

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC OPEN SESSION ON THE 9TH NOVEMBER 2017 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, WITHYCOMBE at 6pm.

PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

For future reference Councillors and the Clerk will be referred to in these, and subsequent, reports by their initials:

Emma Wright (Chairman) EW / Chris Thomas (Vice Chairman) CT / Richard Barnham RB / Amanda Gardiner AJG / Susan Gill SMG / Brenda Maitland-Walker (West Somerset District Council) BMW / Christine Lawrence (Somerset County Council) CL / Sam Rawle (Clerk) SR.

The meeting was digitally recorded

These notes formulate a record of the Public Open Session held on the 9th November 2017.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.00pm. There were 8 members of the public in attendance.

Titholes Orchard Development

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those members of the public in attendance. She explained that it was a single item agenda and stressed that questions would need to be restricted to that item only. She explained that very little information had been received from Savills concerning the development, so it was hard to provide details. The Parish Council had been given 2 days working notice of the commencement of works on the site. The Parish Council had felt that it needed to take some independent professional advice concerning monitoring of the project as there were concerns whether the aspirations of the parish council and community would be delivered and whether the work was being carried out to a specification agreeable to the Parish Council.

An initial meeting had been held with Mr Eric Beaven (Project Management Consultant) of Value Assembly. Since the initial meeting Mr Beaven had identified a number of issues relating to the works to date. The purpose of the extraordinary meeting would be to consider the appointment of Mr Beaven to act on behalf of the Parish Council in monitoring the project.

During the public discussion the following questions and points were raised:

Would access to the carpark and play area be available straight away after completion or would the houses have to be developed first? *The assumption was that they would not be available until after the houses had been completed.*

It was strongly felt that the Parish Council had not been fully involved or informed by Savills and had been forced into a position of catch up. A meeting should have been convened to clarify what was going on.

Who is undertaking the construction of the car park/play area? *Savills are undertaking the construction of the car park/play area and not the housing developer.*

There was a lengthy discussion concerning the car park and whether this would be solely for patrons of the village hall. It had been understood that the planning consent stated that it was for patrons of the village hall.

It was confirmed that there would be continued access to the footpath. The Play Area and Activity Area would be fenced.

It was felt that the parish council had been forced into the position of using expenditure for outside assistance which would otherwise have been used for play equipment.

A question was asked what would be at the front of the site where currently the fencing existed. Clarification on this point would be sought.

CL advised that SALC could be approached for advice. This would be free as the Parish Council was a member.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution to the open session.

The Public Open Session ended at 6.40 pm.

Chairman

_____ Date