

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
WITHAM FRIARY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 11 JANUARY 2018 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present	Roy Featherstone (Chairman)	RF
	Colin Horstmann	CH
	Will Sheppard	WS
	John Knowles	JK
 In attendance	 Anthea Brooks, Clerk	 AB
	1 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 Fred Nicholls (FN).

3 PUBLIC ACCESS

3.1 **Hunting** - No further information on progress available with reference to a collaborative of local landowners obtaining legal advice to prevent trespassing by South West Wilts Hunt

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 14 DECEMBER 2017

5.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with one correction to item 3.1.2 where the spelling of the name Tabatznik was corrected.

6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2017

6.1 **Resignation of Councillor** – GS had now resigned from the Council. Councillors were asked to consider the co-option of another parishioner to make up the council numbers.

All

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)** – the Clerk will email Richard Nickless for an update on what progress he made on this. **Clerk**
- 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 **Bank Account** – the Clerk reported that all Councillors were now able to sign cheques on behalf of the Council - complete
- 6.8 **Use of Playing Field/Car Park** – The Clerk had received a response from SALC with advice on this situation. The CEO has suggested a face to face meeting to try and resolve the matter before having to take things further by obtaining legal advice. The Clerk offered to contact Frome Town FC and try and get a meeting arranged. **Clerk**
- 6.9 **Flooding by Seymour Arms** – Highways had been contacted and had erected a couple of flood warning signs. RF has contacted them again and asked that they come and investigate the problem to find the cause where it seems that the drain is just not capable of coping with the amount of water or it has become blocked. RF will follow this up. **RF**
- 6.10 **Grant for refurbishment of church organ** – the Parish Council will consider offering a suitable grant towards the work once information is received from George and Margaret Pritchard on progress on obtaining grants and donations.
- 6.11 **Purchase of New Defibrillator** – the Clerk had no progress to report on possible funding for the defibrillator but would continue to pursue this. An order has been placed for a replacement defibrillator with AED Location and a further training session will be organised. **Clerk**
- 7 PLANNING**
- 7.1 There were no planning applications to discuss
- 8 FINANCE**
- 8.1 **Financial Statement** - The financial statement at 11.01.18 was agreed and signed.

8.2 **Precept for 2018/19** – after a discussion it was proposed by RF, seconded by CH and agreed unanimously to keep the precept at £9,000 for 2018/19. The Clerk will inform MDC. **Clerk**

8.3 **Distgen Payment** – the Clerk reported that a sum of £1,506.34 had been received from Distgen being the third quarter payment.

8.4 **Cheques for signature**

- Mendip Community Transport – ‘bus subsidy November £68.97
- H Crabbe & Sons – work on village hall - £960.00
- Mrs A Brooks – Clerk’s Salary – December 2017 - £160.29
- Miss G Davis – bus subsidy refund - £27.00

9 WITHAM WATER

9.1 It was reported that there had been another leak recently but that there now seems to be a good means of communication from the Estates Office when there is a problem.

9.2 A member of the public asked what would happen when Dave Barnett retires. It was noted that Abbotts are the contractors who would take over and deal with any problems. It was agreed that if Dave Barnett does retire a collection should be made as a thank you for all his hard work over the years.

10 BROADBAND

10.1 CH reported on progress and stated that the only two properties now not connected are the Hermitage and 42 Acres. However there is still one property in the village which has problems and CH has spoken to Sharon at Open Reach about this. JK stated that he has been checking broadband speeds against those declared by BT and found them to be not as fast as expected. JK stated that he would send the link to the checking facility to anyone who wanted it. CH pointed out that if you do check the speed make sure that you are not using broadband for other work at the same time.

10.2 CH also reported that he had recently had problems with his landline which was not working for about three weeks because of the switch over to fibre. He stated that customers should bear this in mind when switching.

11 VILLAGE HALL

11.1 Internal decoration ongoing

- 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 now received two quotations for this work, one from Steve Orr and another from J Rosser. It was agreed to ask for J. Rosser's quote to be updated with materials and then discuss this at the next meeting. RF will send copies of the quotes to the Clerk. **RF**
- 14 HIGHWAYS/ROW MAINTENANCE**
- 14.1 **Ditches** – one has been cleared. It was noted that the ditch at the end of the playing field had overflowed and there was a lot of slurry on the path. It was noted that the local landowner will deal with the problem if he is made aware of it and RF agreed to contact him about this. **RF**
- 15 CORRESPONDENCE**
- 15.1 The Clerk had received the following items of correspondence
- Email from Distgen regarding setting up a public meeting to discuss the upcoming planning application to increase the height of the turbine. It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to Wanstrow PC to suggest a joint meeting. **Clerk**
- 16 MISCELLANEOUS AND FUTURE BUSINESS**
- 16.1 Nothing to report
- 17 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**
- 17.1 The next meeting will take place on Thursday 8 February 2018.