

**Minutes of a meeting of Durleigh Parish Council on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY at 7.30 pm in the Hembry Room, Westfield Church.**

**Present:** Cllr. John Vassalli, Cllr. J. Johnstone, Cllr. N. Smith, Cllr. R. Leighton, Cllr. J. Day

**In attendance:** Tammy Weeks (Clerk), Cllr. I. Dyer, Cllr. A. Bown, Cllr. R. Lilley.

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr. N. Myers, Cllr. M. Caswell, Cllr. G. Slocombe,

**126/19 Public Question-time**

There were no public questions.

**127/19 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. J. Vassalli declared that his brother and sister-in-law are Elders at Westfield Church, with whom we have now engaged with for the hire of the Hembry Room to hold our Parish Council meetings.

Cllr. I Dyer declared that he is also an Elder of Westfield Church.

No other Declarations of Interest were declared.

**128/19 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**All agreed.**

**129/19 Matters Arising**

There were none.

**130/19 Chairman's Comments**

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Cllr. Leighton to the assembly as the new co-opted Councillor.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to our new meeting venue at the Hembry Room, Westfield Church. It was explained that following our last meeting, the Clerk engaged with SALC to ascertain their view on us meeting at a public house, but this had not been met with enthusiasm. Therefore, alternative venues were explored and Westfield Church was felt to be appropriate as it is closer to the parish than Enmore, had adequate parking available and on a well-lit street. Therefore, this seemed to address the issues that had been raised about the Enmore Memorial Hall not being accessible to all of the parishioners of Durleigh and the safety concerns. Although the charge is slightly more, it is felt that this is reasonable and acceptable.

The Chairman reported that the transition of clerks had been more problematic than expected and has resulted in overtime being incurred to sort some issues that had been identified. However, it is hoped that these are now largely dealt with and we can now move forward. The Chairman thanked the clerk for the work that has been done, in particular with the new format for the draft budget for 2020/21.

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### 131/19 Financial Matters

1. The Clerk reported that the Bank balance at 6 December was £13,497.61 and tabled the monthly income/expenditure balance sheet for Members' information.
2. The following payments were presented for discussion/approval.
  - a. Clerk's overtime & expenses for Dec £300.35
  - b. TSBA £150.00
  - c. B J Bicknell £75.00

**All agreed.**
3. The Clerk presented the draft budget for 2020/21, explaining that a new layout is being used that makes it easier to see that the parish council are in deficit budget and are using reserves to bridge the gap.

A discussion was held about the need to increase the requested precept in order to start making progress to ensuring that the precept covers the expenditure of the parish council and it retains the reserves for spending on community projects. Without action, the reserves will all be used within 3-4 years, and no progress on community projects.

Two projects have already been identified that the Parish Council would like to pursue; re-surfacing of Queenswood Lane (this is a longer term project and more money will be required to add to the reserve pot for this) and installation of a Automated External Defibrillator (which is hoped will be progressed and installed in 2020/21).

The discussions concluded that a 15% increase, (equivalent to just over £4 per band D property, per year) would be requested for 2020/21 and then a similar increase for 2021/22 with the aim to ensuring that the parish council breaks even and the precept is covering its costs by the end of 2022. **Proposed by Cllr. Smith and Seconded by Cllr. Leighton. Agreed.**

**Action: Clerk to update draft budget and request precept amount to include 15% increase.**

The Councillors will also identify and consider other community projects, which can be prioritised and consideration given to how these may be funded, including investigating grant funding available. **Action: All Councillors to consider community needs and identify projects.**

In relation to the resurfacing of Queenswood Lane, former Councillor and employee of Sedgemoor District council, Scott Mason will be invited to a meeting in order to give the Parish Council advice about resurfacing options and costs. Also, advice and costings on signage will be requested. **Action: Chair to email Scott Mason and request attendance at March meeting**

Cllr. R. Lilley suggested that the Parish Council also considers if they are doing any community events for VE 75 day, which other parish councils within the area are pursuing. A discussion followed which included some ideas to be followed up and discussed further at the next meeting, including; planting of tree and commemorative plaque, possibly on the green area at Pyrland Walk. **Action: Seek advice from Scott Mason re planting of trees on public land.**

### 132/19 Planning Matters

*Items for decision:*

**23/19/00012:** Queenswood Reservoir- erection of detached dwelling house. Noted that this appears to be a change from the original plan by having the detached property to replace two semi-detached properties. Comments have been raised and submitted re the Queenswood Reservoir development in the whole, but it was not felt that the change of two semi-detached into one detached dwelling

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was going to adversely affect the development overall. It may even reduce the amount of traffic onto the development. Decision not to submit any further comments.

*Items for Update:*

23/19/00002: Land to south of Quantock Road – major development by Persimmon – still under consideration, earliest decision date 21/01/2020. *Note: Cllr. Dyer left room before update discussion on this application as some of the development extends to land he owns.*

Comment to be submitted that Durleigh Parish Council note the change with the multi-use games area and reiterate our comments made on 12th Sept 2019. We also make the observation that it is not clear why the games area is being moved from the bottom to the top of the site. This move negatively impacts on current residents as it will be very near to the existing parish. We observe that this proposed change has resulted in a number of concerns/objections being raised by residents due to how close this will be to the existing parish and their properties. **Action: Clerk to submit comment.**

23/19/008: 2 Spaxton Road – alterations to bungalow and reinstatement of garage – permission granted.

23/19/00009: 14 Cothlestone Close – erection of single storey extension – permission granted.

23/19/00010: Floodgate Farm, Rhode Lane – change of use of agricultural building – permission granted.

For the following two, the application was submitted and comments requested between Parish Council meetings. Therefore they were forwarded to Councillors to review and consider via email and our agreed comments have been submitted for both.

23/19/00011 – Queenswood Reservoir – amendments to plan - Comments submitted with observation that some of the neighbours have complained that it is not in keeping with existing properties - still under consideration (earliest decision date 3/1/20)

23/19/00013 – 12 Spaxton Road, new vehicular access and driveway – permission granted.

### **133/19 Items from last Agenda and Meetings attended:**

1. **Highways and traffic:** Cllr. Leighton reported that there have been a number of collisions on Durleigh Hill in the last two years. Pursue with Somerset Highways and request an 'oncoming vehicles in middle of the road' sign. **Action: Chairman & Clerk to follow up.**
2. **Footpaths:** No progress has been made re the damaged footbridge on the footpath near Floodgate Farm. This has been reported to the County Council. Cllr. Leighton reported that it is a health & safety hazard.

Cllr. Smith reported that there are also safety concerns re a bridge on the footpath from the reservoir to Roman Lane.

**Action: Cllr. Leighton and Cllr. Smith to take photos and forward to clerk for further email to be sent to the County Council.**

3. **Millennium Bench:** Invoice submitted for maintenance. Bench and surrounding area reported to look in good order.
4. **Meetings Attended:** The majority of the Councillors attended the Planning training sessions delivered by Sedgemoor District Council. It was noted that these sessions were well attended and informative. However, they did not cover the basics of what constitutes valid objections that can be raised by the parish council. Cllr. Vassalli said he believed that they hold separate training sessions for 'new councillors'. Requested that Cllr. Smith, Cllr. Day, Cllr. Leighton and Clerk attend

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the next 'new councillor' planning training. Cllr. Vassalli would also like to attend as a refresher.  
**Action: Clerk to monitor emails and advise as soon as dates released.**

**134/19 Any other business**

Cllr. Bown brought to the attention the briefing sheet for parish and town council.

The Chairman reported that the hedging plants have still not been planted by Wessex Water, and the field still requires tidying. This has exceeded the cut off dates in the planning conditions. **Action: Chair to email Simon Osborne, Wessex Water to follow up.**

**135/19 Date and Venue of next Meeting**

The next Durleigh Parish Council Meeting will be held on:

**THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 @ 7.30 p.m. in the Hembry Room, Westfield Church.**

(There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:15 hrs.)

Signed..... Date.....  
(Chairman of Council)