

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Withycombe Parish Council meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Monday 5th September 2022 at 7.00pm

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

PRESENT

Councillors: Claire Thrush, Kerrie Thorne, Stephen Crossman, Richard Barnham

In attendance: S Rawle (Clerk), Cllr S Griffiths SW&T, Cllr M Kravis SW&T
1 Member of the Public

PUBLIC FORUM

A question was raised by a member of the public concerning village entry speed signage. There was currently no speed limit through the village and no pavements for pedestrians. It was asked if the parish council would consider investigating the displaying of a 'please drive carefully through our village'

2122 APOLOGIES

Cllr Thomas, Cllr Lawrence (SCC)

2123 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

2124 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

The Minutes of the last meeting on 25th July had not been circulated to all Cllrs. These would be approved at the next meeting.

2125 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Thorne asked for nominations for the role of Vice Chair. On the proposal of Cllr Crossman, seconded by Cllr Thorne, Cllr Barnham was elected as Vice Chair.

2126 REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT CLLRS

SCC - Cllr Lawrence had sent a written report to the Clerk.

SW&T – Cllr Griffiths reported that a new hardship fund for low income families has been launched and will be administered by CAB. E-Scooter trail survey – the trial has been extended to May 2024 and the public are encouraged to complete the survey with their views on the pilot. Funding for electric vehicle charge points is still available up to £1500 match funded.

Cllr Kravis reported that the Local Community Network consultation will commence from 5th September and will run for 6 weeks. The consultation on the Council Tax Support scheme for the new Unitary Authority has been launched. There will be a Climate Change summit on 21st September to help Somerset businesses become more sustainable because of the cost of living crisis. There is a major issue with the recruitment of qualified Planning Officers and the service is having to rely on agency staff.

The Chair thanked the District Councillors for their reports.

2127 PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications received:

Application 6/41/22/01 – Land to the north of Fernbank, Sandrocks Lane

Proposed erection of double garage and workshop to be used in conjunction with Fernbank.

There were no comments in relation to this application.

2128 FINANCES

2128.1 **Bank Reconciliation to 31st August 2022** – The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation up to 31st August 2022. The bank reconciliation agreed with bank statements and was signed by the Chairman, as an accurate record. Bank balances were:-

• Account 95304622	£12,951.01
• Account 44356501	£21,612.46
Total	£34,563.47

2128.2 **Budget Monitoring to 31st August 2022** – The report previously circulated was **NOTED**. The Clerk was asked to provide an accurate of position of the earmarked reserves before the next meeting.

2128.3 **The following payments were approved for payment:-**

1. S Rawle (Clerk) salary/expenses (July-September 2022)	£769.98
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2128.4 **The following payments that had already been made were ratified:-**

1. P. Lindstrand (Grounds Maintenance 5 visits)	£170.00
2. Darrens Den – play equipment installation	£14,275.10
3. Darrens Den – fencing and drainage	£2,075.00
4. MHPF – annual lease charge	£1.00

2128.5 **Income received was noted:-**

Lottery Grant (play area)	£7,500.00
Somerset Community Foundation Grant (play area)	£2,500.00
VAT reclaim 2021/22	£476.15
Fete	£1945.00
Donation from MG Nicholls (play area)	£25.00
Donation from D Goddard (play area)	£25.00
Donation from C&D Halsey (play area)	£50.00
Total	£12,521.15

2129 WITHYCOMBE FETE FUNDRAISER

The fete held on 6th August had been a huge success and had raised £1945.00. Cllr Thorne wished to express her thanks to the many local people and businesses who had donated prizes as well as everyone who gave their time to make the day such a success.

2130 TITHOLES PLAY AREA/COMMUNITY AREA

Play Area – The fencing was scheduled to be installed mid September and play equipment early October. Installation will take around 2 weeks. Supplier will organise the first compliance sign off. The clatter bridge has been replaced with a wobble bridge following concerns raised by residents of noise.

Waste Bin – There was discussion concerning provision of a waste bin. It was asked whether there was an option to re-locate the litter bin in Lower Street. The Clerk advised that this was currently a SW&T provided service and by re-locating the litter bin onto Parish Council owned land the emptying of the bin would need to be arranged and paid for by the Parish Council.

Signage – Cllr Thorne asked Cllrs their thoughts on signage for the play area. It was felt that a sign acknowledging all the donators to the project should be looked into. There was already a disclaimer sign on the car park fence and Cllr Crossman felt that this was sufficient. The issue of the village entry sign as raised in the public forum was discussed. Cllr Crossman said that he recalled a speed monitoring exercise carried out some years ago and nothing was recorded over 20mph. The Clerk was asked to look back on previous minutes to check further on the matter. It was agreed to defer the matter of all signage to the next meeting.

Benches – Cllr Barnham reported that the Memorial Hall Committee had agreed to purchase 2 picnic benches. The replacement WI bench was discussed. Clerk advised that as this had been agreed to be adopted as a village asset the parish council should purchase the bench as previously agreed and reclaim the VAT. A further bench was to be renovated by Bryan Cottrell and donated by Emma Wright. The Community Bench to be provided by Nick Speakman was discussed. The materials would be in the region of £2,000. Cllr Thorne felt that the Council were not in the position to vote on the matter at that time until the position on the financial reserves were more certain.

Wildflower Bank – Cllr Crossman reported that the soil in the area needed to be loosened before planting. Cllr Crossman agreed to cultivate the top terrace ready for wildflower seed to be sown in the autumn.

2132 PROVISION OF DOG BINS

Regarding siting of a dog bin in Combe Lane, Cllr Thorne reported she was waiting to meet with Nick Kelly to ascertain land ownership in the area.

2133 WITHYCOMBE HILL

Cllr Crossman was in possession of the bench materials and tree stacks. He would liaise with Neil Burnett to carry out the work.

2134 HIGHWAYS UPDATES

Clerk reported she had been contacted by Highways concerning replenishing of salt bins. She asked that Cllrs checked the bins nearest to them and let her know if any needed topping up.

2135 ROW UPDATES

Cllr Thomas had reported to the Clerk a complaint he had received regarding overgrown hedges on the lower part of Greenlands Lane. This area was in the ENP. The Clerk to follow up.

2137 VILLAGE ASSETS UPDATES

This matter had been covered in previous items. Nothing further to report.

2138 SW&T OFFER FREE TREES

It was decided that given the Parish Council would be receiving a delivery of trees from the Woodland Trust offer there were no further requirements for the time being.

2139 CLERKS VACANCY

The Clerk reported that an individual had made an enquiry re the vacancy. She was awaiting further details from the interested party.

2140 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETIN

Communication with residents

2141 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Monday 7th November.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed _____
CHAIRMAN

Date _____