

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC OPEN SESSION ON THE 21st MAY 2018 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 / 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 21st May 2018. The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm. One member of the public was in attendance.

1. Members of the Public

Cerys Rivett spoke in relation to Agenda Item 6.1.2 Application 3/41/18/001 – Erection of a 1.5 storey extension to the side elevation @ Squirrels Cottage, Lower Street, Withycombe. She explained that as the applicant she was happy to respond to any concerns or questions that the Parish Council may have in relation to the application.

2. Somerset County Councillor Report

Unitary Conversation – SCC Leader David Fothergill has announced the launch of a review into possible options for a unitary authority for Somerset. A joint meeting has been held with the 5 district council leaders. The purpose was to explore options to ensure that public services were financially viable and efficiently run for the future. A longer term think for the future and how Somerset will look. Different models of unitary councils would be explored. It could be one unitary council for Somerset or it could be two councils e.g. East and West.

CL confirmed she will continue as the Health & Wellbeing Lead at SCC. Mandy Chilcott, CC for Minehead has become Deputy Leader and Finance Lead. Frances Nicholson continues to represent Exmoor.

3. District Councillor Report

WSC/TDBC Merger – Waiting for Government to ratify Secretary of State decision. Should be by 1st June. Need to give Boundary Commission sufficient time to look at boundaries across both authorities. There will be fewer district councillors covering wider areas. Will not affect parliamentary boundaries.

Somerset Community Foundation – Funding available for community projects.

Hinkley Point – Have started construction of Park & Ride at Washford. Will be operational from the autumn.

Household Recycling Centres – Now taking plastic pots, trays and tubs.

The Public Open Session ended at 7.20pm.

Chairman

Date