

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Withycombe Parish Council meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Monday 6th March 2023 at 7.00pm

Minutes are draft until approved at the next Full Council meeting on Monday 15th May

PRESENT

Councillors: Kerrie Thorne, Claire Huish, Stephen Crossman, Richard Barnham, Chris Thomas

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

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions or contributions from the public therefore the Chair opened the main Council meeting.

2192 APOLOGIES

Cllr Wintermantle, Cllr Hall, Cllr Griffiths (SW&T)

2193 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

2194 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9th JANUARY 2023

Minutes of meeting held on 9th January 2023 having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record.

2195 REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT CLLRS

Update from Cllr Lawrence

Cllr Lawrence congratulated the Parish Council on the play area.

No smoking day is 8th March. The Council Plan for the new Unitary Authority is now available and a copy can be obtained by ringing 03001232224. The B3191 Watchet coast road is indefinitely closed and electric gates have been installed. Police have urged people not to walk in the area. Government have been approached for funding to remedy the situation. Work on the A39 Porlock road starting next week and the A39 cycle path work is behind schedule due to the removal of the traffic lights at weekends during the first phase of the works.

Update from Cllr Kravis

2023/24 Budget for new unitary council has been set. 28M budgeted for adult social care, 90M budgeted for childrens services. New council constitution has been passed and committees set up. There will be 4 area based planning committees covering the 4 old district council areas. A consultation on school term dates can be found online.

Cllr Barnham asked questions regarding the slow response in dealing with Highway repairs and gave the works outside Court Place Farm as an example. He also raised questions about the effectiveness of the new LCNs and how Parish Councils could have greater influence on planning decisions.

2196 ACTIONS & ON-GOING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Village Entry Signs – Clerk had not received a response from Traffic Management regarding possibility of rumble strips.

Rodhuish Bus Shelter – Cllr Thomas kindly offered to arrange for the bus shelter to be re-roofed and fitted out with seats to enable it to be returned to use as a bus shelter for the school bus. It would need to be discussed with the school transport provider regarding the change of location for pick up as this was currently at the junction of Stoates Way. Clerk will make contact with school transport provider.

2197 PLANNING

No applications to report.

The Clerk had received notification from ENP that application for Little Acres, Brendon Hill had gone to appeal.

2198 FINANCES

2198.1 **Bank Reconciliation to 28th February 2023** – The bank reconciliation agreed with bank statements and was signed by the Chairman, as an accurate record. Bank balances were:-

• Account 95304622	£7098.25
• Account 44356501	£16,669.43
Total	£23,767.68

2198.2 **Budget Monitoring to 28th February 2023** – The report previously circulated was **NOTED**.

2198.3 **Income received was noted:-**

Donation from Charities Aid Foundation	£50.00
HMRC (VAT)	£5522.53

2198.4 **The following payments were approved:-**

1. SRawle (Clerks net salary+expenses) Jan-March	£390.30
2. HMRC tax on Clerks salary	£434.28
3. Reimbursement to Clerk for Building Materials etc	£591.90
4. Memorial Hall – Hall Hire 2022/23	£80.00

Proposed by Cllr Barnham, seconded by Cllr Thomas and unanimously agreed that the accounts for payment be approved.

2199 PLAY AREA AND AMENITY UPDATE

Cllr Thorne provided an update.

Play Area – Weather permitting the installer was due to visit the site the next day.

Access Path – The gravel has been scraped from the surface and it is hoped that this will help access by pushchairs and wheelchair users.

Trees – Cllr Thorne in contact with Cllr Wintermantle to progress tree planting. She reported that she has put in an application for some orchard trees from Thatchers.

Wildflower Meadow – Cllr Crossman will have access to a rotavator so will have a go at rotavating an area of the top terrace in the next 2 weeks.

Other Ideas moving forward:-

Community Bench – materials only, cost of which would be circa £2k

Cllr Thorne said that a bench was required within the play area itself and this could be located to the left of the gate. There was a discussion concerning the on-going communication with residents and benefits of a noticeboard in a central and visible location. The Clerk said she would be happy to put more content onto the website if Councillors sent this through.

2200 FUNDING UPDATE

Magna Housing – Cllr Thorne reported that she had been in communication with Magna Housing and that they have kindly agreed to fund a sensory play panel and a chunky

noughts and crosses. They will also fund materials for 10 bug hotels, 5 bird box kits and 2 butterfly homes.

Tesco – The Parish Council have been awarded £1,000 from the Bags of Help Scheme. Councillors thanked all the supporters who had donated their blue tokens towards the play equipment project and Magna Housing. Cllr Huish was thanked by all for applying for the grant on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Thorne said that she had been approached by some parishioners who had suggested installation of gym equipment on the amenity area.

Cllr Crossman said that he would like to thank the Playground Mum's group and Kerrie for all her hard work, determination and commitment in bringing the play area to fruition. Cllr Thorne said that she would like to thank Claire and the other playground Mums for everything they have done.

2201 CARPARK ENTRANCE – WALL REPAIR

The Clerk reported that following on from the last meeting she and Cllr Thorne had met with the contractor on site who had confirmed that the capping work for the top of the wall would be an additional £500.

The Clerk had also attempted to gain further quotes but had been unsuccessful as the organisations contacted already had a full diary for several months in advance. As the wall was in such a dilapidated state, she recommended on engaging the contractor as soon as possible as the situation now posed a health and safety risk to the Council.

It was agreed by all to instruct the contractor to commence the works as soon as possible.

2202 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Proposed by Cllr Barnham, seconded by Cllr Thomas to appoint the services of Mr A Giles to carry out the 2022/23 year end audit. Agreed by all.

2203 ADOPTION OF SOMERSET CODE OF CONDUCT

Proposed by Cllr Barnham, seconded by Cllr Thomas to adopt the new Somerset Code of Conduct. Agreed by all.

2204 DOG WASTE BINS

Post had kindly been donated by Barry Fowler fencing supplies. Clerk will arrange with builder to cement post in whilst on site.

2205 WITHYCOMBE HILL

Cllr Crossman confirmed that he has 2 benches which will need setting in the ground. Work required to the beech trees involves removal of 10 tree guards and repair and strengthening of an additional 7. It is envisaged it will be around 2 days work. The original contractor is no longer available. Clerk will make some enquiries

2206 PARISH ASSEMBLY

After lengthy discussion it was agreed that the Annual Parish Assembly be held on Tuesday 25th April subject to hall availability.

2207 HIGHWAY & ROW UPDATES

Nothing to report.

2208 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Play Area/Amenity Area Updates

2209 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Annual Parish Assembly Tuesday, 25th April, Annual Meeting Monday 15th May, Monday 3rd July, Monday 4th September, Monday 6th November

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed _____
CHAIRMAN

Date _____

DRAFT