

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Withycombe Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 19th November 2025 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors: Richard Barnham (Chairman), Paul Wintermantle, Claire Huish, Rob Hall, Steve Crossman.

In attendance: S Rawle (Clerk), Sgt Andy Gloyn & Neighbourhood Supervisor Katherine Williams

There were 14 members of the public in attendance.

2450 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Tydeman, Cllrs Kravis & Strom,

2451 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM CLLRS

None.

2452 ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Chairman opened the meeting and provided a resume of the current situation and the events that had led to the Parish Council calling for an extra ordinary meeting that evening.

He said that in the public forum part of the Parish Council meeting on the 3rd November, residents from Meadow Cottages had attended voicing their concerns in relation to the ASB and dangerous driving emanating from one particular property. The Parish Council had reported the communities concerns to Magna Housing, Somerset Council and the MP. Rachel Gilmour. At the Parish Council meeting on the 3rd November parish councillors decided to call an extra ordinary meeting to specifically discuss the ASB and dangerous driving and to discuss resolutions with partner agencies. Residents had also called their own meeting with the two ward members, Cllrs Kravis and Strom. Cllr Strom had offered to be a conduit for complaints.

The Chairman reported that Craig Monks the Community Safety Officer for Magna had been to the village at least 3 times recently and he had met with him to discuss the issues. He said that Craig was a good contact and was the route into Magna if residents needed to report activities Residents could also report issues and problems to Cllr Strom including welfare issues concerning children.

The Chairman opened the floor to the public.

Members of the public said that they had concerns with the roadworthiness of the vehicle and the speed at which it was being driven. The vehicle had a defective exhaust system and worn tyres. The vehicle was seen to leave and return to the village at high speed up to 8 times a day. There were concerns for the safety of pedestrians especially as there are no pavements in Withycombe. Residents also reported disturbances throughout the night, shouting, arguments and such like. At this point the Chairman invited Police colleagues in attendance to respond.

Sgt Andy Gloyn introduced himself and Neighbourhood Supervisor Katherine Williams. He apologised for not being able to attend the previous parish council meeting. He outlined how the Neighbourhood Beat team operate. Withycombe comes under the Watchet and Williton Neighbourhood team. Neighbourhood teams deal with community issues, public

facing areas and work closely with communities and partner agencies. There was a 24/7 response service which operated from Williton and responded to more significant issues.

Sgt Gloyn explained that ASB had a broad definition and included noise nuisance and driving erratically, this needed to be captured on a dash cam or video for evidence. A section 59 notice could be issued to a driver as a warning if a car was being used in an anti social manner and allowing seizure if it happened again within 12 months. He said that in respect of the incidents occurring in Withycombe, 3 intelligence reports had been reported going back to December 2023. Other numerous incidents had been reported and collated. Patrols had increased around the neighbourhood at different times of the day and other measures had been put in place which Sgt Gloyn said he hoped residents would soon see an improvement, although he was unable to go into detail. He said that there was continued collaboration and on-going discussion with Craig Monks at Magna and Cllr Strom.

Cllr Crossman said that he was surprised to hear that only 2-3 crimes had been reported spanning a period since the end of 2023. Sgt Gloyn went on to explain the reporting systems and the difference between 999 calls and 101 calls. Calls to 101 were classed as non emergency and would not result in a crime and intelligence report. Information from 101 calls were still gathered and acted on. Other questions were raised concerning the smoking of cannabis in a property and parking issues.

Andy and Kathryn stressed the importance of continuing to report incidents. Reports could be fed through Craig & Cara and also reported directly to the Neighbourhood Policing Team via the website www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/williton-and-watchet. Emails to the team were checked on a daily basis. Kathryn said that she regularly attended the Minehead and Watchet LCN meetings and was available half an hour before the start of the meeting if parish councillors needed to raise any concerns to her.

If someone was at risk of harm, including domestic violence, this should be reported via 999.

The Chairman thanked Andy and Katherine for their attendance and input.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed _____
CHAIRMAN

Date _____