

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Withycombe Parish Council extraordinary meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Monday 10th January 2022 at 7.00pm

These are the draft minutes of the re-scheduled meeting from 10th December which could not proceed as the meeting was inquorate.

THESE MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT FC MEETING

PRESENT

Councillors: Steven Hansford (Chairman), Chris Thomas, Stephen Crossman, Richard Barnham

In attendance: S Rawle (Clerk)

No members of the public were present.

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, Steven Hansford SH, Marcus Karvis MK (SW&T), Stephen Griffiths SG (SW&T), Christine Lawrence (Somerset County Council) CL, Sam Rawle (Clerk) SR.

The Meeting was digitally recorded

2042 **APOLOGIES**

Cllrs Kravis (SW&T) and Cllr Griffiths (SW&T), Cllr Christine Lawrence (SCC)

2043 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**

None

2037 **TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS**

Parish Council Meeting held on 6th Septemehr 2021. The minutes were agreed by all in attendance.

2040 **PLANNING MATTERS**

Applications received/approved:

Decisions: 3/41/17/003 – Titholes Orchard, Withycombe – Variation of condition of planning application.

Cllrs Hansford & Barnham has made objections through the SW&T planning portal. The Clerk confirmed she had lodged an objection on behalf of Withycombe Parish Council.

Cllr Crossman suggested that it would be a good idea to also write to the ward councillors and Chair of Planning.

RB asked a question about the pull in area in front of the houses. Agreed to monitor the situation before acting further. CT asked a question about lighting in the car park. RB said that the original working group agreed that there would not be lighting.

2041 FINANCES

2041.1 **Bank Reconciliation Statement** – The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation up to 30th November 2021. The bank reconciliation agreed with bank statements and was signed by the Chairman, as an accurate record. Bank balances were:-

• Account 95304622	£2823.14
• Account 44356501	£30,789.81
Total	£33,612.95

2029 PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL

The following accounts for payment were approved:

1. Donation for Christmas Tree (Memorial Hall)	£30.00
2. IS OK Design (Website hosting & domain)	£116.35
3. Clerks Salary & Expenses & Home Allowance	£965.92

It was noted that the Clerks payment included re-imbursement of payments to Amazon (defibrillator headtorch £16.14), P Lindstrand (grounds maintenance of Titholes area £150.00), MHPF (annual rent £1.00).

The issuing of the DD payment for £35 to the Information Commissioners Office was noted.

2030 BUDGET & PRECEPT 2022/21

The Clerk had circulated documents prior to the meeting which set out options for the precept together with a draft budget 2022-23. The budget had been drafted on a zero percent increase in the precept. Councillors discussed at length the future requirements of the parish including Titholes, Millennium projects and village assets including the ring fencing of a reserve fund for keeping village assets in good repair. It was felt that an increase in the precept was not required for the coming year. SC reminded Cllrs that a reducing tax base would result in less income coming to the parish. This should be taken into account when considering whether or not to increase the precept. He said that as there had been some recent new development in the parish recently this should increase the council tax base.

Proposed by SC, seconded by CT and unanimously agreed that the precept for 2022-23 be set at £7'983.00 (zero increase).

The draft budget was agreed by all.

2031 TITHOLES ORCHARD UPDATE

Playground Quotes – A quote had been received by one playground installer. A second playground installer would be visiting the site in the next few weeks to advise on options. The Clerk explained that the surface made up 40% of the costs. SC urged the committee to keep in mind that the surface was crucial and would ensure longevity of any equipment installed on the play area

Signage Update – The public liability sign had been installed. Cllrs discussed options for the car park entry sign. The Clerk was asked to contact West Country Blacksmiths to make

enquiries of the cost of a forged metal sign. Ownership of the wall on the righthand side was discussed as this was in a need of repair.

Other – RB advised Cllrs that he had asked Per Lindstrand to clear the footpath from Titholes to the bench and to the wood. The path has been improved with installation of two extra steps.

2032 VILLAGE ASSETS

WI Bench – RB had observed that the bench was becoming rickety and could consideration be given to this being replaced. The Clerk reminded Cllrs that the bench was not currently a parish council asset and that the parish council would need to pass a resolution to formally adopt the bench. RB said that the local WI had become Women of Withycombe which was sadly not longer in existence. He felt that it was unlikely that the parish would receive a donation from the WI on a national basis.

Proposed by RB, seconded by SC and agreed by all that the WI bench be adopted as a village asset.

Clerk will update asset register and RB will make enquiries about a replacement bench.

Other benches – The other benches were discussed. It was felt that as these were memorial benches, it should be up to individuals/families to replace. RB would seek clarity regarding the bench in Combe Lane.

Millenium projects

SH had received an email from Mr Adams providing an appraisal of the Millennium projects – tree ring and seats.

Bench on Withycombe Hill – The one remaining bench was now inaccessible because of scrub growth. The landowner had given permission for a new bench in a new position. It was felt that a simple bench, solid uprights and a top would be agreeable.

Proposed by SC, seconded by RB agreed by all that quotes be obtained for a new bench.

Beacon Site – SH said that the beacon was very overgrown with scrub and gorse. RB recalled that he thought English Nature may have done it in the past. Enquiries would need to be made regarding the land ownership and permissions.

Beech Trees – The 3 new trees planted last year were established and doing well thanks to volunteers in the parish who had been watering them. The original tree guards around 14 of the trees needed attention. The Clerk will organise a quote and liase with Mr Adams.

Proposed by RB, seconded by CT that quotes be obtained for replacement of tree surrounds/guards.

Rodhuish noticeboard – Clerk reported that this was in a bad state of repair. RB will speak to Neil Steadman as he had made the Memorial Hall noticeboard.

2032 HIGHWAYS UPDATES

No updates.

2034 **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The following dates for 2022 were agreed: -
7th March, 23rd May, 5th September, 5th December
Parish Assembly – 14 April 2022

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed _____
CHAIRMAN

Date _____