

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Withycombe Parish Council meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Monday 4th March 2019 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors: Emma Wright (Chairman), David Tilley, Stephen Crossman, Richard Barnham, Amanda Gardiner, Susan Gill

In attendance: S Rawle (Clerk), Brenda Maitland-Walker (WSC)

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

1884 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

CT.

1885 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM CLLRS

None

1886 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

Parish Council Meeting and Public Open Session held on 3rd December 2018.

The minutes of the above meeting have been circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed as accurate and signed by the Chairman.

1887 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1887.1 Greenlands Lane/Lantridge Mills – The Clerk confirmed that she had emailed Jo Sharp, Highways. Jo had confirmed that the signage requested by the Parish Council warning that the Lane was not suitable for motor vehicles had been put in place at the Lantridge Mills end.

1887.2 Withycombe Straight Speed Signs – Jo Sharpe had confirmed that this was on hold until more data had been calculated re. the speed of vehicles travelling the route.

1888 PLANNING

Applications:

3/26/18/014 – Erection of 1 dwelling for agricultural worker, 3 agricultural buildings and formation of access track (retention of works already undertaken). Gracepits Farm, Lodge Rocks Cross to Forches Garden, Old Cleeve, Minehead, TA24 6QX – No objections

Decisions:

None received

1889 PRESENTATION OF FINANCES

1889.1 **Budget Monitoring Report:** The Clerk circulated a budget monitoring report for the period 1st April 2018 to 28th February 2019. The Clerk explained the Parish Councils current reserves position (Titholes Orchard £10,9330 and Active Living £457.00). After taking this into account the Parish Council had 'available funds' standing at £11,987.

RB requested whether the Parish Council would consider a belated request for a contribution towards the Memorial Hall Christmas Tree. This was unanimously agreed.

1889.2 **Bank Reconciliation Statement:** The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation up to 28th February 2019. The bank reconciliation statement agreed with bank statements and was signed by the Chairman, as an accurate record. Bank balances were:

➤ Account 95304622	£978.85
➤ Account 44356501	£21,794.78
Total	£22,773.63

1889.3 **The following payments were approved:**

1. S Rawle (Clerk) salary / expenses (Jan 2019 – Mar 2019)	£836.16
2. Mrs A Rivett (Parish Newsletter Sept and February)	£64.00
3. Withycombe Memorial Hall (Xmas Tree)	£28.00

1890 **HIGHWAYS**

Nothing to report

1891 **RIGHTS OF WAY**

Nothing to report

1892 **TITHOLES ORCHARD UPDATE**

The variation to the planning application has been submitted by Savills. This was validated on the LPA system 31st January 2019. The Clerk had written a letter to West Somerset Council Planning Manager confirming Parish Council support and reminding the Council of the S106 requirement. BMW had checked the planning system and had not found the letter attached with the application. She will raise this with the Planning Department and if the letter has not been received Clerk to be informed to resend. BMW advised that it was likely the application would be determined under delegated officer powers and that this will take up to 8 weeks. RB enquired whether a format of lease had yet been agreed. EW confirmed that although MHPF had were not happy with the amount of changes they had agreed to amendment to the two big risk areas for the Parish Council, namely, repairing the access road at any time to a cost to the Parish Council and onerous insurance risks relating to insuring against acts of terrorism.

BMW confirmed that once the houses had been built they cannot be occupied until the Parish Council have been offered a reasonable lease; if that lease was not reasonable to the Parish Council it would have to go to arbitration.

EW – The next step was to wait for the amended draft to come back.

Eric Beaven is currently negotiating fee with Risdons. Andrew Benysley the Solicitor dealing with the work has gone back to senior partners to see if they will consider reducing the fee. The legal fees and professional fees for Eric Beaven will come out of the payment from The Crown which has been generated from the savings from the scheme.

1893 **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

The Clerk advised that the Annual Parish Assembly had been booked for Wednesday 17th April at 6.30pm. A list of the organisations invited to attend was reviewed. BMW suggested that it they Parish Council may wish to consider inviting Sam Murrell from the District Council who has recently taken up the new role of Localities Engagement Lead within the Council. One of her key roles is to be visible and accessible to the community and to improve engagement with local communities. Much more of Council business will be done online as this will be the new way of working for the Council. It was also agreed to invite Bill Butcher to give a further presentation on electric charging points for cars. The Clerk was

instructed to send out invitations accordingly and SG agreed to coordinate the arrangements for refreshments.

1894 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

1894.1 The District Councillor (BMW) presented her report in the Public Open Session which preceded this meeting. There were no matters arising from the District Councillors report that required further action by the Parish Council.

1895 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1895.1 District and Town/Parish Council Elections Timetable – The Clerk reported that he had received a supply of Election Notices together with Nomination Packs and an Election Timetable. The Parish Council Election would be on Thursday 2nd May 2019. Election Nomination Packs were distributed and the Clerk advised that all Councillors wishing to stand for re-election would need to complete the forms within the pack and that all forms must be with the Returning Officer at West Somerset House, Williton before 4.00pm on Wednesday 3 April 2019.

1895.2 Land's End Trial - The Clerk reported that she had received notification that the Land's End Trial would take place on the weekend of the 19th/20th April 2019. This was a classic car motor event that would be using some of the lanes and tracks through the Parish.

1895.3 Withycombe and Old Cleeve Housing Needs Survey – These have been distributed to all households within the two parish's.

1896 AOB

Croydon Hall- RB asked whether the Parish Council had been consulted in terms of planning. EW confirmed that they the establishment had all the required licences and planning permissions to operate. ENP were trying to get them to re-apply for change of use. EW confirmed that herself and the Clerk had met with the owners and had asked that they ensure their guests are mindful that they keep noise and disturbances to a minimum when they are leaving the venue at night. RB pointed out that caution needed to taken when speaking to the press that personal views were not taken as those being of the parish council. Concerns were raised by Councillors about the increased traffic, parking, serving of free alcohol and disruption late at night. BMW confirmed that ENP were looking into it in depth.

1897 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

17th April 2019 (Parish Assembly), 20th May 2019 (AGM), 2nd September 2019, 2nd December 2019

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Signed _____
CHAIRMAN

Date _____