

**MINUTES  
WITHAM FRIARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 12 JANUARY 2017 AT 7:30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

<b>Present</b>	Roy Featherstone (Chairman)	RF
	Fred Nicholls	FN
	Colin Horstmann	CH
	Greg Stevens	GS

**In attendance**      One member 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 Richard Nickless (RN), Will Sheppard (WS) and Anthea Brooks (CLERK)

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

3.1                None

**4                    PUBLIC ACCESS**

4.1                Mrs Horstmann pointed out that the drain on Holt Road at the top of the track to Hartsmead is blocked and higher than the road surface. Because of this the water is being diverted down the track to Hartsmead and causing damage to the track. RF will contact the council.

**RF**

4.2                A member of the public had passed the message on that the corner below Barrow Farm was still not fixed. RF will mention this to the council.

**RF**

**5                    MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 08 DECEMBER 2017**

5.1                CH commented that 10.1 was incorrect. His email correspondence was with Openreach and not Connecting Devon & Somerset (CD&S). GS will correct.

**GS**

5.2                The minutes of the meeting held on 08 December 2016 were agreed as a true and accurate record of events, excluding the above, and signed by the chairman.

**6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 08 DECEMBER 2016**

6.1 The finance statement has been corrected.

6.2 RF has been unable to meet with the lady running the keep fit group in the car park. He will try and meet with her a.s.a.p

**RF**

**7 PLANNING**

7.1 Planning application 2016/2088/FUL – Replacement of the existing dwelling and barns at Oakwood Farm with a single dwelling and associated landscaping at Oakwood Farm, Strap Lane, North Brewham for Mr & Mrs Ewins

The matter was discussed by the council. The council felt it was unnecessary, and not environmentally friendly, to remove a relatively recent development which was in good order with another one. The council noted that effort had been made to include renewable energy and heat sources but felt not replacing the existing dwelling would probably deliver more advantages in terms of sustainability. FN proposed the council objected the application, GS seconded and the council agreed unanimously in agreement.

7.2 2016/2977/HSE – Creation of new openings, new dormer windows and an infill extension. Internal alterations at Witham Hole Cottage, Witham Hall Farm to Bunns Lane, Witham Friary for Mr & Mrs Wallens

The matter was discussed by the council. The council thought the changes would have very little impact so saw no reasons for objection.

RF proposed the application for approval, FN seconded and the council agreed unanimously in favour of approval.

**8 FINANCE**

**8.1 Finance Statement**

The finance statement at 12/01/2017 was agreed and signed.

**8.2 Budget**

The council viewed the budget prepared by the clerk. CH commented that a figure for the clearing of the ditches

around the recreation field should be added. RN agreed at the previous meeting to meet with Richard Gould to find out what needs to be done to rectify the problem.

**RN**

The council felt it would be more appropriate to look at the budget at the next meeting when the clerk is present.

**8.3 Precept**

The council felt it would also be better to discuss this at the next meeting.

**8.4** The current grant payment for the Mendip Community Transport bus has been received.

**8.5** Cheques

Cheques couldn't be signed as the clerk had been unable to sign the cheques. It wasn't known if this was required or not. RF to find out from clerk.

**RF**

**9 WITHAM WATER**

**9.1** RF will email the Duke of Somerset to find out what the future plans are regarding the water supply.

**RF**

FN will try and contact Dave Barnet to gain more information.

**FN**

**10 BROADBAND**

**10.1** CH spoke to CD&S last week and was told the Upton Noble cabinet would be connected on 09/01/17. Internet service providers should be notified of this in the next few weeks.

It is unclear whether service providers will contact potential customers or whether the public needs to contact them. CH will try and find an answer to this and typical connection charges.

**CH**

**11 VILLAGE HALL**

**11.1** RF has received an email from Jim Rosser (JR, Village Hall Committee chairman).

New space heaters have been installed in the meeting room and bar area.

RF proposed the Parish Council pay the £600 for the storage heaters as 2016s grant to the Village Hall Committee. FN seconded this and the council agreed unanimously.

The Village Hall Committee put forward a list of potential improvements they would like to make to the hall. The council decided to leave discussion of this until the joint meeting with the Village Hall Committee.

## **12.1 BUS SERVICE**

12.1 RF reported that all was running smoothly with the bus service.

12.2 RF has created the discount vouchers proposed at the previous meeting which can now be distributed.

12.3 RN will try and contact Mendip Community Transport to suggest adding Gare Hill to the route.

**RN**

## **13 RECREATION FIELD AND PLAYPATCH**

13.1 RF commented that the vehicle gate into the Playpatch can be pushed open. RF agreed to look into getting a chain and padlock to lock the gates together.

**RF**

## **14 HIGHWAYS/ROW MAINTENANCE**

14.1 The council have noticed, and a member of the public had commented on, a boat which has been parked at the bottom of Vicarage Hill. This was felt to be causing an obstruction should large vehicles or emergency service vehicles require access along the road. The same boat had also been seen parked in the Village Hall Car Park. The council will keep an eye on the situation.

## **15 CORRESPONDENCE**

15.1 None has been received.

## **16 MISCELANEOUS AND FUTURE BUSINESS**

16.1 None

## **17 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

17.1 The next meeting will be held on Thursday 09 February 2017 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

## **18 MEETING CLOSED AT 8:40PM**