

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Withycombe Parish Council meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 9th December 2020 at 7.00pm

This face to face meeting was managed within the COVID-19 secure guidelines produced by the Government.

PRESENT

Councillors: David Tilley, Chris Thomas, Richard Barnham, Steve Crossman, Amanda Gardiner

In attendance: S Rawle (Clerk), Steven Hansford, Silvie Kluzova

For future reference attendees will be referred to in these, and subsequent, minutes by their initials viz:

Chris Thomas CT, Stephen Crossman SC, Richard Barnham RB, Amanda Gardiner AJG, David Tilley DT, Sam Rawle (Clerk) SR.

The Meeting was digitally recorded

PARISH FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

Cllr Marcus Kravis had given his apologies and had provided the Clerk with a written update before the meeting and was happy to answer any questions arising from the report. The Clerk said she would circulate this to everyone.

1994 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

District Councillor Marcus Kravis

1995 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FROM CLLRS

None

1996 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS

Silvia Kuzova and Steven Hansford had expressed an interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council. There being no other nominations and on the proposal of DT seconded by SC, all agreed that Silvia Kluzova and Steven Hansford be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

1997 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

Parish Council Meeting held on 12th October 2020. Minutes agreed.

1998 PLANNING MATTERS

Applications – None received.

Decisions – None

1999 PRESENTATION OF FINANCES

1999.1 **Budget Monitoring Report:** A budget monitoring report to the end of November 2020 had already been circulated by email. The report was accepted. Titholes earmarked reserves £11,330. Free funds available as at 30th November 2020 = £20,637.

1999.2 **Bank Reconciliation Statement:** The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation up to 30th November 2020. The bank reconciliation statement agreed with bank statements and was signed by the Chairman, as an accurate record. Bank balances were:

➤ Account 95304622	£1,230.27
➤ Account 44356501	£30,789.22
Total	£32,019.49

1999.3 **The following payments were approved:**

1. S Rawle (Clerk) salary/expenses (July 2020-Dec 2020) £762.06
(Clerks hours had reduced her hours from 20 to 10 per month because of COVID and the reduction of meetings earlier in the year)
2. Withycombe Memorial Hall (contribution to Xmas Tree) £35.00

1999.4 **It was resolved to note payment of the following direct debit**

1. Information Commissioner Office Data Registration Renewal - £35.00

2000 **BUDGET/PRECEPT 2021-22**

The Clerk had circulated documents before the meeting which set out options for the parish precept for 2021-22. Councillors discussed the financial requirements of the Parish Council plus the impact of any rise on residents. The Clerk reminded Councillors that over the last 3 years the precept had risen to take account of extra costs related to the Titholes project. There would be a significant underspend in the budget this year as the Parish Council were still waiting for sign off of the lease for the project before the car park and play area were transferred to the Parish Council.

It was unanimously agreed that there should be a zero % increase in the precept for 2021-22. The Clerk explained that because of the change in the council tax base (average number of Band D properties) the sum received would be slightly reduced from 2020-21. There would be a reduction from £8073.00 to £8007.00.

Members RESOLVED that:

The precept for 2021-22 be set at £8007.00 and that the draft budget for the year be amended accordingly.

2001 **TITHOLES UPDATE – TO REPORT NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

The Clerk reported that she had recently received an email (already circulated) from Eric Bevan informing her that the draft lease had been sent out from Savills (Harry Gosling). The only changes related to definitions of areas and how they were coloured on the Lease Plan. As soon as the Parish Council confirm the Lease is accepted, Savills will request MHPF to issue the formal document. Eric Bevan suggested in his email that the Parish Council may wish to consider seeking further legal advice on the content of the lease.

The snagging issues are still outstanding and Savills are trying to find another contractor to do this. DT said that he would not be happy to sign the lease until the snagging issues were resolved.

CT asked whether there had been confirmation that any damage to the road after the houses were built would be made good. Nothing had been received in writing but verbally it had been confirmed that any damage would be rectified.

SC suggested that Eric Bevan be invited to update the new Councillors on the history of the project and a tour of the site. SC to arrange.

Councillors discussed the lease and it was unanimously agreed to accept the latest draft. Clerk instructed to write to Harry Gosling at Savills and confirm acceptance of the lease by the Parish Council.

2001 HIGHWAYS UPDATES

Salt Bins – These have been topped up. Dumpy bags of salt have been positioned half way along the Higher Rodhuish Rd. No salt at Rodhuish Cross.

Wall Repairs – Still no progress with repairs to the walls along Lower Street. Clerk to chase Highways again and copy in Somerset County Cllr Christine Lawrence.

Drains – CT reported that there was a large accumulation of leaf litter around the drains at Felons Oak. Clerk to contact District Council to see if a road sweep can be arranged.

Street Light – The replacement lamp that has been put in outside 3 Buck Hill is extremely bright. Clerk asked to contact Magna to see if a dimmer one could be put in.

2002 FREE TREES FROM SOMERSETWEST&TAUNTON

These have been delivered. SC to contact Paul Storey in New Year to plant them in.

2003 DEFIBRILLATOR

RB asked for progress on purchasing a defibrillator. The Clerk said that she had looked into available grants and grant funders had been paused because of the Covid pandemic. It was felt that the Parish Council had sufficient funds to lease a defibrillator through the South West Ambulance 4 year arrangement. This provided the unit/cabinet/replacement batteries and annual training for four years. Clerk instructed to contact SWAST and progress.

2004 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Monday 1st March 2021, Annual Parish Assembly Wednesday 14th April 2021, Annual Council Monday 24th May 2020, Monday 6th September 2021, Monday 6th December 2021

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

Signed _____
CHAIRMAN

Date _____