

WESTERLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING  
3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2016  
WESTERLEIGH PARISH HALL

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: B Taylor (Chair) J Butler, A Gibbs, A Fay, S Blackmore, M Crumpton, D Boulton  
Officer: Interim Clerk V Anderson

**2022. Apologies for Absence**

Mrs C Nicholls offered her apologies and resignation from the Council.

**2023. Declarations of Interest under The Localism Act 2011**

None declared.

**2024. Reports from South Gloucestershire Councillors on matters relating to the parish**  
**Cllr C Young reported:-**

**Planning issues**

***Joint Spatial Plan and Transport Study***

As you know, South Gloucestershire Council has been working with the other three West of England councils on a Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) that will set out where new homes should be built across the West of England up to 2036. On Thursday, a joint consultation document "Towards the Emerging Spatial Strategy" was published as part of the papers for the West of England Planning, Housing and Communities board meeting taking place this Friday (7<sup>th</sup> October). These can be found at:

<http://www.westofenglandlep.co.uk/assets/files/PHCB/PHCB%20&%20JTEC%2007102016.zip>

It was also published as an update to the papers for the South Glos Policy and Resources Committee meeting on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

The document will go out for public consultation from 7<sup>th</sup> November to 19<sup>th</sup> December. The proposals have major implications for Westerleigh Parish – 1,500 new homes are proposed at Coalpit Heath and 2,600 around Yate/Chipping Sodbury, with reference to a "Coalpit Heath distributor road" in the list of transport infrastructure improvements required. South Glos planners have already invited all Town and Parish Councils to send two representatives to a meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November and will be setting up another meeting specifically for the councils in the areas most affected. I have provided officers with the locum Clerk's details to ensure that you do not miss out on anything.

**Works at Westerleigh abattoir**

Tulip Ltd, the owners of the abattoir at Westerleigh, have informed me that as part of their commitment to improving any potential impact they have on the local area and their neighbours, they are upgrading their effluent treatment plant.

The first set of works were due to take place on the weekend of 1st and 2nd October. The main effluent tank will be emptied, cleaned and installed with new aeration pumps to help control and limit the production of odour in the tank. There is an increased risk of odours in the area while this work is being carried out. Tulip ask for your continued patience during these essential works and apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused.

**Heritage Briefing**

On 21<sup>st</sup> September I attended a briefing on Local Heritage. There were presentations from a whole range of local heritage projects, including Aerospace Bristol, Winterbourne Medieval Barn, Yate Heritage Centre and the South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group. The Know Your Place mapping project is asking local people and groups to add records to help the build a rich, shared map of our local heritage.

Possibly of interest to this Parish Council is the project bringing QR codes to War Memorials. The idea is to place QR codes next to each war memorial, which you can scan with your phone or tablet to take you straight to a website where they are gradually placing as much family and military history as possible about each person named. The

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research is being undertaken by volunteers from the various South Gloucestershire museums, heritage centres and local history groups. Anyone interested in helping should contact their local group or email [museums@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:museums@southglos.gov.uk)

**2025. Councillor Reports – written submissions taken as read with questions taken as necessary**

Cllr A Fay reported on the 'Negotiating a Better Outcome in Planning' training event that she had recently attended.

**2026. Confirm the minutes of the meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**Proposed by Cllr S Blackmore, seconded by Cllr A Gibbs and agreed that the minutes be approved and signed.**

**2027. Correspondence/Communication with Council**

1. Pansy Vale Paving – Paving machine breakdown resulting in delays and rescheduling of works – David Boff, Highways Engineer
2. Remembrance Sunday & Road Closures – update requirement for submitting road closure applications and marshalling responsibility – Tara Bourne, Avon & Somerset Constabulary.
3. Heritage posters received regarding Frenchay Village Museum, South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group and Olveston parish Historical Society – Jane Marley, Museums & Heritage Officer.
4. First Newsletter for the Gloucester Heritage Hub – Jane Marley, Museums & Heritage Officer.
5. Severn Tunnel upgrade newsletter #2 – Network Rail
6. Royal British Legion – wreathes ordered and need collection from Frampton RBL - ~07789 347675  
**Noted that Cllr A Gibbs will attend Westerleigh service and Cllr A Fay will attend the Coalpit Heath event.**
7. Announcement reference essential works to effluent tanks 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> October possibly omitting increased levels of odours – Tulip Ltd
8. Invitation for two members of council to attend briefings on updating the Joint Spatial Plan for South Gloucestershire, Bristol & North Somerset.  
**Noted that Cllr B Taylor and Cllr J Butler will attend the local event to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October at Badminton Road offices and afterwards at the Kingswood Centre on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, if they believe it would be beneficial to have further representation.**
9. Hambrook traffic lights road closure notice - SGC

**2028. Payment of Account**

To Whom	Details	Net (£)	Gross (£)	VAT (£)
STAFFING	COSTS OCTOBER 2016	2236.5	2236.15	0.00
HEAD GROUNDSMAN	GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OCTOBER 16	865.00	865.00	0.00
MRS F THORNTON	OFFICE EXPENSES – ALLOW/PHONE/POST	100.73	100.73	0.00
ANDERSON PARTNERSHIP	LOCUM CLERK SERVICES SEPTEMBER	822.60	822.60	0.00
ANDERSON PARTNERSHIP	REIMBURSE PURCHASE OF ROAD SIGNS	300.36	250.30	50.06
HANDS PROPERTY MAINT.	EMPTY DOG/LITTER BINS SEPTEMBER	348.00	348.00	0.00

**Proposed by Cllr J Butler and seconded by Cllr D Boulton, all in favour, the above payments were approved.**

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**2029. Request for Traffic Management to investigate closing Nibley Lane (the length between Badminton Road and Iron Acton Village).**

Council considered a request from local residents to close this section of road which had been received by Tracey Hamblett, Assistant Engineer for SGC Traffic Management. Before Ms Hamblett enters this request on the Local Transport Priority List as an investigation scheme she needs to know if the parish council are supporting the request to add the item to the priority list.

During discussion Council acknowledged that the road in question spans across two parishes which includes the ward of Iron Acton.

A number of concerns were raised but it was recognised that there was a lack of supporting evidence such as road usage and accident statistics. South Gloucestershire Councillor Claire Young agreed to contact Traffic Management to determine the accident record over the past five years for this section of Nibley Lane.

**It was agreed to defer a decision on the request until an accident report has been received from SGC Traffic Management.**

**2030. Quotation for new pedestrian gate at Newmans Field.**

Council considered a quotation from Almondsbury Forge to replace one of the gates at Newman Field. The quote was to supply a pedestrian gate which would match the existing serviceable gate at the other entrance to the field.

During debate it was identified that only one quotation had been received which was thought to be of a high cost and there were concerns about the need to replace the existing gate posts rather than utilise/repair them. It was also recognised that part of the fencing may need repair and as such it was suggested that consideration should be given to this matter which could include a fencing contractor supplying and fitting a new gate whilst undergoing fence repairs.

Suggestions for alternative quotes included fencing contractors, Crown Forge at Warmley and Mr Chris Belcher.

**It was agreed to refer a decision to the Environmental and Leisure Committee giving further consideration for fencing repairs and obtaining at least two other quotations for the gate.**

**2031. Precept Referendum Consultation.**

Council considered Avon Local Council Association's (ALCA) recommendation to respond to consultation regarding the introduction of precept referendums as detailed in the LIAS report. The proposals are outlined in *2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement: Technical Consultation Paper* which was published on 15 September 2016.

**Decision: Proposed by Cllr B Taylor, seconded by Cllr J Butler and unanimously agreed that the Council should respond with 'No' to all of the questions within the survey and that authority be given for the Council representative (Cllr J Butler) at ALCA's AGM to support the collective response as recommended by NALC.**

**2032. Public Grievance reference Social Media posts.**

Mr Bracey read out a public statement regarding his concerns regarding the behaviour of certain elected Council members, especially with regard to posts within social media.

Some members of the council spoke about their personal confrontations with both the public and other members of the council which became heated and personal. References were made to past behaviour, past complaints made to the monitoring officer, nature of postings made on social media without having the right to reply and the perceived prevention of a past councillor joining a specific committee.

Once the public and councillors had a chance to put forward their views, opinions and personal experiences the chairman restored order and moved on to the next item of the agenda.

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**2033. Council to consider including a Media section to the Council Code of Conduct.**

Further to recent grievances regarding councillor activities relating to media interaction the Clerk suggested further amendments to the Council Code of Conduct (to include a new media policy section) to help protect the Council's reputation. The additional codes considered were:

- I will not speak as a councillor to the media or in a public forum without prior knowledge or approval of Westerleigh Parish Council.
- When I am speaking as a councillor, my comments will reflect current Parish Council policy even when these do not agree with my personal views.
- When speaking as a private citizen I will strive to uphold the reputation of the Parish Council and those who work in it.
- I will respect Council and individual confidentiality. I will take an active interest in the Parish Council's public image, noting news articles, books, television programmes and the like about Westerleigh Parish Council, about similar Councils or about important issues for the Parish Council

Cllr M Crumpton raised concerns regarding the right to free speech and suggested that this was an inappropriate regulation which impeded on everyone's personal rights.

Members recognised that there were issues with context of the wording and identified that it needed other detail adding. This could include inserting text so it became clear that this only applied when making public statements on behalf of the Council.

**It was agreed to task the Clerk with amending the text, bringing the item back for a decision at the next Council meeting.**

**2034. Items considered urgent by the Chairman (if any)**

**Resignation of Mrs C Nicholls.**

The Clerk outlined a potential procedure for managing the two casual vacancies that now exist within the Council. This related to progressing both vacancies at the same time once both casual vacancies have been duly advertised.

**2035. Date of Next Meeting** 14<sup>th</sup> November, Manor Hall, Coalpit Heath

Signed: .....

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016