

## WEST QUANTOXHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 January 2017

**PRESENT:** Councillors G Tizzard (Chairman), R Hughes, N Purcell-Herbert, J Roberts, Mrs S Sherry and Mrs P Tolley.

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

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

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

Dispensation relating to the setting of the precept to cover the period 12 January 2016 to 31 May 2019 signed at the meetings held on 13 January 2016 (Minute No. 2 refers) and 9 February 2016 (Minute No. 2 refers). Councillor J Roberts signed the dispensation form at the meeting.

#### 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2016 & MATTERS ARISING:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 November 2016 had been approved and signed at the Extraordinary Meeting held on 14 December 2016.

#### 4. REPORTS

##### 4.1. Police Report:

PCSO Bolton was unable to attend but his report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was available from the Clerk upon request until 1 March 2017. Councillors were concerned to note that there had been both an increase in the crimes recorded and the number of calls received to police and the stats showed an increase in crime year on year of almost 30%.

Councillors noted an email from Detective Sergeant Ashley Jones (forwarded by SALC) with regard to Police attendance at Parish Council meetings, when he had advised -

- Police Officers and PCSOs will no longer attend Parish Council meetings as a matter of course. The local beat manager should be informed that a meeting will be taking place, and someone may attend if they are free, but it certainly cannot be guaranteed, and should not be expected.
- Police reports take a disproportionate amount of Police time to prepare – time that could be better spent operationally. Crime figures for each neighbourhood can easily be found on-line, and so if anyone wishes to know what crime has occurred in their area then they can do so that way.
- If there is a specific problem which a Parish Council wishes to discuss with a local officer e.g. a specific crime trend in the area, then an officer may be able to attend if given sufficient notice.

##### 4.2. Somerset County Council:

County Councillor Davies reported that:

- He had replied to Councillor Purcell-Herbert's question as to why he was unable to connect to the BT Infinity box via Sky.
- SCC is supporting a new hard-hitting campaign highlighting the damaging effect smoking has on the heart.

- SCC had an Ofsted investigation before Christmas at which the outcome was that significant progress was being made but there is a long way to go.
- Major roadworks at Bridgwater on junction improvements at Bristol Road/The Drove and Wylds Road (the "Golden Triangle") which would commence 23 January 2017 and be completed by late summer 2017.
- Resurfacing works by the Police Station in Taunton from 30 January to 10 February 2017 and diversions would be in place.

#### 4.3. **District Council:**

District Councillor Dowding reported that:

- The formation of a new Council – consultation roadshows were taking place. Plans fairly well advanced for the Police to go into the Council Offices at Williton.
- Williton & Minehead Hospitals – various meetings had been held. The NHS just cannot get the staff to work in this area. The result is they have closed the ward at Minehead Hospital and moved nursing staff to Williton. There would be another meeting with the NHS later on in the spring to get an update.
- West Somerset and Taunton Deane Borough Councils have launched a lottery "Somerset West Lottery", which will raise money for good causes in West Somerset and Taunton Deane. All West Somerset good causes supported by the lottery will benefit West Somerset and its residents and likewise for Taunton Deane.
- Transfer of ownership of public toilets to local Parish Councils ongoing.

Councillors asked for more information regarding the Lottery, such as where would tickets be available and who would decide which good causes the money would go to and Councillor Dowding agreed to find out.

- 4.4. Planning Training – the Chairman had attended training on 9 January 2017 and reported that WSC would like receive more feedback on reasons for supporting or objecting to a planning application and have a tick list to help. The Parish Council can talk Sarah Wilsher, Planning Assistant, and Sue Keal, Local Planning Officer, about any planning issues.
- 4.5. Proposed new district council for Taunton Deane and West Somerset – the Chairman had attended a meeting held on 11 January 2017. He reported that, although there would be a reduction in Councillors, it appeared that rural areas would be well represented by Councillors. He was concerned that the questionnaire relating to the proposal did not contain space for the name or postcode of the person completing it, and the forms were not numbered.

#### 5. **CORRESPONDENCE LOG:**

This had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

#### 6. **FINANCES:**

- 6.1. Current Financial Statement:  
Bank balance as at 13/12/16 (confirmed by bank statement #33) £4,212.93
- 6.2. The meeting authorised the issuing of the following cheques:  
Chq. Nos. 000079 & 000080, Clerk's Salary & Tax (January-March 2017)  
£404.00
- 6.3. Budget & Precept 2017-2018. It was resolved to set a precept of £2,532.00 for the 2017-2018 financial year.
- 6.4. Financial Regulations: It was resolved to amend Financial Regulations to include the following paragraph "The Clerk to check the payment terms of all

invoices received and use his/her judgement as to whether they should be paid before the next available Council meeting.

**7. BUS SERVICE 14**

Somerset County Councillor Davies advised it was hoped more progress would be made at a meeting on 23 January 2017 and he agreed to feedback any information.

**8. PLANNING**

8.1. Applications:

3/38/16/006: Coppleridge, Staple Lane, West Quantoxhead, TA4 4DE: Erection of a stone wall to the south west boundary (street frontage)(retention of work already undertaken).(No objections).

8.2. Decisions: None.

**9. HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

The following matters were raised:

- Parishioners were concerned about speeding on The Avenue.
- The hedgerow bordering the quarry with The Avenue is now into the road and requires cutting back.
- The lights highlighting the stag at the entrance to St Audries Park were very bright and could be a distraction for drivers at night time and it was questioned whether they could be shielded. It was agreed that the Clerk would bring these comments to the attention of the owners of St Audries Park.
- Whether the grit bin at the top of Staple Lane needed topping up and the grit bin on the Weacombe Road was overgrown. The Clerk agreed to speak to SCC Highways.

**10. FOOTPATHS**

None.

**11. PURCHASE OF NEW NOTICEBOARD: ST AUDRIES GARAGE**

It was resolved that a new noticeboard could be purchased up to a cost of £100. Councillor Tizzard had checked with the garage owners and they were happy for the present noticeboard to be replaced.

**12. FRACKING WITHIN EXMOOR, QUANTOCKS AND SEDGEMOOR REGIONS**

It was noted that Holford Parish Council were due to hold a public meeting on this matter and County Councillor Davies would let the Clerk know the date.

**13. ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

It was resolved to hold the Annual Parish Assembly on 5 April 2017 at 7.30 pm.

**14. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

1 March 2017	3 May 2017	5 July 2017
6 September 2017	1 November 2017	

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed: .....  
Chairman

Date: .....