

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Withycombe Parish Council meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Monday 7th March 2022 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors: Steven Hansford (Chairman), Claire Huish, Stephen Crossman, Richard Barnham

In attendance: S Rawle (Clerk), Cllr S Griffiths (SW&T), Cllr M Kravis (SW&T)
3 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

PUBLIC FORUM

3 Members of the public attended. Questions were raised regarding the allocation of the Tithole Orchard affordable to buy property. The member of the public did not feel that the correct policy had been followed as the property had never been for sale on the open market. Questions were also raised regarding progress of the childrens play area. A copy of the letter sent by the resident to a Planning Officer was left with the Clerk.

2062 APOLOGIES

Cllr C Thomas, Cllr Christine Lawrence (SCC)

2063 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

None

2064 CO-OPTION OF NEW CLLR

Claire Huish had expressed an interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council. There being no other nominations and on the proposal of SC seconded by RB, all agreed that Claire Huish be co-opted onto the Parish Council. CH signed the acceptance of office form and participated in the rest of the meeting.

2065 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

Parish Council Meeting held on 10th January 2022. The minutes, previously circulated, were agreed by all in attendance.

2066 REPORT FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT CLLRS

REPORT FROM SCC WARD CLLR C LAWRENCE:

Cllr Lawrence sent her apologies for being unable to attend but had provided a written report to the council which had been circulated by the Clerk

REPORT FROM SWT WARD CLLRS M KRAVIS & S GRIFFITHS

Cllrs Kravis and Griffiths reported on current matters of interest including formation of new town council for the unparished areas of Taunton; 18th March deadline for Omicron business support grants; merging services and staff retention in preparation for Unitary; Climate Change Strategy; uplift of Hinkley C workforce and its impact on housing; challenges with identification of employment land for big business premises and need to restart the Local Area Panels.

2067 **PLANNING MATTERS**

Applications received/approved:

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

2068 **FINANCES**

2055.1 **Bank Reconciliation Statement** – The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation up to 28th February 2022. The bank reconciliation agreed with bank statements and was signed by the Chairman, as an accurate record. Bank balances were:-

• Account 95304622	£1,463.84
• Account 44356501	£30,790.60
Total	£32,254.44

2069 **PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL**

The following accounts for payment were approved:

1. Withycombe Memorial Hall (Hall Hire)	£60.00
2. Clerks Salary & Expenses & Home Allowance	£932.39

It was noted that the Clerks payment included re-imbusement of payments to DHF Products (aluminium car park sign), P Lindstrand (grounds maintenance of Titholes area and adjoining footpath £86.88).

The following urgent payment that had already been made was ratified:-

1. Amicus Law – Titholes Lease land registry work	£278.20
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2070 **TITHOLES ORCHARD UPDATE**

Playground Quotes – The Clerk was waiting for a quote and design from Wicksteed following a recent visit. SC brought CH up to date with the history of the site. He said that one of the key elements was the drainage on the area. Although, the car park drainage had been improved as part of the construction the play area was very wet because of lack of drainage and the topography of the adjacent land. Even with a good surface covering this would not remedy the situation. SH felt that whatever as per suggestion of Wicksteed that the Council should proceed with the installation of a French Drain.

The Clerk suggested that Cllrs may wish to set up a working group comprising of Cllrs and villagers to move the project forward and to come up with options and ideas for playarea equipment. The Committee agreed that a working group be set up.

Clerk and CH to liase and set up working group. It was agreed that the working groups terms of reference would be to carry out a consultation with the community, make suggestions for a surface and design and report back to the Parish Council.

Signage Update – An aluminium die cast sign had been ordered from a supplier. The Clerk had been awaiting the design to be emailed across which she will then circulate.

2071 VILLAGE ASSETS

WI Bench – RB had been investigating possible replacements and had found a similar bench circa £320.00. An engraved plaque would be extra. It was agreed to proceed with purchase of the replacement bench.

Millenium projects

Benches on Withycombe Hill – SH had made enquiries to the cost of railway sleepers from a local supplier. 8ft sleepers would be circa £26.

Beech Trees on Withycombe Hill – Clerk waiting for contractor to make a visit to Withycombe Hill to price the work. Will report back once quote received.

2072 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Clerk reported that Parish Council and County elections are to be held on 5th May 2022. The Clerk had been sent Parish Council Nomination forms. There are 7 available seats on Withycombe Parish Council. The clerk circulated the nomination forms to those councillors present. Nomination forms needed to be delivered by hand to Somerset West and Taunton Council no later than 5th April 2022.

2073 PARISH ASSEMBLY

The date for the Parish Assembly was discussed. There were two options the 14 April or the 27 April. The 27 April was agreed as a suitable date. Clerk to make necessary arrangements.

2074 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The following dates for 2022 were agreed: -
7th March, 23rd May, 5th September, 5th December
Parish Assembly – 27 April 2022

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed _____
CHAIRMAN

Date _____