

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

Present	Roy Featherstone Colin Horstmann Gregory Stevens Richard Nickless	RF CH GS RN
In attendance	Anthea Brooks, Clerk Three members of the public	AB
Apologies	Fred Nicholls Will Sheppard	FN WS

ACTIONS

1 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES

1.1 Emergency exits and procedures were explained

2 PUBLIC ACCESS

2.1 Allocation of grant to the Village Hall was discussed (see separate item)

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies for absence were received from Fred Nicholls (FN) and Will Sheppard (WS). In the absence of the Chairman the Vice-Chairman took the Chair.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS AND REQUESTS FOR RECORDING

4.1 There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation and no requests for recording.

5 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2015

5.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2015 were agreed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 10 SEPTEMBER

6.1 **Item 2.1 Footpath marker signs** – the Clerk has requested a supply of footpath marker signs from SCC - ongoing

Clerk

6.12 It was agreed that the second option was the most sensible and RF agreed to get a quote for the box to bring to the next meeting. RF

6.13 **Item 8.4 - Insurance** – the Clerk had contacted AON and had provided a copy of the Long Term Agreement with Came & Co in order that a refund of the insurance premium can be made. Clerk

7 **PLANNING – status of current applications**

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

7.1 This application has been approved with conditions

8 **FINANCE**

8.1 The following cheques were signed

- **Clerk’s Salary for the period ending 30.09.15 - £147.52**
- **SSE Car Park Lighting - £31.38**
- **Grant Thornton audit fee - £150.00**
- **R Featherstone – reimbursement for village hall locks - £204.49**

8.2 Financial statement to 08.10.15 was agreed and signed

8.3 **Allocation of Wind Turbine money**

8.3.1 A letter had been received from the Village Hall Committee regarding funds. £600 has already been agreed to be called upon during the 2015-16 financial year but a request has now been received for £1000 towards assistance with the stone repairs.

8.3.2 After discussion it was proposed by RF, seconded by RN, and agreed unanimously that £1000 of the wind turbine money should be allocated to the village hall for the stone work repair and another £1000 of the wind turbine money should be allocated for a box and essential items to allow the defibrillator to be located outside the village hall.

8.4 **Feedback on consultation regarding improvements to the village hall**

8.4.1 RF provided an update on the meeting regarding improvements to the village hall. A grant of £10,000 had been received towards improving the kitchen facilities.

9 BROADBAND INITIATIVE BY FIELD

9.1 CH updated the Council on his latest investigations into the provision of Broadband into the village. The following points were noted

- BT are installing fibre optic cables and a road closure notice has been posted for Holt Road/Dark Lane in order for manholes to be installed
- All enquiries seem to indicate the fibre will be provided to individual premises
- Connecting Devon and Somerset have no current information but suggest that even if the cables are being laid there could be a delay of at least a year before premises are connected.
- Field are holding a presentation at Batcombe Village Hall on Saturday 10 October at 2.00 p.m. which CH will attend. They need at least 30% minimum interest from the village in order to go ahead with their scheme which would be installed by Christmas. CH will enquire if they have completed their survey of the village and if so whether the Parish Council could receive feedback on progress.
- Contracts with Field would be for 12 months in the first instance
- There is still some surplus money from the wind turbine which could be used to kick start a scheme

CH

10 MENDIP RURAL FORUM

10.1 CH and GS attended the Mendip Rural Forum and the following points were noted

- The Village SOS and Community Funding Portal was most relevant and was presented by Jane Birch from the Somerset Community Council. It was agreed that anyone wanting funding for a community project should be directed to the Somerset.org.uk/funding website where free advice is offered and assistance with applications.
- James Gilbody presented the Scrap Metal Licencing Regime information
- CH raised concerns with Inspector Mark Nicolson over the poor time response on the police 101 service and he admitted that there have been/are problems with this service. His views was that if, for example, a vehicle had been deemed as acting suspiciously (via Farm Watch or Horse Watch) and subsequently been seen by a member of the public then if the 101 response was not quick, 999 should be dialled. This was viewed as a crime in progress.

11 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – REPORT FROM MEETING

11.1 CH and GS had attended the meeting on producing a Neighbourhood Plan. This was reported as a very formal and time consuming exercise and it was agreed that any decision should await the outcome of Mendip District Council’s Local Plan Part II consultation which is ongoing. The best starting point is to go to www.mendip.gov.uk/article/4362/information-and-guidance and look at the information pack.

11.2 With reference to the Local Plan Part II consultation it was noted that the recreation field is not included within the village open areas of local significance. It was agreed that following attendance at the consultation which will take place in Nunney Village Hall on Thursday 29 October from 2.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. a response will be made on the form specifically produced for this consultation.

12 POLICE 101 SERVICE

12.1 As previously reported in these minutes the Clerk is trying to arrange a visit from the local PCSO to discuss with the Council the local issues which have arisen

13 Witham Water

13.1 No issues were reported

14 RECREATION FIELD AND PLAYPATCH

14.1 Playpatch

14.1.1 It was noted that a further request for funding for the second phase of the work is to be made to Awards for All. RF stated that he had fed back comments to Deborah Liggatt who is leading on this application.

14.1.2 **Inspection** – the Clerk reported that a quotation had been received for the annual playground inspection from Play Inspections Co Ltd. After discussion it was proposed by RF, seconded by RN and agreed unanimously to ask PI to carry out the annual inspection.

14.2 Recreation Field

14.2.1 **Railings** – further to the quotation for a barrier consisting of oak railway sleepers, the Clerk had been informed that oak had already been sourced and paid for by the Council to provide four oak benches which would replace part of the fencing. The oak is currently with a local carpenter who was going to put the benches together for a modest fee.

This work was to be combined with the removal of the dug outs which the Council deemed were unsafe, unsightly and not required. It was agreed that RF would follow this up with the carpenter and Jim Rosser.

RF

14.2.2 **Lighting** – RF has received a quotation from the electrician to remove, test and inspect including waterproof gland and supply and install x 2 new 4 watt recessed LED light fittings to replace the old ones will be £160.00 per post plus VAT. The electrician will also work alongside another contractor who will rebed the posts as the work evolves. Breaking away the old posts and concreting and rebedding will take one day at £250. RF will send a copy of the quotation to the Clerk and a decision about this work will be made at the next meeting.

RF

14.2.3 **Grant for Recreation Field** – the Clerk pointed out that in the Parish Bulletin capital grants for projects to develop, improve and sustain community playing fields were mentioned. The Council thought that this might be an opportunity to apply for funding to build a pavilion. The Clerk will find out more information about this.

Clerk

15 HIGHWAYS/ROW MAINTENANCE

15.1 The signpost at the end of Bunns Lane, which is the turning off the B3092 Frome/Maiden Bradley road is now completely hidden by the hedge. It used to be on the opposite side of the road but was moved and is now completely obstructed and cannot be seen by oncoming vehicles. The Clerk will contact SCC and point out that this is dangerous - ongoing

Clerk

15.2 The Clerk had received information from Somerset County Council about de-icing material which is available for collection from the local depot in Frome (10 x 20kg bags per village). The Clerk will contact the previous Clerk to see if supplies are still available from last year.

Clerk

15.3 The Clerk was asked to report a blocked drain at Hartsmead (where Dark Lane becomes Holt Road) and also the drain underneath the railway bridge.

Clerk

16 CORRESPONDENCE

16.1 The Clerk had received the following correspondence

- Parish Bulletin (already distributed)
- Letter from SCC regarding Winter Service 2015/2016 – an electronic copy of the guide is available and the Clerk will obtain this in order to distribute.
- Information on CRISP the Community resilience in Somerset Project.

- Letter from Mendip Community Transport about use of two mini buses which they have been granted from Government funding. They are holding meetings around the area to ascertain what services could be provided by these new minibuses. Witham Friary will be invited to a meeting in Frome on 2 November. Details to follow. RF agreed to attend.

17 MISCELLANEOUS AND FUTURE BUSINESS

17.1 There were no items under this section for discussion.

18 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

18.1 The next meeting will take place on Thursday 12 November 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.