

**MINUTES  
WITHAM FRIARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2015 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

<b>Present</b>	Fred Nicholls (Chairman)	FN
	Roy Featherstone	RF
	Will Sheppard	WS
	Richard Nickless	RN
	Colin Horstmann	CH
	Gregory Stevens (part meeting)	GS
<b>In attendance</b>	Anthea Brooks, Clerk	AB
	One member of the public	

**ACTIONS**

**1            EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES**

1.1           Emergency exits and procedures were explained

**2            PUBLIC ACCESS**

2.1           There were no items raised

**3            APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

3.1           No apologies for absence were recorded

**4            CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS**

4.1           The following new councillors were co-opted

- Richard Nickless, proposed RF, seconded WS
- Colin Horstmann, proposed FN, seconded RF
- Gregory Stevens, proposed FN, seconded RF

4.2           The Chairman welcomed the new members of the council. The Clerk will send copies of the Council policies to the new members.

**Clerk**

**5            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

5.1           There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation. The Clerk gave out Declarations of Registrable Interest for the new councillors to complete.

**6            MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 APRIL 2015**

6.1           The minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2015 were agreed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MARCH**

6.1 **Item 6.1 Bank Mandate** – The Clerk will obtain bank mandates for the new councillors to complete and visit the bank regarding RF’s mandate which has still not been confirmed although the forms have been returned. **Clerk**

6.2 **Item 6.2 Turbine Money**

6.2.1 The Clerk had received a reply from Distgen confirming that a sum of £3,749.13 would be available for Witham Friary this year.

6.2.2 The Clerk had obtained advice on whether the precept would be affected by the turbine money. SALC had advised that it was up to the Parish Council whether they reduced the precept because of the additional income and there is no legal requirement to do so. However if the money can be earmarked for a project that will benefit the parish then that would be a good idea.

6.2.3 A discussion took place on the use of the funds and two projects were itemised. The first being the village hall and the second the possibility of improving broadband in the village.

6.2.4 Earlier in the year the Council had received information about a scheme for providing better broadband facilities to isolated villages and the Clerk agreed to contact this group for further information on the project. **Clerk**

6.3 **Item 6.4 – Gift for outgoing clerk** – it was noted that a gift had been purchased and given to the outgoing Clerk. A letter of thanks had been received.

6.4 **Item 6.5** – an advertisement for a new PPLO (Parish Path Liaison Officer) had been placed in the Postlebury magazine but unfortunately there had been no response. It was suggested that villagers could be asked to ‘adopt’ a path or paths which they walk regularly and report any problems to the Council. The Clerk gave out footpath maps and it was agreed to discuss this again at the next meeting. **Clerk**

6.5 **Item 6.6 Dog Litter** – RF had drafted an article about the dangers of dog litter to the public with the intention that this should be inserted in the Postlebury magazine. RF had discussed the implications for farmers with WS and it was noted that responsible farmers in the village do clear the roads after transporting muck. It was agreed that RF will add a sentence to his article regarding this and will also include a request for dog owners to close gates. The article will be sent round to Councillors for comment and agreement. **RF**

- 6.6 **Item 6.7 Car park lights** –it was agreed that RF would check with Gary Emery whether he wants to do the work and if not find another supplier. RF
- 6.7 **Item 10 – Somerset Local Authorities Civil Contingencies unit – Emergency Community Contacts** – the names of three people are required to act as contacts for the SLACC. The Clerk will send an email to the distribution list with details and ask for volunteers. Clerk
- 6.8 **Item 11.1 Bank Creep** – the work has not yet been carried out WS
- 6.9 **Item 11.3 – Road Edges** – the Clerk had been in contact with the Clerk at Trudoxhill and the erosion of the road edges has been reported.
- 6.10 **Item 11.4 – Bunns Lane** – The Clerk had received information that Bunns Lane would be resurfaced in the current financial year.
- 6.11 **Item 11.5 – Longham Footpath stile** – The stile needs repair – the Clerk will report this. Clerk
- 7 PLANNING – status of current applications**
- 7.1 **Application 2015/0643/VRC – variation of condition 2 (use of the accommodation) of planning permission 106060/003 at Holt Farm, Holt Lane, Witham Friary for Mrs Sharon Beldam**
- 7.1.1 This application is pending
- 7.2 **Application 2015/0648/HSE Proposed single storey rear extension at Witham Vale Farm, Holt Lane, Witham Friary for Mrs Gillian Lane**
- 7.2.1 This application has been approved.
- 7.3 **Application 2015/0288/FUL Erection of two agricultural buildings at Henleaze Farm, Holt Lane, Witham Friary, Frome for Mr & Mrs Jenkins**
- 7.3.1 This application has been approved with conditions.
- 7.4 **2014/2354/FUL Change of use from a mixed C3 dwelling/equestrian use to use as a holiday home with guest facilities, introduction of a new residential staff cottage and neighbouring management office, refurbish one existing equestrian barn with communal leisure space for visitors and guests and remove two existing equestrian barns at Gibbons Farm, Witham Friary for Ms Lara Tabatznik**

7.4.1 This application has been approved with conditions.

**7.5 Application 2014/2576/FUL Installation of 208 Solar PV panels (ground mounted) at Gibbons Farm, Holt Lane, Witham Friary for Mr Seth Tabatznik**

7.5.1 This application is still pending consideration

**8 FINANCE**

8.1 The following cheques were signed

- **Clerk's Salary for the period ending 30.05.15 - £147.52**
- **Cruse Cleaning – Hall materials - £260.21**

8.2 Financial statement to 11.06.15 - was agreed and signed

**9 Witham Water**

9.1 The Clerk reported that MDC have served notice on Witham Friary LLP in accordance with section 80 of the Water Industries Act 1991. This requires Witham LLP to undertake and complete all works to a satisfactory standing within 28 days. The issue of this notice follows on from the overdue pipe replacement works that should have been completed in May.

**10 RECREATION FIELD AND PLAYPATCH**

**10.1 Playpatch**

10.1.1 It was agreed that the Council need to know the amount of grant to be received from MDC and whether this needs to be match funded. The Clerk will contact Sally Gubb

**Clerk**

10.1.2 It was noted that the current quotation from Outdoor Play South West has been revised and now stands at £35,479.63 including VAT. This takes into account suggestions and amendments made to the quotation at the meeting in April.

**10.2 Recreation Field**

10.2.1 The Clerk reported that she had been contacted about the number of outsiders who were using the Recreation Field to play football and thus excluding the local young people.

10.2.2 It was agreed to discuss this with the local PCSO and ask him to attend a meeting. It was also agreed to get a quotation for a sign which would state that the Recreation Field is for the use of residents of Witham Friary only and outside use is only by prior arrangement with the Parish Council. A contact name and email address would need to be added. This would be by order of Witham Friary Parish Council.

**Clerk**

**11 HIGHWAYS/ROW MAINTENANCE**

11.1 The Clerk had received a report about a signpost for Witham Friary which is completely overgrown. The location is on the Maiden Bradley road just past the showfield. The Clerk will report this.

**Clerk**

**12 CORRESPONDENCE**

12.1 The Clerk had received the following correspondence/information

- Parish Bulletin (already distributed) – the legacy fund information had been passed to the Chairman of the Village Hall

**13 MISCELLANEOUS AND FUTURE BUSINESS**

13.1 **Future business** – there were no requests for future business.

**14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

14.1 The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 9 July 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.