

WEST QUANTOXHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 September 2016

PRESENT: Councillors R Hughes (Vice Chairman), T Dunn and Mrs S Sherry.

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 N Purcell-Herbert, J Roberts, G Tizzard and Mrs P Tolley.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Item 6.4. – Grant request from West Quantoxhead (St Audries) Village Hall – Councillor Hughes declared a prejudicial interest and Councillor Mrs Sherry a personal interest.

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2016 & MATTERS ARISING:**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 July 2016 were approved and signed.

4. **REPORTS**

4.1. **Police Report:**

The report received from PCSO Bolton is attached as Appendix A to these Minutes.

4.2. **Somerset County Council:**

County Councillor Davies reported that:

- There was going to be a drop in event regarding the Bridgwater tidal barrier in Bridgwater on 24 September.
- Bus service No. 14 from Minehead to Bridgwater would cease with effect from 30 October 2016.
- A County Ticket – SMARTER Public Transport “Love the Bus Scheme” - the latest addition is a student County Ticket.
- New scheme: Customer & Shared Assets: various organisations, such as the library, registrar, Police, SureStart and CAB are looking at moving into the West Somerset Council Offices, Williton. There is a problem regarding the involvement of the Police in the process as they need accommodation for offenders prior to them being transferred to the custody suites at Bridgwater.
- Roads: SCC Highways are hoping to start roundabout works at Bishops Lydeard this month which will be a major problem for them due to the underpass. Also starting on Monday, they are going to put in a road bridge instead of the existing bridge at Station Road, Taunton. Dates for highways works at Wibble Farm had been published, some of which would be under a road closure and other works under traffic light management.
- Williton Hospital: there is the possibility of losing 6 stroke beds, which would only leave 8 available to patients.
- Williton Post Office: will be closed for upgrading with effect from 12 October for a week.

4.3. **District Council:**

District Councillor Dowding reported that:

- An announcement regarding the future of Hinkley Point was expected soon.

- West Somerset Council & Taunton Deane Borough Council have agreed on the creation of a new Council covering the same geographical areas at the moment. There will be a reduction in Councillor numbers by about one-third. The decision does not require a referendum to be held under the Cities & Local Government Devolution Act 2016. The Minister has said he is content provided we are talking to all parties and we are talking to Segemoor about other aspects that be shared. The Councils have 2.5 years to sort it out.
 - He had attended a seminar given by the Police on cybercrime in the UK where some interesting prevention techniques had been provided.
- 4.4. **Watchet, Williton & Quantock Vale Area Panel Meeting 13 September 2016**
No report.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

The correspondence log, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, was noted.

6. FINANCES:

- 6.1. The External Auditor's report for the audit for year ending March 2016 was noted.
- 6.1. Current Financial Statement:
Bank balance as at 26/8/16 (confirmed by bank statement #29) £3,737.29
- 6.3. The meeting authorised the issuing of the following cheque:
Chq. No. 000072, West Quantoxhead Village Hall bookings £24.00
Chq. Nos. 000073 & 000074, Clerk's Salary & Tax (July-September 2016) £269.45
- (Note: As only one signatory was present at the meeting, the Clerk would ask one of the other signatories to sign the above cheques as soon as possible after the meeting. It was further suggested that the number of cheque signatories be increased to 4 and it was resolved to put this item on the next agenda.)
- 6.4. Grant request from West Quantoxhead (St Audries) Village Hall. It was resolved to defer this item until the next meeting due to lack of attendees and the declarations of interest received (Minute No. 2 refers).

7. PLANNING

- 7.1. Applications: None.
7.2. Decisions: None.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

District Councillor Dowding agreed to send guidance notes to the Clerk.

9. HIGHWAY MATTERS

Discussed under Minute No. 4.2.

10. FOOTPATHS

No items to report.

11. POLICIES & PROCEDURES

It was resolved to adopt the following policies and procedures:

- FOI Publication Scheme 2016
- Complaints Procedure for use in complaints against the Council
- Recording of Council Meetings

WILLITON POLICE STATION
ALL BEATS WATCHET / WILLITON AND SURROUNDS

RECORDED CRIME – AUGUST TO AUGUST 2015/2016

- Criminal damage -29%
- Dwelling burglary -5%
- Fraud and Forgery -100%
- NON Dwelling burglary +17.6%
- OTHER Offences (unspecified) +125%
- Racially or religiously aggravated crimes nil % (3 each year)
- Sexual Offences +10.5
- Shoplifting +60%
- Theft FROM Motor vehicle +50%
- Theft OF Motor vehicle +83%
- Theft OF Pedal Cycle +100%

IN MOST CASES, THE NUMBERS USED TO CALCULATE THE % ARE VERY LOW

FOR EXAMPLE - TOTAL REPORTED CRIMES YEAR IN YEAR 500 VS 573

TOTAL CRIMES + 14.6%

Violence against the person +53.9% (this is probably due to a different way of recording crimes year on year)

FULLY RESOLVED CRIME RATE = -6.4%

Many crimes are not recorded as they are not reported correctly - PLEASE report incidents via the 101 or 999 route not by word of mouth via 3rd party as information gets lost or confused

Different parishes are subject in general to different types and level of crime. More rural areas are often subject to higher levels of non-dwelling burglary, theft from motor vehicle, stock theft, theft of red diesel, barn breaks/shed breaks, theft of trailers, horse boxes. The urban areas tend to be more likely to be subject to shoplifting, anti-social behaviour, dwelling burglary, theft of pedal cycle, theft of m motor vehicle, violence against the person, robbery and so on. This area enjoys an extremely LOW crime rate. It's a safe and lovely area to live in and work in with close communities which look after each other.

A noticeably higher level of Policing may well be apparent at the moment. DO NOT BE ALARMED! This is due to an influx of Police Officers patrolling rural and farming areas to ensure a highly visible presence for a period of time during a specific Operation. Your local Officers, both Response and Neighbourhood, will patrol as normal.