

## WEST QUANTOXHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 23 November 2016

**PRESENT:** Councillors G Tizzard (Chairman), R Hughes, T Dunn, N Purcell-Herbert, J Roberts 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 Councillor Mrs P Tolley.

**2. VILLAGE AGENT**

The new village agent, Izzy Sylvester, introduced herself and gave a short report on her work. Village Agents offer free and confidential practical support to local people and community groups. She reported that some parishioners were interested in setting up a community car scheme. She could be contacted on mobile number 07931 018045, or email [izzy@somersettrcc.org.uk](mailto:izzy@somersettrcc.org.uk)

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

Item 6.4. – Grant request from West Quantoxhead (St Audries) Village Hall – Councillor Hughes declared a pecuniary interest as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee and Councillor Mrs Sherry a non-pecuniary interest as the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee. Councillors granted a dispensation to Councillor Hughes in relation to this item; he did not speak or vote on the item.

**4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2016 & MATTERS ARISING:**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 September 2016 were approved and signed.

**5. REPORTS**

**5.1. Police Report:**

PCSO Bolton was unable to attend but had sent the following report – “There are no major issues which come to mind in the area, other than a couple of young males from the general area who we believe to have been the cause of a number of bike thefts, non-dwelling burglaries and house breaks, however they were arrested today and are currently out of the picture. I need to look through the recent callcards/incidents for the area to see if there is some more specific info I can pass on regarding the West Quantoxhead area. There is a very useful section on the Avon and Somerset Constabulary public website where Parish councils (and Individuals) can get some quite specific information when seeking Crime statistics, follow this link <https://www.police.uk/avon-and-somerset/AW052/crime/stats/> There is some really good information here, date of stats is on the site. It is a home office site, you pick your policing area, so you can compare with any area in the Country. All parish councils can view the public site.”

**5.2. Somerset County Council:**

County Councillor Davies reported that:

- SouthWest One – SCC's contract finishes on 30 November, although Taunton Deane Borough Council and the Police still remain in contract.
- The Leader of SCC is saying that the Autumn Statement is a missed opportunity and is disappointed no more money has been put into social care.

- Community car scheme – he would pass on the name and contact details of the Chairman and Secretary of the West Somerset Car Partnership to Councillor Sherry.
- Planning Application: an application has been received in relation to the proposal to install a generator and gas compressor at the Williton Landfill Site.

Councillor Purcell-Herbert asked a question regarding Connecting Devon & Somerset and queried why he was unable to connect to the BT Infinity box via Sky. Councillor Davies agreed to find out and let him know.

### 5.3. **District Council:**

District Councillor Dowding reported that:

- The formation of a new Council was going ahead and a programme of public involvement would be available in the next few months. There had been a legal challenge from the opposition in Taunton Deane Borough Council who are seeking a judicial review. The new authority should be set up ready for the 2019 elections.
- Council Tax 2017-2018 will include 1¼% Somerset Rivers Authority precept as the Government have not worked out a stand-alone procedure.
- Devolution: The Government is saying if you don't have a Mayor there is no devolution.
- Hinkley Point: agreement has been signed. Now have 1,000 workers on site, anticipated 2,000 by the middle of next year and anticipated 3,000 by the end of next year. He encouraged businesses to join the supply chain.
- Universal Credit: WSC are now rolling this out.
- Police: WSC now involving itself in a new upgraded Safer Somerset Partnership which deals with individuals who fall between the Police and Social Services. Police say they spend about 50% of their time dealing with non-criminal issues.
- Williton, Watchet & Quantock Vale Area Panel 6 December 2016: the Avon & Somerset Police & Crime Commission, Sue Mountstevens, will be attending.
- He had attended a conference on cybercrime in the UK and he urged everyone to report via [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)
- Fire beaters: some are missing from the Quantock Hills and are in the process of being replaced.
- Double yellow lines at Tower Hill, Williton: this is again being raised with SCC.
- Local Plan; has been approved as at 23 November 2016.
- Hinkley Point B Power Station: business rates have now been revalued and the Government have told WSC they still owe money.

## 6. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

The correspondence log, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, was noted. The Clerk agreed to enter the date she forwarded correspondence to Councillors rather than the date on which they were received by her.

## 7. **FINANCES:**

- 7.1. Current Financial Statement:  
Bank balance as at 18/11/16 (confirmed by bank statement #31)     £4,739.36
- 7.2. Grant request from West Quantoxhead (St Audries) Village Hall: it was resolved to grant £250 towards the cost of new equipment and Chq. No. 000075 was issued.
- 7.3. The meeting authorised the issuing of the following cheque:

Chq. Nos. 000076 & 000077, Clerk's Salary & Tax (October-December 2016)  
£276.43

7.4. Bank Account – Authorised Signatories: it was resolved that the Clerk should be added as a signatory.

**8. BUS SERVICE 14**

It was agreed that more information was necessary from SCC before the Parish Council could make a decision on the way forward. Somerset County Councillor Davies was awaiting updated figures from SCC.

**9. PLANNING**

9.1. Applications: None.

9.2. Decisions:

3/38/16/004: West Bank, Staple Lane, West Quantoxhead, TA4 4DE: erection of balcony and porch to front elevation plus render over reconstituted stone façade (Granted).

**10. WEST QUANTOXHEAD TOP 5 PRIORITIES**

Updated.

**11. HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

- SCC Highways had advised a supply of salt bags would be available for collection on 3 December 2016 from the Minehead Depot. Councillors Dunn and Purcell-Herbert agreed to collect and Councillor Dunn would place an article in the next Staple Diet Newsletter asking residents to contact him if they required a bag.
- Flytipping of a fridge/freezer in the gravel area/layby on the right past St Audries Holiday Camp: the Clerk agreed to report this to WSC.
- A roadworks sign had been left after works at the end of the Avenue (near bus shelter) and the Clerk agreed to report this to SCC.

**12. FOOTPATHS**

Councillor Hughes asked if there was any progress relating to the Shedding Gate in the AONB on the Quantock Hills. District Councillor Dowding confirmed he would contact Chris Edwards, AONB Officer, again and forward any reply.

**13. BED CLOSURES AT WILLITON HOSPITAL:**

Agreed to write a letter opposing the closure of 6 stroke beds at Williton Hospital.

**14. WATCHET, WILLITON & QUANTOCK VALE AREA PANEL – 6 DECEMBER 2016**

Councillor Tizzard would attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

**15. DATES & TIMES OF MEETINGS 2017**

It was resolved to hold meetings on the following dates at 7.30 pm –

18 January 2017  
5 July 2017

1 March 2017  
6 September 2017

3 May 2017  
1 November 2017

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed: .....  
Chairman

Date: .....