

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC OPEN SESSION ON THE 3rd DECEMBER 2018 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, WITHYCOMBE at 7.00pm.

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 / 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 notes formulate a record of the Public Open Session held on the 3rd December 2018. The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm. There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. Somerset County Councillor Report

CL reported that the Historic Signpost Project had now come to an end and had been a great success. SCC have achieved a balanced budget for next year. A number of savings have been identified in the last 3 months.

Winter Maintenance (Salt) – A letter has been issued from David Peake to all Parish Councils regarding updated arrangements for the provision of salt this winter. Thanks to intervention by West Somerset Council, Parish Councils will still be able to collect the small bags of salt for free. The salt bins in the parish will also be filled up. However, CL advised that next year it was highly likely that Parish's would need to purchase their own salt, so she advised to be mindful of this when setting the precept.

Fit for My Future Public Consultation – Public Engagement exercise being undertaken jointly by NHS and SCC to gather views from the public on shaping the future of health and care services. There have been drop-in sessions at various locations. The second stage of consultation will be in the New Year. Important issue that will affect everyone. CL urged all to look at the website www.fitformyfuture.org.uk

2. District Councillor Report

BMW gave her apologies for the September meeting.

WSC are continuing with the transformation programme in readiness for the establishment of the new authority. Drive for more IT solutions in the way that services are delivered to the public. A Locality Engagement Team is being set up.

Designated officers will be link between the community and the Council.

District Council had been very concerned about the removal of salt bag provision for this winter. Greater impact in West Somerset because of the hills and isolated rural communities. Stressed that Parish's will need to make their own provision for future winters.

The Public Open Session ended at 7.15pm.

_____ Chairman

_____ Date