

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
WITHAM FRIARY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2017 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

<b>Present</b>	Roy Featherstone (Chairman)	RF
	Colin Horstmann	CH
	Greg Stevens	GS
	Fred Nicholls	FN
	John Knowles	JK
<b>In attendance</b>	Anthea Brooks, Clerk	AB
	4 members of the public	
	R Skidmore, District Councillor (part meeting)	RS

**ACTIONS**

**1            EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES**

1.1           Emergency exits and procedures were explained

**2            APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2.1           Apologies were received from Will Sheppard (WS).

**3            PUBLIC ACCESS**

**3.1           Hunting**

3.1.1        Beth Horstmann reported on an issue with the South and West Wilts Hunt which even though has been banned from her property still persist in trespassing. Other landowners in the area are also experiencing problems. It was noted that this is a civil matter and as such the Parish Council could not get involved.

3.1.2        After a thorough discussion it was agreed that the local landowners led by Seth Tabiatznic would get together and collaboratively get legal advice to see if an injunction can be served.

3.1.3        It was proposed by RF, seconded by CH and agreed unanimously that the Council would support the group in their endeavours.in anyway it could.

**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 NOVEMBER 2017**

5.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2017**

6.1 **Resignation of Councillor** – GS reported that he would be resigning from the Council in the New Year. He was thanked for his contribution.

6.2 **Emergency Number list (including Witham Water)/Emergency Plan** – RF reported that he is still working on this document and will send out an amended draft when it is available. RF

6.3 **Recreation Field – All Weather Service (11.1)** – RF will discuss this with RN to see what progress has been made. RF

6.4 **Playpatch – Slide – (19.2)** it was agreed that WS would sell the old slide which he still has in storage. WS

6.5 **Policy Review** - the Clerk reported that the Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct will need to be approved at a future meeting. Clerk

6.6 **Walk Around the Village** – RF suggested a walk to identify areas which need attention. RF will try and arrange a date for this. RF

6.7 **Churchyard Grass Cutting (3.9)** – it was agreed to discuss this again at a future meeting following the walk around the village.

6.8 **Ditch Clearance** – one ditch has been cleared so far.

6.9 **Bank Account** – CH, RF and JK had provided their identification to Nat West. The overall mandate was completed and signed which the Clerk will take to the bank. This should complete the process.

6.13 **Use of Playing Field/Car Park** – The Clerk reported that she now had contact with someone from Frome FC but once again they were proving to be non-responsive. The Clerk stated that she would speak to SALC to confirm the legal position of the Council. Clerk

**7 PLANNING**

7.1 **2017/2865/FUL Proposed development of tennis court and swimming pool to be constructed on the site of an old barn at Holiday Lets Holt Farm for Ms Madhvi Chanrai**

7.1.1 The Council discussed the above application. It was agreed to support the application, however the Council felt that consideration should be given to the potential for evening events with attendant noise problems and the possibility of light pollution arising from whatever form of lighting is used to illuminate the site. The Clerk will inform MDC

7.2 **2017/2920/VRC Application to vary condition 3 (demolition of existing house within three months) from permission 2016/2088/FUL to allow retention for use as an agricultural storage barn at Oakwood Farm, Strap Lane, North Brewham for Mr J Ewis**

7.2.1 The Council discussed the above application. It was proposed by FN, seconded by CH and agreed unanimously to recommend refusal of the application. The Council felt that an extra house would be totally out of keeping for the surrounding area and the existing house variation to a storage barn would in time be the subject of a variation to convert back to a dwelling. The Clerk will inform MDC

7.3 **2017/2994/HSE Side and rear extension and rear dormer windows at Croft Cottage, 31 the Yard, Witham Friary for Mr H Gibson**

7.3.1 Mr H Gibson attended the meeting for this item and gave an overview of the reasons for the application. It was noted that permission has already been granted for an annexe in the garden of the property and the extension to the cottage would mean the arrival of a family with young children in the village. It was proposed by RF, seconded by FN and agreed unanimously to recommend approval of the application.

7.3.2 Mr Gibson left the meeting.

**8 FINANCE**

8.1 **Financial Statement** - The financial statement at 14.12.17 was agreed and signed.

8.2 **Grant for refurbishment of church organ** - RF reported that George and Margaret Pritchard are working towards obtaining grants for the refurbishment of the organ and donations have already been received. It was agreed that once there is evidence that a grant is forthcoming the Parish Council will discuss offering a suitable grant towards the work.

8.3 **Purchase of new defibrillator** – The Clerk reported that she has completed an application form for funding for a replacement defibrillator. RF reported that the defibrillator had

been used and the pads will need replacing. It was proposed by RF, seconded by GS and agreed unanimously to go ahead with purchase of a replacement defibrillator from AED Locator (the company who supplied the box). They will take the old defibrillator and recycle it. Another defib training session will be organised by AED Locator.

#### 8.4 **Cheques for signature**

- AED Locator - defibrillator - £1164.00
- SSE – Lighting for Rec Field - £33.19
- Mrs A Brooks – Clerk’s Salary – November 2017 - £182.79
- Mr R Featherstone – reimbursement for replacement pads for defibrillator following its use - £104.40

### 9 **WITHAM WATER**

9.1 RF reported that the recent leak had been fixed.

### 10 **BROADBAND**

10.1 CH reported on some recent success. First of all the contact at Open Reach has been absolutely superb and has supplied a weekly report. Out of 12 people there is only one left to be connected. There are three properties which are proving difficult because they are further away from the fibre run. The Hermitage and 42 Acres are fairly close to some sort of conclusion as to how it can be done but Tymede Farm is at the other end of the village, right alongside the railway line and that is causing problems with Open Reach about how they are going to get the fibre to them, however Open Reach has raised an order for the work to be done.

10.2 Thanks were extended to CH for all his hard work and for driving this project forward.

### 11 **VILLAGE HALL**

11.1 Work has finished on the sliding doors which it was agreed looked better in their varnished state rather than being painted.

### 12 **BUS SERVICES**

12.1 The Clerk is looking into obtaining funding towards the cost of subsidising the bus service from the Somerset Community Fund. Trudoxhill have already been successful in obtaining funding.

**Clerk**

### 13 RECREATION FIELD AND PLAYPATCH

#### 13.1 Playpatch

13.1.1 Work to be done includes refurbishment of the chain link fencing and posts, the swings need rubbing down, rust removing and repainting, bolts and shackles and two seats need replacing. There are coping stones which are coming off the wall which need refixing. RF reported that he had received a quotation of £1267 for this work. However it was agreed that another quotation should be obtained. RF will send the Clerk a copy of the quote already obtained. It was also agreed to look at the work which needs to be done during the walk around the village.

### 14 HIGHWAYS/ROW MAINTENANCE

14.1 **Flooding by the Seymour Arms** – the drain is blocked on the right hand side. The Clerk will report this to Highways as a matter of urgency.

14.2 **Grit/Salt** – it was noted that bags have been dumped by the side of the bins.

14.3 **Private Drive** – it was noted that the bungalow at the top of Private Drive has put down some stones on the corner to prevent vehicles from driving over the verge. These are not noticeable in the dark and could present a hazard. It was agreed to raise this as an issue with Highways

### 15 CORRESPONDENCE

15.1 The Clerk had received the following items of correspondence

- Email from MDC regarding Briefing sessions with senior planners to take place as follows:
  - 10 January at 6.30 p.m. at MDC
  - 6 February 6.30 p.m. in the Assembly Rooms, Frome
  - 15 March 6.30 p.m. in the Town Hall, GlastonburyIf you want to attend please let the Clerk know and she will pass the information to MDC.

### 16 MISCELLANEOUS AND FUTURE BUSINESS

16.1 **Precept** – to be discussed and set at the next meeting.

**Agenda**

16.1 **20mph limit** – JK asked about the possibility of introducing a 20mph through the village. It was thought that enforcement may be a problem but it was agreed to ask Cllr R Skidmore for his opinion on this.

**19 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

19.1 RF thanked Councillors and Clerk for their hard work during the year. It was noted that the next meeting will take place on Thursday 11 January 2018.