

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC OPEN SESSION ON THE 4th MARCH 2019 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 4th March 2019. The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm. There was 1 member of the public in attendance.

1. Electric Car Charging Point

Withycombe resident, Mr Bill Butcher addressed the meeting about electric car charging points. Somerset County Council at a recent meeting had declared a climate emergency and had set a target for the County to be carbon neutral by 2030. Mr Butcher asked the Parish Council as part of their contribution to this target that they may wish to consider an electric car charging point in the planned new car park. If it was a project that the Parish Council wished to take forward, local organisation Forum 21 could help take the project forward and are working with other Parish Councils across West Somerset. Mr Butcher went on to explain that typical installation costs were between £7-£8k and can be carried out by Zero Carbon World. They would send one of their registered installers to inspect the site. Forum 21 currently have funding bids submitted that would help towards a large proportion of installation costs if not 100%. DT asked how the electric was paid for. Mr Butcher explained that this was either through a Smart Card system or through donations. Experience had shown that the donations made were often more than the cost of the electric. There would need to be a building nearby to connect to the electricity supply. BMW reminded the meeting that permission would need to be obtained from the landowner of the carpark. The District Council have also recently set aside a £20k grant pot to enable parishes to apply for monies for projects such as these. She reported that there is a charging point at Wheddon Cross. Mr Butcher was thanked for his valuable contribution and interesting presentation. Mr Butcher to send more information to Clerk.

2. District Councillor Report

District Council will be setting up a Scrutiny Task and Finish to look at how the Council can be more carbon neutral.

Transformation – now in the last stage. Realigning 200 members of staff. Hope to be in place by 1 April but may be later.

Balanced budget moving forward into the new authority Somerset West and Taunton Deane. WSC and TD Councillors will remain representing the same wards as now until the elections in May.

The Public Open Session ended at 7.10pm.

Chairman

Date