

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Withycombe Parish Council meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Monday 25th July 2022 at 7.00pm

These minutes are DRAFT until approved at the next Full Council meeting.

PRESENT

Councillors: Claire Thrush, Kerrie Thorne, Stephen Crossman

In attendance: S Rawle (Clerk)
4 Members of the Public

PUBLIC FORUM

Two members of the public raised objections regarding the proposed design of the play area. Concerns were voiced regarding the 'clatterbridge' and the noise implications. Concern was raised of the play tower and it was questioned whether this was aesthetically pleasing and in keeping with the surrounding area. Mrs Speakman a member of the working group explained that the bridge was not a rigid structure and the noise implications would be minimal. Cllr Thorne further added that the materials used would be timber and over time the timber would weather and blend into the surroundings.

It was reported that there was a tree down along the right of way footpath to the wood and that other trees in the wood required attention. Cllr Crossman said he would make some enquiries about the woodland maintenance; in regard to the footpath this was SCC Rights of Way responsibility. He said that 'report my street' on the SCC website was the best way to raise a problem requiring attention.

2107 APOLOGIES

Cllr Thomas, Cllr Barnham Cllr Kravis (SW&T) & Cllr Lawrence (SCC)

2108 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

2109 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

Council Meeting held on 27th June, 2022. The minutes, previously circulated, were agreed.

2110 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Further to the resignation of Cllr Hansford, and after discussion Cllr Thorne was duly elected as Chairman.

2111 REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT CLLRS

Apologies had been received.

2112 BANK RECONCILIATION UP TO 1st JULY

1 **Bank Reconciliation Statement** – The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation up to 1st July 2022. The bank reconciliation agreed with bank statements and was signed by the Chairman, as an accurate record. Bank balances were:-

- Account 95304622 £2,025.30
- Account 44356501 £36,332.49

Total

£38,357.79

2115 BUDGET MONITORING

The Clerk referred Cllrs to the report circulated. She explained that the £9,000 transfer from general reserves to ear-marked reserves as agreed at the June meeting was reflected in the report. Public donations had also been transferred into the ear-marked reserves. The Titholes earmarked reserve fund stood at £21,880.
The budget monitoring report was noted.

2116 INCOME RECEIVED

Donations were noted from Mrs Ruddy of £100.00 and Withycombe Wheels £200.00. These funds would be transferred to the Play Area EMR.

2117 BANK SIGNATORIES & ONLINE BANKING

Following Cllr Hansford departure the Clerk asked for another Cllr to act as an additional signatory on the account. Cllr Thorne said she would be happy to be a signatory on the parish council bank accounts. This was unanimously agreed.

2118 AUGUST FETE – WMH CASH FLOAT

WMH had offered to provide the cash floats for the August fundraising fete event. This was noted and agreed.+

2101 TITHOLES PLAY AREA/COMMUNITY AREA

Play Area Fence Options – Cllr Thorne presented the various options for the fencing. After discussion it was felt that timber picket was the preferable option as it would be more in keeping with the surrounds. It was agreed to remove the bank fence to allow for an embankment slide and to picket fence the L shape car park side and Squirrels boundary. None of the quotes provided for installation, Cllr Crossman will look into this prior to purchasing of materials.

Proposed: CT

Seconded: SC

Unanimously agreed in principal to install timber picket fence on the area discussed. Materials to be sourced from B Fowler timber supplies.

Play Equipment Quotes – The working group had spent many hours looking at the various options. It had been a mammoth task and wished for it to be minuted that Emma Wright from the working group and Cllr Thrush had spent hours of their time gathering information on the various options available. Cllr Thrush and Emma were thanked for their hardwork and commitment to the project. Cllr Thorne had put this into a report that she had circulated to Cllrs. She went through the various quotes received and the pros and cons of the different options available. Three quotes had been obtained on each individual piece of equipment. After due consideration it was agreed to proceed with the quotation with Darrens Den. The quote included grass mats, installation and post installation safety inspections.

Proposed: CT

Seconded: KT

Unanimously agreed to select Darrens Den as the preferred supplier and installer.

Update on grant applications – A grant of £2,500 had been received from the CCF Somerset Fund and £7,500 from National Lottery

Update on improved access path to community/play area – The logs were now in place around the perimeter of the car park. A suggestion was made on purchasing a bag of self bounding gravel and to test on the area to see if the surface could be improved.

Update on bench/picnic table requirements – Withycombe Memorial Hall had offered to purchase one standard bench and two standard picnic tables. These would remain the property of the Memorial Hall. Mr Cottrell has nearly completed refurbishment of the donated bench. It was agreed to look at purchasing two further standard benches. Cllr Thorne will look at what is available.

Update on dog bin and charges for collection – The Clerk had received a prices for emptying of dog waste bin from IdVerde.

It was agreed to purchase a dog bin for the car park area with a fortnightly collection provided by Id Verde. A discussion was held regarding the siting of a bin in Combe Lane.

The decision would be deferred to the next meeting so that permissions could be checked for the location of a bin in Combe Lane before agreeing to proceed.

2102 WITHYCOMBE HILL

The Clerk to check if Neil Burnett had been instructed to proceed with the work. She will contact Steven Hansford.

2106 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Monday 5th September.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed _____
CHAIRMAN

Date _____