

WEST QUANTOXHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at 7.30 pm in West Quantoxhead Village Hall

Attendees:

WQPC Councillors:	P Mote (Chairman), A Cottrell, P Gibbons, M Philipson, W Robinson, S Sherry and H Stamp
Somerset Councillors:	Woods
Avon & Somerset Constabulary:	None
Clerk:	Mrs Michelle Francis
Public:	Two members

Apologies:

WQPC Councillors:	-
Somerset Councillors:	Davies
Other	-

24/25	Apologies for absence as noted above and reason for absence approved
24/26	Declarations of Interest There were none
24/27	Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st May 2024 It was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting Proposed Cllr Sherry, seconded Cllr Philipson
24/28	Matters from the Minutes – for the purpose of report only – None reported
24/29	Reports
24/29.1	<u>Avon and Somerset Constabulary</u> It was resolved to note the newsletter that had been forwarded. Cllr Philipson advised he had attended a meeting at Bicknoller after a tragic incident, which highlighted single occupancy. The Police asked for awareness of neighbours to be raised; more details would be passed on as Cllr Philipson received them. Cllr Sherry would include a note in the Staple Diet asking all to be vigilant and to be good neighbours.
24/29.2	<u>Somerset Council</u> – Written reports had been received from Cllrs Davies and Woods and forwarded to members. Due to pre-election period, it had been a quiet time with the upcoming election. It was advised that Bicknoller did not have a polling station, with its residents having to travel to Sampford Brett; concern was raised regarding the lack of notice. There was a station at West Quantoxhead.
24/29.3	Quantock Hills JAC – no report. The next meeting would be held on the 23 rd July 2024
24/29.4	<u>Local Community Network</u> – A verbal report was given by Cllr Philipson on the Highways sub-group that he had attended, which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somerset Council would continue with their responsibility to replenish the grit bins, which would be numbered individually. • Grass and verge cutting was not a statutory responsibility and if Somerset Council ran out of money, this service could stop. A letter was being drafted from Somerset Council Highways, for Parish Councils to use, asking landowners to cut their hedges. If the hedge was not cut, enforcement could be undertaken. Cllr Gibbons requested clarification that Parish Councils were to send letters, but enforcement would be responsibility of Highways.

- Issues on roads reported via the portal, was working well. It was noted, after inspection, markings were made on the road where repairs were required and, in some cases, this wore off before the work was undertaken – but the area was logged, so work was still scheduled.
- Road Sweeping – advance notice would be given, so parked cars could be moved.
- Drainage work was due on Weacombe Road, but not dates given as to when this would be undertaken.
- It was noted there had been no further mention of the Highways Stewardship Scheme.

24/30 Correspondence

- 24/30.1 It was resolved to note the contents of the correspondence log.
- 24/30.2 An invitation had been received from Williton Parish Council to attend a Chairmans meeting to discuss the Solar Farm – the outcome was CPRE were paying for a solicitor to review the papers and assess the chances of a Judicial Review – noted
- 24/30.3 A reply to the Chairman’s letter, agreed and sent after the previous meeting, had been received from the parishioner and further comments made were noted. A reply would be sent, thanking the parishioner for their comments and inviting them to attend future meetings.

24/31 Finances

- 24/31.1 Current Financial Statement – The current account balance was £8,052.21.
- 24/31.2 Bank Reconciliation – it was agreed the Chairman would sign the reconciliation
- 24/31.3 The meeting authorised the issuing of the following cheques:
Proposed Cllr Mote, seconded Cllr Sherry, resolved

Date	Details	Cheque No.	Invoice No.	Total Bank £	VAT £
03.07.24	Zurich Municipal Insurance	216		257.60	0.00
03.07.24	Clerk Wages & NI April - June	217, 218		583.05	0.00
03.07.24	Greenway Ground Maintenance Grass Cutting	219	40	129.00	0.00
			Total Amount	£969.65	

24/32 Planning

- 24/32.1 The following application was considered:

Application No	Location	Details	Comment
NMA/39/24/001	Wibble Farm Nurseries, Williton to Bridgwater Road	Application for a Non-Material Amendment to application 3/39/24/001 for replacement of the asbestos roof and wall panels with insulated metal panels and the installation of roof covering over the extensions, additional 20' x 8' container for battery storage set within the loading bay off the NW corner of the processing barn, roof profile of solar barn to be mono-pitched roof rather than saw-toothed, rising in three sections as per the permission but with lowered eaves so as to not increase the overall height of the building	No Comment

- 24/32.2 Decisions: There were no new decisions

24/33 Insurance Renewal

Confirmed that this would be renewed with Zurich Insurance

24/34 Highway Matters

- 24/34.1 Trees along the main A39 road – a reply was still awaited from Somerset Highways after their inspection, reference 616185.

24/34.2	Corner of Luckes Lane – Cllr Philipson gave a further update of the site meeting with Highways and options possible.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option One: Change classification of Luckes Lane to farm traffic only at a cost of £3,000.00. Option Two: Improved signage to reduce speed; refresh line markings; Highways to alter records to ensure Luckes Lane was not used as a diversion route during accidents/road works; possible removal of Luckes Lane sign – noted this would need agreement from Bicknoller and Sampford Brett parishes. There would be not cost for this option.
	After a proposal from Cllr Gibbons, seconded by Cllr Cottrell, it was unanimously resolved to accept option 2, which would be of no cost to the Parish. Cllr Philipson would respond to Highways.
24/34.3	The Avenue – still awaiting a reply from Somerset Council Highways. Cllr Philipson would report on the Somerset Council portal
24/34.4	Lights at St Audries Wedding Venue – it was noted the lights shinning on the Stag statue, adjacent to the A39, had been removed
24/34.5	SID (Speed Indicator Device) – awaiting a reply from Somerset Council Highways. Cllr Philipson would look at further and obtain a price for Chapter 8 training.
	Bracken Edge - cracks in the road and weeds were noted – Cllr Robinson would take photographs and report on the Somerset Council Highways portal.
	It had been reported clippings from a hedge cut on Weacombe Road had not been cleared, the Chairman advised he had spoken to the owner of the property and confirmed this had since been cleared.
24/35	Report from Annual Parish Assembly
	It was noted the assembly had gone well, with two excellent and relevant presentations. Cllr Sherry would include a report in the Staple Diet.
24/36	Village Defibrillator
24/36.1	It had been advised one was available for use at the Old Rectory, which was welcomed, however, it was felt a more visible one in the centre of the village was worth pursuing. Cllr Gibbons would further investigate. It was agreed to try and raise funds at events, such as the upcoming cream tea.
24/37	Removal of the Post Box on The Avenue and possible re-location
	Cllr Philipson advised the last correspondence he had received stated no further action would be undertaken; he had since measured the route which was further than 600m and meant crossing he A39 four times. He had requested a telephone call, but there had been no reply. The next possible route was to report to Ofcom. It was noted as the removal had been requested from a landowner, no consultation had been required.
24/38	Grit Bins
	Consideration was given regarding different sizes on a replacement Grit Bin. After a proposal from Cllr Sherry, seconded by Cllr Robinson, it was unanimously resolved to purchase the 190kg capacity. The new grit bin would be located at the top of Staple Lane, with the current bin in this location, swapped with the broken bin on Weacombe Road.
24/39	Bus Shelter
	Cllr Mote advised he had obtained quotations for the materials for the roof repairs on both bus shelters, which were discussed by members. After a proposal from Cllr Gibbons, seconded by Cllr Cottrell, it was unanimously resolved to allow a budget of up to £400.00 including vat for the materials. Councillors had volunteered to undertake the repairs.

