

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Withycombe Parish Council meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Monday 15th May 2023 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors: Kerrie Thorne (Chairman), Claire Huish, Paul Wintermantel, Richard Barnham, Robert Hall, Chris Thomas

In attendance: S Rawle (Clerk)

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

2210 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Cllr Barnham proposed Cllr Thorne. Seconded by Cllr Thomas. There were no further nominations. Cllr Thorne was duly elected as Chairman.

Cllr Thorne signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk & Councillors.

2211 APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies had been received from Cllr Crossman. There were no declarations of interest in respect of any of the agenda items.

2212 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Cllr Thorne asked for nominations. Cllr Thomas proposed Cllr Barnham, seconded by Cllr Wintermantle. Cllr Barnham was duly elected as Vice Chairman.

2213 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

Parish Council Meeting held on 6th March 2023. The minutes, previously circulated, were agreed.

2214 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Rodhuish bus stop – Cllr Thomas said that the roof needed some repairs, otherwise the bus stop could start to be used as the school pick up/drop off point. The Clerk would make enquiries with Somerset Council, School Transport to arrange for the change of location.

2215 FINANCES

2215.1 **Bank Reconciliation Statement** – The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation up to 31st March 2023. The bank reconciliation agreed with bank statements and was signed by the Chairman, as an accurate record. Bank balances were:-

• Account 95304622	£5,367.47
• Account 44356501	£16,683.59
Total	£22,051.06

2215.2 **Budget Monitoring** – The Clerk explained the end of year reserves position. Play/Community Area - £9950. Asset Maintenance - £3,000. General Reserves - £9049. The budget monitoring report was noted.

Income received:

It was noted that the following income had been received:-
Parish Precept - £9,000

2216 **RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS 2023**

The Clerk presented the reports. She explained that they would form part of the AGAR 2022-23. The report was noted.

2217 **ASSET REGISTER**

The number of bus shelters was amended to 3. The Asset Register was approved.

2218 **INSURANCE QUOTE 2023**

The annual insurance quote had been received from Zurich Municipal. It had been updated to include the play equipment and additional assets. Cllr Barnham thought the Parish Council should enter into the 3 year deal. Proposed by Cllr Barnham and seconded by Cllr Wintermantle to agree to a 3 year deal with Zurich Municipal.

2219 **PARISH ASSEMBLY – UPDATE ON CONSULTATION**

Cllr Thorne gave an update on the Play and Amenity Space consultation. The four options consulted on were gym equipment, community bench, community noticeboard and sculpture/art installation. A total of 10 flyers were returned as well as several emails, messages and comments during the Annual Parish Assembly meeting meeting. The results are summarised below:-

Option	Total Score	Rank (lowest score wins)
Gym Equipment	33	4
Community Bench	30	3
Notice Board	23	1
Sculpture or art installation	27	2

Comments had been made that any further addition to the area should put on hold until it was established how well used the area would be. Cllr Barnham felt this would be sensible and Cllr Wintermantle supported that approach and said that the priority should be to get the play area finished off and open.

2220 **PLAY AREA/AMENITY UPDATE**

The site has now dried out and the soil settled down. The installer is due to come next week to lay topsoil, reseed and install the matting. A bench will be re-located to the play area. The grass seed will need to take and safety inspection carried out before the area can be finally open to the public. The Clerk was asked to chase up progress on the sensory panels. Tree planting took place in April and the wildflower meadow has been sprayed off. A potted bamboo plant and potted cypress had kindly been offered by a resident. It was felt that the area should continue to follow the native planting theme. Question was raised regarding Myra's Wood and the plastic tree gardens. Check with Cllr Crossman whether this is still a permissive path.

2221 **HIGHWAY/ROW UPDATES**

Cllr Thomas reported that articulate lorries had ripped the stone wall bank out at the turning at Golsoncott House. A sign was required at Golsoncott to sign post lorries straight onto Felons Oak. Clerk to follow up.

2222 **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

3rd July 2023 – Sign off of Annual Accounts 2022/23

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Signed _____
CHAIRMAN

Date _____