

# WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC OPEN SESSION ON THE 2nd SEPTEMBER 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:

Chris Thomas (Acting Chairman) CT / Richard Barnham RB / Amanda Gardner AG/Steve Crossman SC /Peter Pilkington (Somerset West and Taunton Deane Council) PP / 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 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019. The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm. There were no members of the public.

### 1. District Councillor Report

Peter Pilkington introduced himself as the new ward councillor for the newly formed ward of Old Cleeve and District. He is currently portfolio holder for climate change on the new district council. Transformation to the new council is now complete. Not gone as smoothly as hoped but new CEO James Hassett driving things forward. There is a new computer system and online portal via which the public can now contact the Council. Sam Murrell and Becky Brown have taken on the role off Locality Managers and are a good point of contact for Parishes into the Council.

There is funding available for electric community charge points. This is being promoted around the parishes. There is a new corporate strategy going through and new local plan is being consulted on. Climate change is a Council priority and will be an overarching policy for the Council and Somerset.

### 2. County Councillor Report

Financial position is more settled and have been able to increase reserves. Awaiting announcement from central government on how much money will be received next year. Have been advised there will be more money for education.

CL concerned about potential closure of Porlock Fire Station and the knock on effect this will have on Minhead Fire Station. Although there are not fires in Porlock they are 1<sup>st</sup> caller response to elderly people around Porlock and surrounds and also they are frequently called upon for the moorland fire incidents.

SCC are building 6 new schools across the County with 2 specialist schools being built in Taunton.

Letter from Highways should be circulating soon regarding salting arrangements for the coming winter. Check that they are aware of the location of all salt bins in the parish. Clerk to follow up when letter received. (Sandrocks Lane).

The Public Open Session ended at 7.13pm.

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Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Date