

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Withycombe Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 18th April 2018 at 6.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors: Emma Wright (Chairman), Chris Thomas, Richard Barnham, Amanda Gardiner, Steve Crossman, David Tilley

In attendance: S Rawle (Clerk)

Also present: Brenda Maitland-Walker (WSC), 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

THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES AND HAVE YET TO BE APPROVED BY COUNCIL

1833 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

1834 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM CLLRS

None.

1835 TITHOLES ORCHARD

The Chairman explained that the purpose of the meeting was to decide the next course of action that the Parish Council should take concerning Titholes Orchard. There were two options open to the Parish Council. Either leave the Local Planning Authority to enforce Savills to comply with the original planning consent or to further instruct Eric Beaven (EB) to negotiate on behalf of the Parish Council to come to a workable solution for the site.

There was a full debate on the options with the following points being made.

Formal enforcement was a lengthy procedure and could take up to 36 months. As the original plans had design faults as identified by EB, this rendered them unachievable. Concerns that the Crown would mothball the site and the village could be left with nothing. Savills have confirmed that they will reimburse costs to the Parish Council through any savings made on site.

RB questioned whether the Parish Council had any negotiating power as the S106 was between West Somerset Council and the Crown. SC pointed out that the Parish Council were consultee's to the original agreement and that the houses could not be occupied until the Parish Council were happy with the terms on which the lease was to be offered. To return the site to its original condition would cost more than seeking a compromise. If the Parish Council wanted to leave a legacy to the village than the best way would be to use EB to negotiate a workable design. The LPA would still have a role to play in ensuring that any revised application was properly implemented.

EW confirmed that EB had been advised that his costs would need to be dependant on a successful negotiation with Savills.

The two options were put to the vote and it was unanimously agreed that authority be given to EB to negotiate on behalf of the Parish Council between Savills and West Somerset Council.

Clerk to write to both Savills and EB to confirm the decision.

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm.

Signed _____
CHAIRMAN

Date _____