

## WEST QUANTOXHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.00 pm at West Quantoxhead Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Councillors G Tizzard (Chairman), R Hughes, P Mote, M Philipson and S Sherry

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs M Francis (Clerk), SCC Davies, SWaT Cllr Morgan (left after item 19/69)  
2 Parishioners

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr J Roberts

**19/64 Apologies for Absence**  
Noted as above.

**19/65 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**  
There were none

**19/66 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019**  
It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes after the amendment to item 19/56

**19/67 Approval of the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019**  
It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes.

**19/68 Matters from the Minutes – for the purpose of report only**  
There were none

#### **19/69 REPORTS**

##### **19/69.1 Police Report:**

- No report had been received. The Clerk had been asked to contact the police to request speed checks – a reply had been received advising they could not be undertaken until the overgrowth from trees/hedges was addressed and that the police had asked Highways to undertake the work. The Clerk would contact Highways to also request the work was undertaken, especially as there were no safe crossing facilities. The Clerk would submit a note to the Staple Diet advising of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the village and give Cllr Sherry's email as a contact for further information.

##### **19/69.2 Somerset County Council:**

- Climate emergency drop-ins had been rescheduled until the new year due to the General Election and purdah.
- Improvements to the Quantock Road roundabout in Bridgwater had started on the 4<sup>th</sup> November and would continue until spring 2020.
- Squibbers Way is the new £18.4m road linking Marsh Lane to Parrett Way, names by residents of Bridgwater – official opening would take place on 11<sup>th</sup> December.
- St Audries to Doniford road will be closed on 19<sup>th</sup> November for 3 days between 9.30am and 3.30pm.
- Duke of Edinburgh scheme has three volunteer opportunities.
- 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – carriageway patches will be undertaken around Watchet
- SCC offices will close at 6pm on Christmas Eve and re-open 7am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020.
- Cllr Hughes stated how difficult it was to access the motorway due to ongoing roadworks in Taunton and Bridgwater and that it was a shame they were being undertaken at the same time. Also, suggested working at weekends. Cllr Davies would pass on the comments.

##### **19/69.3 Somerset West and Taunton Council**

- Cllr Morgan informed members of the changes to Planning Applications. Letters from four parishioners must be received before the application would go before committee. Cllr Philipson asked for clarification – letters have to be from residents and cannot be

from individual Councillors, when 4 letters are received (excluding Parish Council comments) the application would go to Full Planning Committee. The letters would be shown on the planning portal.

- Cllr Morgan had attended a recent Hinkley Community Group Meeting where concern had been raised regarding security on the Hinkley Point accommodation campuses and how 'visitors' were being taken on site; also the alleged drug use. The police were in attendance at the meeting but did not comment. Cllr Morgan has a meeting with Avon and Somerset Police to discuss the issues that had been raised in conjunction with concern for the general public as staff live in local areas.
- Cllr Tizzard advised information had been received regarding the meeting room in Taunton only being licensed for 60 for fire regulations – this had been reported to the Leader and no response had been received. Cllr Morgan said he felt meetings should be held in the local areas of concern, rather than going to Taunton.
- Cllr Hughes enquired if the public toilets had been resolved - it had not.
- Cllr Hughes asked for an update regarding the recycling centres closing during the days they should be open – Cllr Morgan had not spoken to the portfolio holder as yet – an update was requested.
- Cllr Davies advised there would be free parking on council sites on the four Saturdays leading up to Christmas in Williton, Watchet, Dunster, Minehead and Wellington – but not Taunton.
- Also, free parking for Dunster by Candlelight at Warren Road upper car park for the park and ride service.
- Taunton Park and Ride now open on Saturdays.
- There will be an ice rink in Castle Green from early December until early January. £10 for adults, £8 for children under 15.

**19/70 Correspondence Log:** (full list pre-circulated)  
It was **resolved** to note the correspondence log.

**19/71 Finances**

19/71.1 Financial Statement:

The Chairman would sign the Bank Reconciliation.

19/71.2 The meeting authorised the issuing of the following cheques:

Chq. Nos 000131 SALC – Cllr Training	£60.00
Chq. Nos 000132 Edward Martin Computer Services Ltd	£12.00
Chq. Nos 000133 & 000134 Clerks wages & NI contributions	£459.30

19/71.3 Budget 2020-2021 – a brief discussion took place regarding the budget for the next financial Year, with the exception of the village hall. Cllr Hughes would investigate the cost of neighbourhood watch signs. Grass cutting – the Clerk would confirm how many cuts there should be per year and advise Councillors. The Clerk would obtain quotations for insurance.

**19/72 Planning**

19/72.1 **Applications for consideration**

Application No	Location	Details	Comments
ABD/28/19/001	Higher Thornes Farm Weacombe Road, West Quantoxhead, TA4 4ED	Prior approval for proposed change of use of agricultural building to 1 No. dwelling house (Class C3) and for associated operational development	No Objection

19/72.2 **Decisions: To note the following decisions.**

Application No	Location	WSC Decision
3/38/19/004	Land adjacent to Staple Farm, Weacombe Road, West Quantoxhead, TA4 4EA	Grant
3/38/19/005	2 Rydon Cottages, West Quantoxhead, Taunton, TA4 4DW	Grant

**19/73 Highway Matters**

- 19/73.1 Weacombe Road sign – it was noted this sign had not been replaced, despite being advised from District Council that it had been. The Luckes Lane sign had been moved further up Weacombe road which was causing problems with deliveries.
- 19/73.2 Request for Staple Close and Staple Lane signs to be re-cemented in the ground – this work had still not been undertaken.
- 19/73.3 Highways Winter Service 2019-2020 had been received. Request for Snow Warden considered but would not progress due to the Parish having to cover the insurance.
- 19/73.4 Temporary Road Closure – St Audries to Doniford – 19<sup>th</sup> November for 3 days, 9.30am – 3.30pm
- 19/73.5 Route Gritting Map – noted

Cllr Sherry expressed concerns regarding the barrels that had been left in the layby for rubbish as they were overflowing and could encourage fly tipping. Councillors would monitor the area.

Cllr Hughes advised the village sign by the Windmill had been damaged. It was reported flooding was once again occurring just above Honey Row Lane.

**19/74 Footpaths**

It was reported the footpath from the Windmill to the Old Rectory was once again flooded. It was believed the culvert was blocked; Cllr Tizzard would approach the owner to discuss riparian duties.

**19/75 Light Pollution**

A letter had been written to Kingspan, who had replied stating due to the safety of their workforce there was a necessity for the lights, however, they had been checked and believed not to be a problem. Upon further investigation, Cllr Philipson advised the lights in question could either belong to the Recycling Centre or the West Somerset Railway depot.

**19/76 VE Day 75 – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

19/76.1 The Clerk advised there had been a request from national organisers not to light fire beacons over this weekend – they would like to see the beacons kept for matters of state. It was resolved to write in the Staple Diet asking if anyone would like to organise an event to commemorate VE Day.

**19/77 West Area Meeting**

The Chairman and Clerk had attended this meeting. The Chairman gave a verbal report.

**19/78 Fireworks at St Audries Park**

Complaints had been received regarding a recent display that had taken place after 10pm. The Clerk had contacted the venue who had apologised that it had been due to unforeseen circumstances.

**19/79 Future Meetings – to be held at 7pm.**

- 8 January 2020
- 4 March 2020

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Signed: .....Cllr Gordon Tizzard.....  
Chairman

Date: .....8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 .....