

WEST QUANTOXHEAD ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – 22nd May 2019

The Annual Parish Assembly was held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on the above date.

PRESENT: Councillor G Tizzard (Chairman)
Somerset County Councillor: Cllr H Davies
Councillors R Hughes, Mrs S Sherry and Mrs P Tolley
Richard and Kate from Freewheelers (Blood Bikes)
Mrs M Francis (Parish Clerk)
7 Parishioners

The Chairman welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Roberts, Mr K and Mrs H Rowlands, Mr Mike and Mrs Sue Sanders, Daphne Wheeler, SWAT Cllr Morgan and SCC Hugh Davies for arriving late.
2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 APRIL 2018:** The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. **POLICE REPORT**
There was no report. It was noted the last Parish Council meeting report advising several sheds had been broken into in the West Somerset area.
4. **SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: COUNTY COUNCILLOR HUGH DAVIES:**
Apologised for being late due to attending a meeting at County. Cllr Davies had been elected onto the Audit Committee. Details were given out regarding a Winter Service Review – comments please by the 28th June on any roads that should be gritted but have not been. A public meeting would be held regarding Magnox request to store low level waste at A Station. Concern was raised regarding this. The Panel meeting were due to continue. It had been announced earlier in the day that the Council had withdrawn funding regarding Firepool development in Taunton. A verbal report was given on the Onion Collective meeting that had taken place during the afternoon. Each Councillor had been allocated £2,000.00 to distribute for Health and Well Being; Cllr Davies hoped to support PALS by £500.00.

Questions were taken:

Q1. The original thought had been to ringfence budgets and expenses for West Somerset and Taunton Deane after the amalgamation. Had this been carried through?

A1. No, it was now one budget. This mean our area will pay a lot of money for the Taunton area, just as it is with the police.

SOMERSET WEST AND TAUNTON COUNCIL REPORT: Councillor Morgan had given his apologies due to a clash of meetings with SWaT.

5. **PRESENTATION BY FREEWHEELERS (BLOOD BIKES)**
Richard and Kate were pleased to attend to give a talk on Freewheelers. This is a service of moving required items around the whole of the country, from Blood to breast milk, medication, samples; whatever the hospital requires. It was founded in 1990, all are volunteers. There are 36 groups across the country and 2 in Ireland. Just their group saves the NHS approx. £300K a year, they do not receive any money from the

NHS or the government, but it is hoped they might get free road tax. Previous to the service, taxis were used which were expensive. They are always looking for new volunteers – from riders to fundraisers if anyone was interested in joining them. Motorbikes are always used for easy access. The bikes are equipped with pulsing headlights, blue lights and sirens, but unlike emergency services, they have no exception from the Highway Code. The bikes average around 40,000 miles a year so only last about 2 years. All bikes have satnavs and trackers so co-ordinators can easily see the nearest bike to a call out. Insurance is £8k per bike annually. All riders have to be advanced riders and to get the qualification, they pay for themselves. No funding is given. The Charity supplies volunteers with a hi-visibility jacket. They are on duty, via rotas, 365 days a year. They visit groups to give talks and promote safe riding. Emergency bottles were given out – place the sticker in by your front door which notifies emergency services there will be a list of any medications the residents are on. At the Parish Council meeting, it was decided to donate the sum of £50.00; Cllr Tizzard also donated £50.00 – everyone was asked if they would like to donate to speak to the Clerk who would send the donations off together.

6. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Councillor G Tizzard:

Council Members:

We now have 5 members: Gordon Tizzard (Chairman), Richard Hughes (Vice Chair), Sue Sherry, Pam Tolley and John Roberts, leaving with 2 vacancies - 1 application has been received which will be considered at next Thursdays Extra Ordinary Meeting. If anyone is interested in joining, please speak to our Clerk.

Planning Applications: We have had 7 planning applications since the last Parish Assembly, being at

- Home Farm Holiday Centre; Belle Vue, Weacombe Road; St Etheldredas Church; Staple Farm – new plots; Withenfield, Staple Lane; Staple Farm and Leighway, Weacombe Road
- 2 new applications will be considered next week

Website : www.westquantoxheadpc.co.uk – which is where agendas, minutes and notices are placed. (As well as the notice boards). Please take a look and if there are any comments you wish to make or would like to see something included please let the Clerk know.

Bus Service

The free bus service, provided by Hinkley Point, for local residents is still running 3 times a day – a timetable is in each bus shelter. Please support.

Telephone Kiosk

This was sold for £900.00 and the Parish Council made a donation out of the proceeds to the Village Hall for £250.00

7. FINANCIAL REPORT: PARISH CLERK: The Clerk gave a verbal report and advised a precept of £2700.00 had been requested.

8. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS:

ST AUDRIES WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: The WI meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month. Currently there were 24 members and continued to have very interesting speakers. Very pleased to announce they won the Somerset WI Skittles Challenge cup.

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: We wish to thank the Parish Council for the £250 precept, which has been used to replace the old fluorescent lights with the new LED lights, which you can all see in use tonight. Also, thank you for the reimbursement of the costs for the Telephone Box plinth plus a donation of £100.00.

Hall usage has dwindled slightly over the past year which may be down to the demographic of the user groups, underlying the need for new villagers to become more involved in village activities. Also after a number of complaints we no longer accept bookings for band practises, which has lost us two regular bookings. Despite this the Hall remains financially sound. Finally, we remain very much a skeleton Committee and still need more members to share the task of running this important Village asset.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Concern was raised regarding the parking at the bottom of Staple Lane, which had caused several near misses. The Parish Council were asked to write to the owners of the properties asking that vehicles to their properties park away from the area, where the road was wider.

Concern was raised regarding light pollution from Roughmoor Industrial Estate, Washford Roundabout, Williton Pavilion and Hinkley point. The Chairman advised reporting this to Environmental Health.

Due to the increase in traffic to Staple Plain, a warning sign was requested by the crossroads from Weacombe Road direction as it was reported there had been near misses due to the bad visibility.

These points would be raised at the next Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman thanked all for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm and was followed by refreshments.

Signed:

Chairman

Date: