

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Withycombe Parish Council meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Monday 2nd September 2019 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors: Chris Thomas (Acting Chairman), Stephen Crossman, Richard Barnham, Amanda Gardiner,

In attendance: S Rawle (Clerk), Christine Lawrence (SCC), Peter Pilkington (SW&T)

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, Peter Pilkington (Somerset West & Taunton Council) PP, Christine Lawrence (Somerset County Council) CL, Sam Rawle (Clerk) SR.

The Meeting was digitally recorded

1926 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

EW, DT & SG

1927 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FROM CLLRS**

None

1928 **TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS**

Parish Council Meeting and Public Open Session held on 20th May 2019.

1929 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

1930 **PLANNING**

Applications:

6/41/19/103 – Langridge Mills Farm, Proposed construction of agricultural building for housing livestock and storage. Restrospective – No objections.

6/41/19/102 – Langridge Mills Farm, Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of a Polytunnel – No objections.

6/41/19/101 – Langridge Mills Farm, Lawful Development Certificate for the erection of agricultural building not in compliance with planning permission ref 6/41/90/101 – No objections.

Decisions: None received

1931 **PRESENTATION OF FINANCES**

1931.1 **Budget Monitoring Report:** The Clerk circulated a budget monitoring report for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st August 2019. The Clerk explained the Parish Councils current reserves position (Titholes Orchard £10,330 and Active Living £457.00). The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had 'free funds' of £17,554. RB asked whether the budgeted for income had come in from The Crown Estate. Clerk that this had not been received yet. A question was asked about grants for the defibrillator and on-going costs. The Clerk will make enquiries. CL suggested making contact with Christine Oliver at DPC as she had been on the DPC defibrillator working group.

1931.2 **Bank Reconciliation Statement:** The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation up to 31st August 2019. The bank reconciliation statement agreed with bank statements and was signed by the Chairman, as an accurate record. Bank balances were:

➤ Account 95304622	£670.56
➤ Account 44356501	£27,670.75
Total	£28,341.31

1931.3 **The following payments were approved:**

1. S Rawle (Clerk) salary / expenses (Jul 2019 – Sept 2019)	£773.16
2. Withycombe Memorial Hall (Active Living)	£150.00
3. SALC Affiliation Fees	£76.85

1931.4 Active Living Account: The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council held £456.61 on behalf of Active Living. The payment just approved will reduce the balance to £306.61.

1932 **BT PHONEBOX**

Clerk advised that land registry documents had been sent to BT confirming ownership of land where the box is situated. Owners of land are in agreement for Parish Council to adopt phonebox. If it is agreed to adopt the phone box then this becomes a parish asset and the responsibility for refurbishment and upkeep falls to the parish council. There was consensus to adopt the phone box subject to it's condition being checked. SC volunteered to inspect the phonebox and report back. RB will check with the Memorial Hall Committee members that they would be happy for the phonebox to be re-situated on the patio area outside the hall.

1933 **RIGHTS OF WAY**

1933.1 **Parish Path Officer:** Expression of interest for PPLO role from Steven Hansford. PPLO registration form has been returned to SCC.

1933.2 **Somerset Strimmer Project:** Clerk has been contacted by Rights of Way Team asking if they would like to contribute 50% costs towards strimmer training for PPLO. There was discussion regarding who was responsible for the clearing of paths on the network. Very clear that this is role of SCC and not parish councils. PPLO role is to liase with SCC ROW on issues on paths on the the network. Concerns raised that this could be seen as pushing responsibility onto parish councils. CL to find out a bit more but no action to be taken at the moment.

1934 **TITHOLES ORCHARD UPDATE**

The access road was scheduled to be laid with tarmac 2 weeks ago and this has not happened. Agreement of the lease by MHPF has yet to be finalised. CT had recently spoken to Nick Kelly who had advised that it had come back to him to make 2 or 3 amendments and that it would be signed off very soon. SC asked whether NK has now been given the authority to sign off the lease as previously the parish council had not been given that impression and that it was the London office who were required to do this. CT said that he understood that NK now had the final authority. Agreement between Parish Council and Crown is that funds for EB's payment cannot be released until the lease is signed off. Clerk to send copy of letter to NK so that he is aware of this.

RB advised that besides the tarmac the only thing left to do was seeding of the banks.

1935 **RISK ASSESSMENTS OF COUNCIL ASSETS**

Clerk advised that these needed to be carried out. SC will carry out the risk assessments and report back to next meeting.

There was discussion about the Millenium Beech Trees. Two had died and the remaining 18 were very stunted and had not done as well as expected given that they had been standing for nearly 20 years. Many of the cages around the trees had deteriorated and it was felt that they were not now required as the trees were not in danger of being 'barked' by cattle as it was mainly sheep grazing the common. RB suggested that it would be better to remove the caging from the remaining trees and remove the 2 dead trees as previously discussed.

SC will inspect trees as part of risk assessment exercise. Report back next meeting with suggestions for way forward.

1936 MEETING DATES 2020/21

The following meeting dates were agreed for next year: Monday 2nd March 2020, Annual Parish Assembly Wednesday 15th April 2020, Annual Council Monday 18th May 2020, Monday 31st August 2020, Monday 7th December 2020

1937 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

1937.1 The County Councillor (CL) and District Councillor (PP) presented their reports in the Public Open Session which preceded this meeting.

RB questioned the funding for installation of electric charge points within the parish and who would pay for the electricity used. Don't think that the parish would object but concerns about ensuring that the electric gets paid for. PP advised that district council would pay for installation costs up to £1500. There are options for different ways of payment. One way would be by a smart card device but this would cost more to install. There was a discussion concerning where the electric would need to be fed from. There is an existing pole on the development site. Would need permission of land owner (MHPF) to go ahead. Re-visit once car park completed.

1939 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1939.1 SCC Chairman's Civic Service 14/9/2019 – Advise Clerk if anyone would like to attend.

1939.2 Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Consultation on proposed changes – Clerk provided details of website link to submit comments.

1940 AOB

Wall Damage – RB reported that some wall damage had occurred following a large vehicle trying to reach Sandhill via Rattle Row. Damage has been reported to Highways.

Rodhuish Notice Board – Clerk reported that this had been damaged. CT to check if it is repairable.

1941 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

2nd December 2019, Monday 2nd March 2020, Annual Parish Assembly Wednesday 15th April 2020, Annual Council Monday 18th May 2020, Monday 31st August 2020, Monday 7th December 2020

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Signed _____
CHAIRMAN

Date _____

