Brownies' Club of Westonzoyland in the sum of £150 be made to the Westonzoyland Village Hall.

72/23 Publications and Correspondence

Resolved: That the items recorded in the report dated 04.01.24, 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. SALC Review Circular and Somerset Council Letter
5. Somerset Levels and Moors Winter Readiness Events 05 and 07.12.23
6. Noticeboards - take forward plans for renewal or replacement at King's Drive and Post Office
7. Somerset Levels and Moors Update 11.12.23 and 05.01.24 and Flooding Consultation
8. Dog Notices for Playing Field - Chairman to forward
9. Plan-it Somerset - Planning Policy News - circulated
10. Asset and Service Devolution - letter referred to in Minutes 65/23 and 71/23 above

11. Magazines, Newsletters, Posters and Product Information
12. Airband Community Liaison Officer - Faye Cross - to be invited
13. Road Closure Notices - Andersea area - issued

73/23 Additional Item

1. Meetings Calender 2023/24.

Resolved: That the meeting planned for 04.03.24 be changed to 11.03.24, and the meetings on 06.05.24 be changed to 13.05.24.

The meeting finished at 09.15 pm

Signed
Chairman