

# WEST QUANTOXHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.00 pm at West Quantoxhead Village Hall**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** District Councillor Morgan  
Mrs M Francis (Clerk)  
3 Parishioners

**APOLOGIES:** J Roberts and Somerset County Councillor Davies

**19/94 Apologies for Absence**

Noted as above. Cllr Roberts had given his apologies for the meeting and had also sent a letter of resignation from the Parish Council. The clerk would display co-option notices

**19/95 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

There were none

**19/96 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes, which were signed by the Chairman

**19/97 Matters from the Minutes – for the purpose of report only**

19/97.1 (Item 19/89.2) Confirmation had been received that work to secure the rubbish bins had been completed

19/97.2 (Item 19/90) Confirmation had been received that the permissive signpost would be re-erected

**19/98 REPORTS**

**19/98.1 Police Report:**

- A report had been received which was read to members which gave an update on speed detector van, confirming it had been in the area and would be on a regular basis, if the vegetation was kept trimmed back and if there was room to park outside the garage. It was agreed to ask for visits early in the morning and to speak to the garage if cars needed moving.
- Recent scams were highlighted and thefts from sheds

**19/98.2 Somerset County Council:**

Cllr Davies had given apologies but had submitted a report which was read out and included:

- County Councils Robot technology was being used in schools and colleges to help children back into the classroom
- SCC had signalled a new approach to help Climate change, a major investment in 20mph zones outside schools and innovation in social care.
- SCC £1m boost for green initiatives which Parish and Town councils could bid for
- A motion had been passed for SCC to plant a tree for every baby born in Somerset next year
- SCC had committed investment of £2m over the next three years to provide better access to bus services for residents living in rural areas
- Improving Lives Programme “Slim My Waste, Feed My Face” campaign in April to encourage food recycling by providing stickers for households.
- Director of Finance, Mrs Collins will retire, new appointment Mr J Vaughan
- EDF, Hinkley Point C – potential increase in peak workforce
- SCC leader David Fothergill has written to Robert Jenrick MP Secretary of State of Housing, Communities and Local Government to start the case for One Somerset, Unitary council for Somerset
- SCC Chair Awards for Service to the Community – nominations need to be submitted by 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

**Somerset West and Taunton Council**

- Scam Calls – if unsure of the caller, do not answer
- Magnox confirmed an appeal will not be lodged regarding the refusal of storing waste, but a new application will be submitted.
- District Council will increase car parking charges by 10% - Cllr Morgan expressed his feeling that the decision making was very undemocratic
- Planning meetings – again Cllr Morgan's view was an undemocratic procedure due to it not being a policy of SWAT to arrange site visits. Meetings should be heard in Williton, not Taunton – during the past 10 months, only one of the meetings held in Williton.
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> March Climate Change group looked at electric charging points with a possible 15 at Blue Anchor. Cllr Morgan had requested copies of the emails, but to date had not received them. If and when received, they would be forwarded
- Recycling centres – Cllr Pilkington had responded to say the closures were due to health and safety reasons – Cllr Hughes suggested they should organise themselves better, which Cllr Morgan would pass on, together with the following points:
- Cllr Sherry advised fly-tipping was on the increase since reduction in hours of recycling centres
- Cllr Tizzard asked for the chief Executive to start attending meetings
- Cllr Hughes asked if the budgets had been set and if the public toilets would be re-opened, Cllr Morgan advised this had not been mentioned and everything was Taunton centric and unfortunately West Somerset was an extreme minority – very disheartening for the area.

**19/99 Correspondence Log:** (full list pre-circulated)

It was **resolved** to note the correspondence log

- 19/99.1 A request had been received from residents, via Cllr Hughes, requesting a letter of thanks was sent to Western Power for their work during the recent power cut, it was agreed a letter would be sent.
- 19/99.2 Chair Awards for Service to the Community 2020 – no nominees were put forward
- 19/99.3 Employment LDO for small scale industrial units – no comments were made
- 19/99.4 Local Plan Consultation – it was felt the plan had not been thought out properly on a like for like basis and that the questions were very leading, to get the desired response. Councillors were encouraged to submit individual comments
- 19/99.5 Great British Spring Clean – it was resolved to undertake a clean of the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020; meet in the village hall car park at 10am; a working party would be requested in Staple Diet giving Cllr Hughes contact number for information; Cllr Hughes would ask ID Verde for materials.
- 19/99.6 Election of Parish Representative Quantock Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee – It was agreed the clerk would apply for Cllr Philipson to stand

**19/100 Finances**

19/100.1 Financial Statement: The Clerk confirmed the bank balance as at £3,061.86.

19/100.2 The Chairman signed the Bank Reconciliation.

19/100.3 The meeting authorised the issuing of the following cheques:

Chq. Nos 000141 West Quantoxhead Village Hall	£250.00
Chq. Nos 000142 Clerk expenses	£32.80

**19/101 Grass Verge Cutting**

Quotations had been received and were considered. After a proposal from Cllr Mote, seconded by Cllr Sherry, it was resolved to accept the price from Andrew Godfrey, the current contractor.

**19/102 Planning****19/102.1 Applications for consideration**

Application No	Location	Details	Comments
3/38/20/001	Highfield, Staple Lane, West Quantoxhead, TA4 4DE	Erection of a balcony and alterations to fenestration on the south elevation plus removal of chimneys (retention of park works already undertaken)	No Objection

**Decisions: To note the following decisions.**

Application No	Location	SWaT Decision
3/38/19/006	Inkberrow, Weacombe Road, West Quantoxhead, TA4 4EQ	Grant
3/38/19/007	Withenfield, Staple Lane, TA4 4DE	Grant
ABD/28/19/001	Higher Thornes Farm, Weacombe Road, West Quantoxhead, TA4 4ED	Prior approval required and given

**19/103****Highway Matters**

- 19/103.1 Replacement of Weacombe Road sign – Cllr Mote would visit the site and report back
- 19/103.2 Request for Staple Close sign to be re-cemented in the ground – this had been completed
- 19/103.3 Speed Checks – this had been covered under the police report
- 19/103.4 Cllr Mote would inspect the signs as they might only need washing
- 19/103.5 Concern had been raised regarding drive breaking up on the boundary from private drives to the main Weacombe Road. In addition, the water run off down the Avenue due to blocked drains was eroding the tarmac and pot holes in Luckes Lane. It was agreed the clerk would write to David Peake with the concerns.
- It was further believed the cause could be due to large vehicles following satnavs on road which are not suitable. It was asked if something could be done to restrict large vehicles, such as the satnavs being re-routed

**19/104****Footpaths**

- 19/104.1 It was advised that Mr Ken Rowland was the current Parish Path Liaison Officer. Cllr Hughes would advise the clerk of his contact details
- 19/104.2 Confirmation had been received from Somerset County Council that the retaining wall on the A39 between St Audries Church and St Audries Holiday Park entrance were not owned or maintained by the County Council, and that they believed it was owned by St Audries Estate. It was resolved to write to St Audries Estate expressing the Parish Councils concern regarding the safety of pedestrian's dues to unsecure top coping stones and to ask if repairs could be undertaken
- 19/104.3 (Item 19/90) It was noted the fallen tree on the bridle path leading to the hill by Pitt Cottage had been cleared

**19/105****Light Pollution**

Cllr Philipson advised he had not received a reply from Hinkley Point. Cllr Morgan advised due to the proposed increase of the workforce of approximately another 3,000, there could be more light

**19/106****Report from Williton, Watchet and Quantock Vale Area Panel Meeting – held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020**

Cllr Tizzard again expressed his dismay at questions raised at the meeting had still be unanswered. Cllr Morgan thought there could be an expectation that Local Government (Parish and Town Councils) take on more responsibility. Cllr Tizzard thought maybe Chairs of Parishes should get together to discuss possible implications

**19/107****Parish Assembly – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020**

Cllr David Fothergill, Leader of Somerset County Council, had confirmed he will attend the Parish Assembly and give an address

**19/108****Future Meetings – to be held at 7pm.**

6<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – Bus shelter roof on the Avenue side to be looked at  
 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020  
 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020  
 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

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

Date: ..... 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 .....