

**MINUTES
WITHAM FRIARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 14 JULY 2016 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present	Roy Featherstone (Chairman)	RF
	Fred Nicholls	FN
	Colin Horstmann	CH
	Gregory Stevens	GS
	Richard Nickless	RN
 In attendance	 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 to discuss
- 3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3.1 Apologies were received from Will Sheppard (WS)
- 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.
- 5 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 JUNE 2016**
- 5.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2016 were agreed
as a true record and signed by the Chairman with one
alteration. It was noted that the defibrillator had been provided
by Witham Vale Farmers – RF to contact AED Locator to
update the information on the cabinet. **RF**
- 6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 9 JUNE 2016**
- 6.1 **Bank Mandate** –all individual mandates are now with the bank -
complete
- 6.2 **Meeting with PCSO** – the PCSO for the village is Lucy Gumm
and RF has arranged a meeting to discuss various issues. **RF**
- 6.3 **Health & Safety policy** – RF will work on an update of the
policy **RF**

- 6.4 **Witham Water** - the Clerk will write to Fowler Fortescue to see what their future plans are. **Clerk**
- 6.5 **Broadband** – RN reported that the current information is that the majority of fibre cabling is complete and by the end of August householders will be able to place orders for connection. RN agreed to find out about costings **RN**
- 6.6 **SSE Lighting** – the Clerk was asked to obtain a new quotation from SSE for the supply of power to the car park lighting **Clerk**
- 6.7 **Wicket Covers** – the Clerk had contacted Tom Hyde to let him know that the Parish Council had agreed to cover the cost of the new wicket covers. The covers are being made and an invoice will be produced in due course.
- 7 PLANNING – status of current applications**
- 7.1 There were no planning applications to consider
- 8 FINANCE**
- 8.1 **Financial Statement** - The financial statement at 14.07.16 was agreed and signed.
- 8.2 **Churchyard maintenance** – it was proposed by FN, seconded by RF and agreed unanimously to grant £400 to the PCC of Postlebury towards the churchyard maintenance at Witham Friary.
- 8.3 **Grant for establishment of website** – The Clerk will pursue funding for the establishment of a Parish Council website for the village and will seek advice from the Chairman of her other Parish Council who is the webmaster for that village. **Clerk**
- 8.4 The following cheques were signed
- **Clerk’s Salary for the period ending 30.06.16 (includes recent pay increase) - £153.71**
 - **PCC of Postlebury** – photocopying £18.70
 - **PCC of Postlebury** – grant to church for grass cutting £400 (as agreed above)
 - **SALC** – Affiliation fee - £104.34
- 9 VILLAGE HALL UPDATE**
- 9.1 A letter had been sent to the Village Hall Committee as agreed at the previous meeting and a response received which had been distributed.

- 9.2 It was noted that the recent grant received had been earmarked for the installation of patio doors onto the yard and could not be used for any other project.
- 9.3 A discussion took place on the way forward and it was agreed to discuss again at the next meeting.
- 9.4 It was further agreed that the two Trustees should be sent a copy of the letter which had been received from the Village Hall Committee. GS will email Gordon Stephens with the letter and the Clerk will send to Martin Howard.

GS/Clerk

10 WITHAM WATER

- 10.1 Nothing to report

11 BUS SERVICES

- 11.1 The Clerk reported that she had attended a meeting with Mendip Community Transport at their offices on 13 June together with Michael Gay a Parish Councillor from Wanstrow. MCT are hoping to instigate a route which takes in both Witham and Wanstrow and possibly other surrounding villages in September as a pilot scheme for a month and if that is successful will follow it up with a full trial scheme for three months. The Clerk asked the Council to consider underwriting the scheme for this trial period as had already been agreed by Wanstrow Parish Council. It was proposed by RF, seconded by RN and agreed unanimously to underwrite the scheme to a maximum of £600. .

- 11.2 The Clerk stated that contact is being made with Trudoxhill, Batcombe and Frome Town Council regarding supporting the underwriting costs and further information will be provided to Councillors as it arrives

Clerk

12 RECREATION FIELD AND PLAYPATCH

12.1 Playpatch

- 12.1.1 RF reported that a local resident had reported vandalism at the Playpatch where various items had been stuck into the ground. One of the nuts securing the swing had also been removed but this was found and reinserted. RF had reported this to the local PCSO and it was noted that he and RN would be meeting with the police shortly to discuss this and other issues.

- 12.1.2 It was agreed that something should be put on the village Facebook page to urge people to be vigilant when using the playpatch and equipment. RF agreed to do this.

RF

- 12.2 Recreation Field**
- 12.2.1 **Goalposts** – RF had obtained information about a goalpost at a cost of £673. It was agreed that only one is required at the moment but an additional one can be purchased if needed. It was agreed that RF would make further enquiries and make a safety assessment. He will email round for agreement once he has further details. **RF**
- 12.2.2. **Memorial Tree** – a request had been received from Ali Taylor requesting permission to plant a conker tree in memory of Sian Taylor on the boundary of the Recreation Field. This was agreed with the caveat that perhaps a conker tree was not the right variety to plant in such a situation because of future health and safety issues. RF will contact Ali Taylor to discuss further. **RF**
- 12.2.3 **Artificial Surface** – the Clerk reported that unfortunately Tom Hyde was not available to take forward the project to install an artificial surface on the Recreation Field. RN agreed to look at this and both the Clerk and RF offered to become involved. **RN**

13 HIGHWAYS/RoW MAINTENANCE

- 13.1 Fencing at Quarry Hill Farm to be reported again and kerb stones are protruding into the road. **Clerk**
- 13.2 **Speed** – since recent local road resurfacing vehicles are reported to be speeding with many lorries also using the lanes – this is another issue which can be brought to the attention of the PCSO.
- 13.3 **Hedges** – it was reported that hedges have not been cut and are causing visibility and safety problems for local traffic. The Clerk will report this to SCC Highways. **Clerk**

14 CORRESPONDENCE

- 14.1 The Clerk had received the following correspondence
- Parish Information Bulletin
 - The next PACT meeting (police liaison) will take place on 13 September at Beckington
 - MDC Affordable Housing Day Event, 21 July at Wells Town Hall
 - Information from SCC on Listening, Learning, Changing
 - Information from MDC on the cessation of the Council Support Grant
 - Information from SALC on planning training
 - Mendip Community Support – event on 18 July at Bridgwater regarding funding opportunities
 - Rural England Bulletin

- SSVCA and Mendip Community Support Group – funding bulletin
- SCC Public Health – advisory notices on children in the sun
- SCC Nomination form for Chairman’s Awards for local individuals who have made a contribution to their community

15 MISCELLANEOUS AND FUTURE BUSINESS

15.1 **Farm Vehicles** – this is another issue which needs to be raised with the PCSO as contractors vehicles are proving a nuisance being overloaded and driven at reckless speeds through the village.

16 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

19.1 The next meeting will be on Thursday 11 August 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.