

WEST QUANTOXHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 July 2016

PRESENT: Councillors R Hughes (Vice Chairman), N Purcell-Herbert and Mrs P Tolley.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs C Richards (Clerk), County Councillor H Davies and District Councillor S Dowding.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Dunn, J Roberts, Mrs S Sherry, G Tizzard and T Dunn.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 MAY 2016 & MATTERS ARISING:

- 3.1. Footpath from St Etheldredas Church to St Audries Deer Park layby & Bracken Edge cul-de-sac, West Quantoxhead. The Clerk reported that Peter Owen, Assistant Highway Service Manager, had advised "that in relation to the problem of weed growth on footways etc the County Council removed its weed spraying budget several years ago as part of severe budgetary cuts that have been ongoing for several years. In some cases the Town/Parish Councils now undertake the duty themselves and I believe employ the previous contractor who used to undertake the works. I have taken a look at Bracken Edge and in general the footways are nearing the end of their useful life so I have added the replacement of the footway surface to our forward planning list to await funding. In the short term I have asked the Highway Superintendent for the area to check to see if any safety defects exist that require an urgent repair".
- 3.2. Shedding Gate on the boundary fence of the deer park: District Councillor Dowding advised that the AONB are aware of the problem and have visited the site.

Subject to noting the above, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 May 2016 were approved and signed.

4. REPORTS

4.1. Police Report:

PCSO Peter Bolton was unable to attend and no report had been received. District Councillor Dowding advised the Chief Commissioner had advised if in the future the Police were unable to attend a Parish Council meeting, they should send a report.

4.2. Somerset County Council:

County Councillor Davies reported that:

- Listening, Learning, Changing Roadshows were still in operation with events at Dunster Country Fair on 27 July and Bridgwater Market on 20 August.
- There was now only a 3 hourly bus service to Bridgwater; he gave the Clerk copies of timetables to place in bus shelters. SCC had held a meeting with First Bus to ask how they can improve services.

- Changes to the Somerset Libraries service had been brought in whereby users could borrow, renew, return and reserve items at any LibrariesWest library, regardless of where they were originally borrowed from.
- Beckett House, Williton: Somerset Choices would now be using the building on the first Tuesday of every month from 10 am to 1 pm for a social care advice and information drop in service.
- It had been agreed to transfer Somerset's Learning Disabilities service to Dimensions UK, a national not-for-profit company, in a move to secure the long-term sustainability of the services.
- Devolution: They had signed up to the principle of creating a new combined authority which would take responsibility for extra powers and budgets agreed in any devolution deal. This would be ratified at a meeting on 20 July 2016 but there is a pull-out clause.

4.3. **District Council:**

District Councillor Dowding reported that:

- Works to the Minehead cliffs in Quay Street were due to finish a day earlier than planned with Quay Street being re-opened by the end of this week.
- Local Plan Consultation closes 16 July 2016.
- Hinkley Point: work is still proceeding even though financial investment has not been made.
- West Somerset Council: a business case had been drawn-up in which there were 3 options; 1) continue sharing services with Taunton Deane 2) create a
- completely new council which would be subject to boundary changes and 3) each council to go their own way. West Somerset Council and Taunton Deane will make a decision on 26 July 2016.

Councillor Purcell-Herbert raised questions as to why the charge for registering a new or different car under the shoppers permit scheme had risen from £5 to £10. He also asked if he would receive a rebate as the car park he uses has been shut off by the cliff works in Quay Street, Minehead, for a month.

Councillors also expressed dissatisfaction with the response from Councillor Mills, West Somerset Council, regarding drop kerbs and wheelchair access to parking payment machines, which are too high to be accessed.

District Councillor Dowding agreed to raise these questions with Councillor Mills and report back.

4.4. **Watchet, Williton & Quantock Vale Area Panel Meeting 7 June 2016:**

No report.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE:** (full list pre-circulated)

The correspondence log was noted.

6. **FINANCIES:**

6.1. Financial Statement:

Bank balance as at 29/6/16 (confirmed by bank statement #28) £3,824.13

6.2. The meeting noted the issuing of the following cheque:

Chq. No. 000070, Came & Company Insurance £288.16

6.3. The meeting authorised the issuing of the following cheque:

Chq. No. 000071, Somerset Association of Local Councils Affiliation Fee £86.84

6.4. 2016-2018 National Salary Award – Clerks & Other Employees: noted.

7. PLANNING

7.1. Applications: None.

7.2. Decisions:

3/38/16/001 St Etheldredas Church, Church Road, West Quantoxhead, TA4 4DS: installation of new gate in the boundary fence to the churchyard (Granted).

3/38/16/002 Coppleridge, Staple Lane, West Quantoxhead, TA4 4DE: erection of a timber shed with 8 solar panels on the roof along with a further 8 stand-alone solar panels adjacent (Granted).

3/38/16/003 9 Bracken Edge, West Quantoxhead, TA4 4DH: erection of porch (Granted).

7.3. Consultation on proposed modifications to the West Somerset Local Plan to 2032:

District Councillor suggested that the Parish Council may wish to look into the potential of having a Neighbourhood Plan. He agreed to let the Clerk have a copy of the Neighbourhood Plan drawn up by Stogumber Parish Council. It was resolved to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

7.4. Planning consultations to Parish Councils:

The correspondence from Taunton Deane Borough Council and West Somerset Council on changes to the notification of planning applications to Parish Councils was noted.

8. PROTOCOL BETWEEN WSC MONITORING OFFICER AND THE POLICE

The Clerk reported that the protocol will cover a situation whereby a complaint made in respect of a district, town or parish councillor in West Somerset gives reason to believe that a criminal offence may have been committed in respect of section 34 of the Localism Act 2011. This relates to the requirements for a councillor to register or declare disclosable pecuniary interests as defined in the Code of Conduct and take no part in council business relating to such interests. It was resolved to note the Protocol.

9. HIGHWAY MATTERS

The SCC Highways had advised that road works at Wibble would be undertaken in September 2016. Works to the dip in the road in The Avenue had been completed.

10. FOOTPATHS

Councillor Hughes drew attention to the overgrown state of the left hand side of the footpath leading from the lay-by opposite the garage to the village hall and it was resolved to ask Andrew Godfrey to cut this area.

11. FUTURE MEETINGS:

14 September 2016	7.30 pm
9 November 2016	7.30 pm

12. MEETINGS 2017

It was resolved to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed:
Chairman

Date: