

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Withycombe Parish Council extraordinary meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Monday 9th November 2017 at 6.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors: Emma Wright (Chairman), Chris Thomas, Richard Barnham, Amanda Gardiner, David Tilley, Susan Gill (arrived 6.50pm)

In attendance: S Rawle (Clerk)

Also present: Christine Lawrence (SCC)

For future reference attendees will be referred to in these, and subsequent, minutes by their initials viz:

Emma Wright (Chairman) EW, Chris Thomas CT, Stephen Crossman SC, Richard Barnham RB, Amanda Gardiner AJG, Susan Gill SG, David Tilley DT, Brenda Maitland-Walker (West Somerset District Council) BMW, Christine Lawrence (Somerset County Council) CL, Sam Rawle (Clerk) SR.

The Meeting was digitally recorded

1797 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from SC

1798 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM CLLRS

None.

1799 TITHOLES ORCHARD DEVELOPMENT

The Chairman read out the proposal and quote received from Eric Beaven of Value Assembly. She explained that at a preliminary meeting with Mr Beaven it was envisaged that he would act as project monitor for the construction of the car park, activity area and play area at Titholes. The fee quoted had been £650.00 plus VAT. After an initial assessment of the work done to date at the site it became apparent that the work was not being carried out as to the agreed planning consent. The car park area had been laid with an impervious service and did not meet the requirements of a Sustainable Urban Drainage System as required in the planning consent. Also the levels of the car park, play area and activity area had not been done as to the approved drawings.

Given the potential problems and the work required to get the project back on track a revised quote from Mr Beaven had been received. The proposal was that Mr Beaven would work on a hourly basis of £50 per hour with an interim cap not to be exceeded without further authority of £1500.

The Clerk confirmed that VAT would be able to be claimed back on this fee. After debate it was agreed that the money should be taken from the Titholes Reserve. The Clerk confirmed that this currently stood at £10,000. It was noted that £4,000 of the reserves was from the County Councillors Community Budget and therefore was ringfenced specifically for play equipment.

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council needed the services of Mr Beaven in light of the position it found itself in. It was important that the Parish Council had access to professional advice in order to minimise the risk to the Parish Council of entering into a lease agreement for a development which would not be fit for purpose. Members

acknowledged that the Parish Council would need to be prepared to consider further expenditure above the £1500 given the problems. It was stressed that Mr Beaven be made aware that the Parish Council had limited funds.

It was proposed by CL and seconded by DT that Eric Beaven be appointed to act on behalf of the Parish Council and that £1,500 be used from the Titholes Reserve. This was unanimously agreed.

The meeting closed at 7.05 pm.

Signed _____
CHAIRMAN

Date _____