

**MINUTES
WITHAM FRIARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present	Roy Featherstone	RF
	Richard Nickless	RN
	Colin Horstmann	CH
	Gregory Stevens	GS

In attendance	Dick Skidmore, Mendip Councillor	DS
	Tom Hyde, Cricket Club	TH
	Jim Rosser, Village Hall Committee	JR
	Richard Gould, Football Club	RG
	Thirteen members of the public	

ACTIONS

1 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES

1.1 Emergency exits and procedures were explained

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies were received from Fred Nicholls (FN), Will Sheppard (WS) and Anthea Brooks, Clerk (AB)

3 PUBLIC ACCESS

3.1 Village Hall

3.1.1 **Village Hall Update** – JR has applied to enter a competition to receive grant funding for work on the village hall. The grant has been based around providing disabled access at the front of the hall, details of which are yet to be worked out. This competition will be based on a television vote with the public deciding who should receive the grant funding. JR also said there will be an open meeting regarding the plans to replace the existing end window with French doors.

3.1.2 **Old Kitchen** – JR was asked about plans for the old kitchen by a member of the public (N Wood). JR said ideas were currently; Convert old kitchen into a joint disabled access with the church as neither had adequate disabled access at present, rent out the old kitchen as a stand alone unit.

3.1.3 **Public Suggestions** – RF asked all present for their ideas/suggestions for the village hall.

Chairman

Date

Minutes 13.09.16

Suggestions;

- Toilets and showers -- TH & RG would both like to see the old kitchen converted into toilets and showers which could be used without entering the main hall as this would benefit both the cricket and football clubs. This would provide regular rent money to the hall and prevent the problem of spectators using the pub toilets when matches were on. Both have a desire to support the hall but find it hard to do so with the current level of facilities.
- Heating – RF suggested more up-to-date heating. JR said this is currently on the village hall committees plans.
- Sliding doors – A member of the public suggested replacing the existing sliding doors which divide the main hall area from the bar area as they are old and becoming difficult to move.

3.2 Playpatch – RF mentioned the updated Playpatch.

- It was noted by a member of the public that there is some loose matting around some of the equipment. RF said this is known about and is being sorted soon.
- JR has repaired the picnic bench.
- The Jubilee bench may be updated/repaired soon.

3.3 Recreation Field

3.3.1 RF asked all present what they would like to see happen with the recreation field.

- TH suggested an all weather surface which could be used for basketball, tennis, 5 – aside football etc. He suggested the top left corner of the field (looking from the car park) as this is next to the ditch and should make drainage easier. RG said that this is the wettest part of the field. TH said if this occurred he would suggest moving the cricket net into the top left corner to keep everything together.
- M Pritchard agreed that somewhere to play tennis would be good for the older generation.
- TH also mentioned an artificial surface for the cricket green.
- RN said that a group needs to be organised to work on the idea of an artificial surface. He was happy to be a part of this if other support was forthcoming. It was also noted that a lot of grant money is available for this sort of project.

RN

- A member of the public suggested that teenagers ought to be included in the project as it would have the greatest impact of them. D Featherstone said she was happy to act as an intermediary with the teenagers.
- A member of the public raised the point about access/use of the facilities as there have been problems with people from outside the village taking advantage of the facilities historically. RF & RN agreed that some terms as to the use of the facilities would need to be agreed.
- RN said that attention needs to be paid to the cycle track as it has become largely unusable.

3.3.2 Recreation Field Maintenance

- TH mentioned that the ditch around the recreation field still needs cleaning as it is sitting very wet. Also the sluice needs to be checked to ensure it is still working. RG noted that this work used to be undertaken by people from the village. AB to check contract with Shepton Mallet Landscapes.
- RF to walk the recreation field with RG to gain better understanding of what needs doing. Will then try and meet with Shepton Mallet Landscapes to communicate this.
- RG stated that he was unhappy with the quality of work undertaken by Shepton Mallet Landscape with regards to the grass cutting.

Clerk

RF &
RG

3.4 Youth Club

- RN commented that there was nothing for the children/teenagers in the village to do in the evenings; especially with the longer nights and that a Youth Club might be beneficial.
- RG said there used to be a successful youth club in the village and that he would be willing to help if one was set up.
- A member of the public stated that whilst this was a good idea it would require people to come forward to run it and this was a common stumbling block for such ideas.

3.5 Communicating with the village

- RF asked all present what they thought the most effective way was for the Parish Council to communicate with the village.
- People thought the village facebook page was quite effective.
- Many suggested mail shots. RG said if fliers/leaflets were given to him he was happy to get them distributed.
- RN mentioned the ongoing village website. It was suggested by E Horstmann that this would be a good place to put essential

Chairman

Date

Minutes 13.09.16

contact information such as councillor's numbers, numbers for Witham Water etc.

- TH & D Featherstone suggested getting fliers done for the village Halloween Party (if there is one) and the Conker Day (Sunday 16th October) with regards to getting ideas for the recreation field.

Clerk

3.6 **Dick Skidmore – Mendip District Councillor**

- DS added his view that for a project such as an all weather surface on the recreation field a well organised plan would be needed for potential grant funding. A proactive group of villager would also be needed to help drive the project forward.
- DS stated that he was always available and willing to help the council and the village in any way he could.

3.7 **Broadband – Members of the public asked for an update on the broadband.**

- David Warburton has emailed RN saying that there is a lot of work to be done cutting trees on the railway line. He hopes the work will be complete by Christmas.
- Work has started on installing conduit for the fibre broadband along Holt Road and Dark Lane.
- RF asked if villagers would have to pay to be connected to the fibre. RN said the BT regional director (Paul Coles, paul.3.coles@bt.com, 07710093984) has said no they won't.
- DS said that Matt Barrow at Taunton is the coordinator of the project and should have more info if required.

3.8 **Witham Water – Members**

- Witham Water have marked the mains water pipe on the road as they were concerned about BT digging it off.
- CH has spoken to Dave Barnett and Chris from Witham Water and they say they now have up-to-date maps in place. They also said they have a plan for their retirement and Chris is retiring in a few weeks.
- All water metres have now been geo-located.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS AND REQUESTS FOR RECORDING**

4.1 There were no declarations of interest. It was noted that the meeting could be recorded if requested.

Chairman

Date

Minutes 13.09.16

5 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH SEPTEMBER 2016

5.1 The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th of September were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.

6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 8 SEPTEMBER 2016

6.1 The problem with potholes has been mentioned again by members of the public.

6.2 The Seesaw in the Playpatch has been sorted.

6.3 The Conker Tree has been organised.

6.4 **Bus Service** – All were in agreement to continue with the trial of the bus service, following the new plan. RF to reply to M Gay.

RF

7 HIGHWAYS/ROW MAINTENANCE

7.1 There have been complaints that the hedges are leaning into the road and reducing visibility. However they are now in the process of being cut.

8 CORRESPONDANCE

8.1 Salisbury and Shaftsbury Car Club have written to inform us of a motor rally taking place on the 23rd of October 2016. They have had to alter their original route because of the current road closure and will now be driving past Witham Hall Farm instead of up Holt Road.

9 MISCELLANEOUS AND FUTURE BUSINESS

9.1 There have been complaints about farm effluent entering a ditch in the village. The farmer has identified the problem, corrected it, and informed those affected that they can contact him directly in future if there is a repeat.

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

10.1 The next meeting will be on Thursday 10th of November 2016 at 7:30 in the village hall.

Chairman

Date

Minutes 13.09.16