

WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 09 JANUARY 2023 AT 7.30 PM

AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WESTONZOYLAND

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

APOLOGIES: Ms Bicker, Mr Chetwynd and Mrs Parfitt, County Unitary Councillor Diogo Rodrigues and District Councillor Anthony Betty

72/22 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 21 November 2022

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 21 November 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

73/22 Matters Arising - Declarations of Acceptance of Office and Information for Register of Member's Interest (Min 57/22)

The Clerk confirmed that there were still matters outstanding for all to be completed.

74/22 Additional Matters Arising

1. Security Review of Website and Rebuild (Min 58/22) - the Clerk confirmed that a meeting had been set up with SWS on Wednesday to discuss the rebuild and components, from which it was hoped to authorise the works.
2. Audit of Accounts - Reappointment of PKF Littlejohn LLP as External Auditors (Min 63/22) - the Clerk confirmed that PKF Littlejohn LLP had been reappointed for the period 2022-23 to 2026-27.

75/22 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 and Meeting with Messrs Towens (Min 59/22)

The Clerk gave a further update on all the matters which had been covered in the previous minutes and the follow-up to meetings with SCC Highways. As a consequence it was hoped to proceed with the various elements including the brown signs for the Battle of Sedgemoor Visitor Centre, Village entry signs and SIDs. It was also noted that some action had been taken in relation to the fence on the bridge at Mr Wilkins' property.

Resolved:

1. That the update be noted ;
2. that the request for disabled bays in the vicinity of the Church be supported by the Parish Council;
3. that Messrs Towens be thanked for the offer to purchase the three SIDs for the Parish Council and arrangements made for the Company to be invoiced;
4. that the Parish Council continue to press for action on any of the other outstanding matters.

76/22 Ward Member Reports

1. SDC Councillor Liz Perry - a report was given on the position with the District Councillors and staff, and operations as the District Council wound down to the new Authority, to commence on 01.04.23.

2. County Unitary Councillor Andy Dingwall - an update was given on the employment position for existing staff at both County and Districts, the County Council budget overspend, and likely deficit in the budget which the new Authority would have to cope with. He also advised that primary school places were available, highway works due on Westonzoyland roads including Load Lane, the request to plant trees referred to SDC, and the quest for information still being pursued on the organisation and operation of LCNs planned by the new Authority.

77/22 Police/PCSO Report

No new information received and still waiting on confirmation of dates for quarterly surgeries.

78/22 Play Area and Equipment (Min 67/22)

The slide had been removed for repair works to be undertaken and Sovereign had been asked to confirm arrangements commissioned for the reinstatement of the spinner.

79/22 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 05.01.23, and including the payment to Mr Ian Moore in the sum of £1,350, be noted and approved, together with the bank statements and reconciliation and income received.

80/22 Recreation Field Boundary Tree (Twose)

Resolved: That this be followed up with Cannington College or a local specialist.

81/22 New Cemetery - Leylandii Trees

The Clerk confirmed that further work would be undertaken to remove more of the Leylandii trees when convenient.

82/22 Planning Applications, Decisions, Appeals and Enforcements, and Other Matters

Reports were received on any information available on all outstanding applications and other matters referred to the Planning Authority for enforcement examination. Notice had been received of application 53/22/00020 (Reed) Erection of One Dormer Bungalow, 47 Liney Road, but details were still awaited. No further information was forthcoming in respect of the Solar Farms or the Durston Products, Airfield Runways at Folly Farm (application 53/21/00004) except that additional areas of the hard surface former runways appeared now to be being used including a parcel displayed as "For Sale" and further lorry access appeared to be being used via the football field access way.

Resolved: That the position be noted and further developments followed-up.

(Cllr Ms Perry took no part in consideration or discussion on any of the items recorded in this Minute and left the room.)

83/22 Budget and Precept 2023/24 (Min 64/22)

Following on from the previous meeting and information supplied, the Clerk circulated copies of draft estimates for the financial year ending 31.03.24 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 which may arise as a result of the creation of the new Unitary Authority.

Resolved:

1. That the detailed budget paper and estimates as presented be approved;
2. that based on the tax base of 678.79, a band D figure of 36.00 be agreed; and
3. to note that this would give a precept of £24,441.48 as the total income for the year; other than usual sources Cemetery fees, VAT recovery etc.

84/22 Publications and Correspondence

Resolved: That the items recorded in the Report dated 05.01.23 and notified, be noted and actioned where appropriate.

1. Somerset Waste Partnership - monthly briefings and newsletters
2. Parish UK Network - agreed to join at no cost
3. New Cemetery - tree planting request - dealt with in Min 76/22.2 with alternative suggestion
4. Tree at Recreation Field overhanging dwelling (Twose family) - dealt with Min 80/22
5. Condensation - Westonzoyland Engine Trust Magazine
6. Magazines, Newsletters, Posters and Product Information

85/22 Additional Items

1. Liney Road Housing Development - release due and eight offered to prospective tenants.
2. Priory Development - parking complaints.
3. Battlefield Boards and Notice Boards - to be followed up.

86/22 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Meeting would be held on 06.03.23 and the likely Annual Parish Council Meeting and Parish Public Meeting on 08.05.23.

The meeting finished at 8.40 pm

Signed
Chairman