

WEST QUANTOXHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 1st May 2024 at 7.30 pm in West Quantoxhead Village Hall

Attendees:

WQPC Councillors:	P Mote (Chairman), A Cottrell, P Gibbons, M Philipson, S Sherry and H Stamp
Somerset Councillors:	Davies
Avon & Somerset Constabulary:	None
Clerk:	Mrs Michelle Francis
Public:	One member

Apologies:

WQPC Councillors:	W Robinson
Somerset Councillors:	Woods
Other	-

24/01	Election of Chairman and receipt of declaration of acceptance of office Cllr Mote was elected as Chairman and duly signed the acceptance of office. Proposed Cllr Gibbons, seconded Cllr Cottrell and unanimously resolved
24/02	Apologies for absence as noted above and reason for absence approved
24/03	Declarations of Interest There were none
24/04	Election of Vice Chairman Cllr Sherry was elected as Vice Chairman Proposed Cllr Philipson, seconded Cllr Cottrell and unanimously resolved
24/05	Co-option of Councillor An application had been received by Mrs Helen Stamp for the position of casual vacancy on the Council. A vote took place after a proposal from Cllr Mote, seconded by Cllr Gibbons, and it was unanimously resolved to accept the application and co-opt Mrs Stamp. As Cllr Stamp was in attendance, she duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, after which she was able to take part in the remainder of the meeting.
24/06	Appointment of Councillors to Committees
24/06.1	Cllr Sherry was duly elected as the Village Hall Committee representative. Proposed Cllr Philipson, seconded Cllr Cottrell
24/06.2	Cllr Philipson was duly elected as the Quantock Hills representative. Proposed Cllr Gibbons, seconded Cllr Mote
24/07	Confirmation continued of Eligibility and adoption of the General Power of Competence <i>"That West Quantoxhead Parish Council resolved that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions Order 2012), resolves that the Council is eligible to adopt and to exercise the General Power of Competence due to having 2/3 elected members and qualified Clerk".</i> Proposed Cllr Mote, seconded Cllr Sherry and unanimously resolved
24/08	Re-adoption of Standing Orders and Code of Conduct It was unanimously resolved to re-adopt the Standing Orders. Proposed Cllr Cottrell, seconded Cllr Philipson It was unanimously resolved to re-adopt the Code of Conduct. Proposed Cllr Sherry, seconded Cllr Gibbons

24/09	Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th March 2024
	It was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting Proposed Cllr Sherry, seconded Cllr Mote
24/10	Matters from the Minutes – for the purpose of report only – None reported
24/11	Reports
24/11.1	<u>Avon and Somerset Constabulary</u> No report
24/11.2	<u>Somerset Council</u> – Written reports had been received from Cllrs Davies and Woods and forwarded to members. As Cllr Davies was in attendance he highlighted the following from his report: Becket House, the Library and the Children’s Centre in Williton will be relocated to West Somerset House and the buildings sold. Somerset Council apologised and withdrew a statement they had made with regards to factually incorrect information regarding Elbit Systems UK Ltd. Cllr Philipson asked who had sanctioned the release of the incorrect statement and why it had not been checked for accuracy. This was unknown.
24/11.3	<u>Quantock Hills JAC Meeting</u> Cllr Philipson gave a verbal report on the recent meeting. The main point had been that a policy would be created regarding food outlets at sites/car parks, such as Lydeard Hill and Cothelstone. Concern was raised regarding the reduction in peace and tranquillity. Volunteer rangers were being encouraged. Levelling up and regeneration had been discussed.
24/11.4	<u>Local Community Network</u> – A verbal report was given by Cllr Philipson and the Clerk, which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway subgroup had met on 22nd March 2024 to discuss the stewardship proposal; concern had been raised regarding smaller parishes being unable to pay towards the scheme. It was doubtful that the scheme would go ahead. • A template letter from Highways had been requested for parishes to send to local residents where hedgerows were overgrown. • The Suez contract was currently under discussion with Somerset Council. • Idverde road sweeping contract would end in November 2024 – concern was raised that Parish Councils would be requested to take over, clarification was requested for the next meeting. • Street sweeping – it was hoped the Manager would attend a meeting to discuss the arisings being deposited in an incorrect manner. • The next Highway subgroup would be held on 15th May 10am-1pm at West Somerset House. • Somerset Rivers Authority would hold an interactive workshop for flood and emergency planning, on Wednesday 19th June 2024, 6pm – 9pm at West Somerset House, all were welcome to attend. • The cycle path from Carhampton to Dunster would not be carried out – concern was raised that the £1.5m funding received from Central Government for this project would be used elsewhere. • Confirmation regarding the future of grit being supplied to Parishes would be requested.
24/12	Correspondence
24/12.1	It was resolved to note the contents of the correspondence log.
24/12.2	An email from a parishioner had been received regarding the increase in precept and matters of concern. It was noted an email had been received before the meeting, stating only an explanation regarding the precept increase was now requested. It was resolved Cllr Mote would draft a response and forward to members for agreement, and once received, a reply would be sent.
24/12.3	Hinkley Point Project Funding – A request for a letter of support had been received from Citizens Advice West Somerset. It was unanimously resolved a letter of support would be sent, to include a request to hold sessions over differing times of day, for example day and evening sessions, to enable a wider audience to attend.

24/12.4	West Somerset Micro Providers had requested the opportunity to make a presentation to the Council. An invitation to attend the Parish Assembly with a presentation had been sent and accepted.							
24/12.5	Precept remittance notification from Somerset Council had been received – noted							
24/13	Finances							
24/13.1	Current Financial Statement – The current account balance was £7,957.59							
24/13.2	Bank Reconciliation – it was agreed the Chairman would sign							
24/13.3	There were no payments to authorise.							
24/14	Planning							
24/14.1	There were no new applications to consider							
24/14.2	Decisions: The following decisions of Somerset Council were noted							
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Application No</th> <th>Location</th> <th>SWT Decision</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3/38/24/001</td> <td>Wibble, Williton</td> <td>Granted</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Application No	Location	SWT Decision	3/38/24/001	Wibble, Williton	Granted
Application No	Location	SWT Decision						
3/38/24/001	Wibble, Williton	Granted						
24/16	Highway Matters							
	Cllr Philipson had met with representatives from Somerset Council highways and discussed the following issues:							
24/16.1	Trees along the main A39 road – Somerset Highways had looked again at the trees overhanging the main road and would liaise with colleagues on what was planned.							
24/16.2	Corner of Luckes Lane – Highways confirmed the following at the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luckes Lane would no longer be used as a diversion if Weacombe Road was closed. • Chevrons, re-lining of road markings, slow signs, bend warning signs and speed restriction zone would be implemented, due to the high level of accidents occurring in this area. 							
	Problems being experienced on The Avenue had also been discussed at the site meeting, highlighting the overgrown hedge and water dispersing onto the road, which in inclement weather, caused dangerous conditions due to the ice. The officers would investigate the ownership of the hedge and grass verge.							
	The lights at St Audries Wedding Venue sign were also discussed with the officers, explaining how the lights dazzled motorists when turning out of The Avenue onto the main A39. The Officers would investigate with Somerset Council planning department.							
	SID (Speed Indicator Device) Possible funding through police grants – details would be forwarded.							
24/17	Annual Parish Assembly – Wednesday 15th May 2024, 7.30pm in the Village Hall							
24/17.1	It was reported at the previous meeting that Atwest had accepted the invitation to speak							
	It was noted that West Somerset Micro Providers had also accepted an invitation to make a presentation.							
	Cllrs Cottrell, Gibbons and Stamp volunteered to organise the refreshments							
	Cllr Philipson tendered his apologies for the meeting, due to work commitments.							
24/18	Audit for Year Ending 31st March 2024							
24/18.1	It was unanimously resolved to submit the Certificate of Exemption – Proposed Cllr Gibbons, seconded Cllr Sherry.							
24/18.2	The Annual Governance Statement for 2023/2024 was approved and signed – Proposed Cllr Sherry, seconded Cllr Cottrell							
24/18.3	The Annual Accounting Statement was considered – Proposed Cllr Sherry, seconded Cllr Philipson							
24/18.4	It was resolved the Accounting Statement would be signed by the Chairman – Proposed Cllr Sherry, seconded Cllr Cottrell							

24/19	Village Defibrillator
	Cllr Gibbons had contacted a charity that may be able to assist with the funding part or whole. Information would be forwarded to the Clerk.
24/20	Removal of the Post Box on The Avenue and possible re-location
	Cllr Philipson had circulated copies of correspondence he had received and gave a verbal update. The questions raised had not been answered and the discrepancy regarding the distance to post box at the garage would be advised. Cllr Philipson would keep members updated.
24/21	Grit Bins
	Cllr Mote confirmed he had sorted the grit bin on Hill Lane, but the old bin needed removal. Clearance around the bin and the path had also been undertaken.
	The grit bin at Weacombe, on closer inspection, was deemed to be beyond repair. It was agreed to obtain a price for a new bin, the size down from Hill Lane, to be placed at Staple crossroads and for the existing one at Staple, to be moved to Weacombe.
24/22	Grass Cutting Contract
	From the four companies that had been asked to tender for the grass cutting contract, quotations had been received from two. It was unanimously resolved to accept the quotation from Greenways Ground Maintenance for one season. Proposed Cllr Gibbons, seconded Cllr Mote. Confirmation would be forwarded to members as to when the first cut would be undertaken.
24/23	Bus Shelter
	Cllr Mote advised members he had cut back the vegetation overhanging the shelters and that both roofs required repair. The materials had been costed at £400.00 including VAT for both shelters. Cllrs Mote, Williamson and Philipson, with Andy, had volunteered to undertake the work.
	It was unanimously resolved to purchase the materials for the repairs to be undertaken, to stop further deterioration. Proposed Cllr Gibbons seconded Cllr Philipson
24/24	FUTURE MEETINGS 2024
	3 rd July 2024, 4 th September 2024, 6 th November 2024
	Items to be included in next meeting: Repair to Noticeboard located at the garage
	The meeting closed at 9.18 pm.

Signed Cllr Mote

Dated 3rd July 2024