

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC OPEN SESSION ON THE 4th SEPTEMBER 2017 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, WITHYCOMBE at 7pm.

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 4th September 2017.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm. She welcomed those in attendance who included Kim Davey (KD) from South West Ambulance Service Trust. She reported that apologies had been received from DT.

Community Defibrillator

Kim Davey from SWAT presented an informative session on community defibrillators. She covered the different types of package available to communities and how the package available with SWAT worked.

The following points were covered:-

- The SWAT package was for a 4 year period and this included an unlocked heated cabinet, replacement of consumables (batteries and pads), annual awareness sessions which included basic life support, how the defibrillator worked and all the safety implications behind using a defibrillator.
- The total cost of the package was £1800-£2,000, inc VAT.
- A defibrillator increases patients chance of survival of cardiac arrest by 75% as opposed to 5% without one.
- Defibrillator Units take the user through what to do. The defibrillator automatically picks up if the heart is in a normal rhythm and will not shock someone. Users will also have the assistance of the operator on the phone; they will not clear off the line until the Ambulance Crew arrive.
- Cabinet needs to be heated and connected to a mains supply. Takes a minimal amount of electricity as the only time the thermostat kicks in is when it drops below freezing.
- Lithium battery lasts for 4 years regardless of use. Pads are one use only.
- The Clerk confirmed that currently 50% funding was available from Community Resilience in Somerset Project (CRISP) and that the VAT could be claimed back.

It was suggested that an additional procedure needed to be put in place in circumstances where the housebound or very elderly needed extra assistance in obtaining and using the defibrillator. The Chairman suggested that a system that is right for Withycombe needed to be developed so that vulnerable members of the community could phone a named person within the parish to help with an emergency. Kim also suggested that Williton had some trained co-responders so they could be called into a neighbouring area.

Kim confirmed that once the defibrillator was installed and up on the wall that she would come out and show everyone how to use it and what to do.

The Chairman thanked Kim for her attendance at the meeting and the informative and detailed presentation.

1. **Somerset County Councillor Report**

Improvements to Delayed Transfer of Care – Improvements have been made to reduce delays in people leaving hospital. SCC's improvement is the best in the country. Has been commended by the SofS for Health.

Adult Social Care Providers – The Care Quality Commission will report shortly that Somerset will have no care facilities rated as inadequate with over 87% being good or outstanding.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) – This year's theme looks in detail at the issue of ageing well and highlights the importance of maintaining good health, social contacts and personal independence. Mr Roger Hurst, Co-ordinator of Withycombe Active Living highlighted the decreasing budget for the Active Living Group. Current funding only just covers the cost of hiring the hall. There was concern that the Group would cease to function if funding continued to decrease. CL would highlight the concerns to Cllr David Huxtable about the funding and also suggested that Mr Hurst could contact Somerset Community Foundation about a grant.

Smoking in Pregnancy – Rates have improved.

Children's Social Care- OFSTED recently visited SCC for their final pre-inspection monitoring visit. The full OFSTED inspection is expected to take place in the autumn.

Work experience opportunities for young people – If local organisations or companies can help, please let HR at SCC know.

Highways Finger Posts – Successful project to train communities to maintain the traditional finger posts. See www.somerset.gov.uk/policies-and-plans/schemes-and-initiatives/somerset-fingerpost-restoration-project

2. **District Councillor Report**

Transformation – Still ongoing, currently developing joined up IT solutions.

Credit Card transactions – In line with new legislation, there will be no further charges on bills paid by credit cards.

Blue Anchor Chalets ROW – The Determination Committee will meet at 2pm on 5th October at SCC. Maximum of 6 speakers. BMW will be co-ordinating speakers.

Somerset Waste Partnership – Residents are urged to never put batteries in black bin bags as they can catch fire.

RB asked for an update regarding the West Somerset/Taunton Deane merger. BMW confirmed that the two Councils were still operating as ONE team and that the focus at present was on looking at a single IT solution to allow for joined up working. With regard to the New Council; this would be up to the Secretary of State and it was not envisaged that a decision would be made before the end of the year.

Resident Mrs Anne Rivett asked about recycling and whether there was an update about additional items for recycling, e.g yoghurt pots. BMW reported that the Council was starting

the process of procuring a new contract and it was hoped more would be able to be recycled in the future, but at present the situation was unchanged on items that could be recycled.

Highway Matters – BT Operations

Resident Mr Roger Hurst asked whether anybody inspected the highway following works carried out by BT contractors. Roger described a recent situation where two separate contract teams had arrived on the same day. Two poles had been erected, and holes had been dug in the road. On departure the contractors had left the area in a terrible mess with litter and mud on the road. It was suggested that OfCom should be advised. CL will ask David Peake, Highways Manager for his advice.

Flood Plan

BMW congratulated the Parish Council on the work to produce a community flood plan. She advised that the next meeting of the West Somerset Flood Group was on the 18th October and that a representative from Withycombe would be welcome to attend.

BT Phonebox, West Street

Withycombe resident, Mr Roger Hurst addressed the meeting regarding correspondence received from the Clerk in relation to the adoption of the BT phone box in West Street. Mr Hurst said that he and Mrs Wright supported the adoption of the phone box by the Parish Council and were happy for it to be put to community use. They were happy for the phone box to be relocated from its current position, but were seeking assurance that any impact or damage to the property as a result of removing the phone box would be put right and that also neighbours would be kept informed and agree to its removal. Mr Hurst requested that when a date was arranged for the removal of the phone box that someone from the Parish Council was in attendance to ensure that it was done properly. CL confirmed that the Parish Council would be given a date and time when BT came to disconnect the line and remove the telephony equipment. Dunster PC had recently gone through the process with the telephone box at Bremis Road.

Clerk instructed to find out from Dunster Parish Council what the process of adoption involved and whether they were satisfied with how the work was carried out by BT.

The Public Open Session ended at 8.05 pm.

Chairman

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