

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
WITHAM FRIARY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE
HALL**

Present	Will Sheppard (Vice Chairman)	WS
	Fred Nicholls	FN
	Colin Horstmann	CH
	John Knowles	JK

In attendance	Anthea Brooks, Clerk	AB
	2 members of the public	

ACTIONS

1 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES

1.1 Emergency exits and procedures were explained

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Roy Featherstone (RF). In the absence of the Chairman the Vice Chairman (WS) took the chair.

3 PUBLIC ACCESS

3.1 Nothing to report

**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 19 JULY 2018

5.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Vice Chairman.

**6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
MEETING HELD ON 19 JULY 2018**

6.1 **Speeding Vehicles**

- Clearing the foliage around the 30mph signs – this has been done
- Get proper signage on the bend both on and off the road – RF has spoken to Highways about this. JK had gone back to the Community Speedwatch for any tips on contacting Highways – ongoing.

RF

7.2 **Status of Previous Applications**

7.2.1 **2018/1125/HSE Proposed new drive and access at 4 Yew Close, Witham Friary** – pending decision

7.2.2 **2018/0116/FUL – Retrospective – retain existing dwelling and mixed use of the site for agricultural, residential and storage at caravan, Bindon Lane for Mr J Rosser** – pending decision

8 FINANCE

8.1 **Financial Statement** – the financial statement at 13.09.18 was approved and signed

8.2 **Cheques for signature**

- Mrs A Brooks, Clerk’s Salary £185.62
- Mendip Community Transport – ‘bus subsidy for June £60.85
- Came & Co, Annual insurance premium - £307.01
- SSE, Recreation Field lighting - £7.76

9 WITHAM WATER

9.1 A suggestion had been made to stockpile bottled water somewhere in the village which could be used in an emergency. RF had contacted Environmental Health about this. One of the issues to be considered is the length of time that the bottles could be stored - ongoing

RF

9.2 WS had reported that he had come across a tanker filling up from a standpipe which is noted allowed. The Estates Office had been informed about this and they are looking into it.

9.3 Further work is taking place on a map of the water system and as soon as this is available the Council will be sent a copy.

9.4 It was noted that there is an overall improvement with the introduction of the website and an effort being made to allocate funding to the supply. However now that the water is treated the excess must not be allowed to overflow so the problem is finding a balance of supply and demand.

10 VILLAGE HALL

10.1 Nothing to report

11 BROADBAND

11.1 Nothing to report

13 RECREATION FIELD AND PLAYPATCH

13.1 Recreation Field

13.1.1 The use of the recreation field by the Football Club was discussed again. The fixture list has been received and the Clerk had gone onto the website and obtained a larger, readable version. The insurance details had not yet been received and the Clerk will contact Frome FC about this. The Clerk had drafted a letter to Frome FC stating that the Parish Council would not be funding extra grass cutting through the winter or paying for the use of the toilets in the village hall. The Council felt that use of the toilets in the village hall should be made a condition for use of the field and the letter will be altered to state this. A final version of the letter will be agreed at the next meeting.

Clerk

13.1.2 Working Group – the Working Group have had two successful meetings and are meeting on a regular basis. The site has been considered with a view to the most suitable location for the all-weather surface and it was thought that the right hand side would be appropriate. There are overhead cables which would need to be put underground and WS has been in contact with SSE. However this cannot be taken further until the appropriate plans are available at which time the appointed contractor would have to get a quote from SSE. It was felt that relocation of the cables is likely to be expensive.

13.1.3 The relationship between the Parish Council and the Working Group was discussed and it was agreed that a representative from the Parish Council should attend the Working Group meetings. The Working Group should also include representatives from the Cricket Club and the Football Club. The Working Group are to be a sub-group of the Parish Council and will report back to the Parish Council on a regular basis.

13.1.4 An Open Village Meeting will be held when the plans for the use of the field have been developed further.

13.2 Quotations: The Working Group expect to have three or four quotations available in the near future.

13.3 Funding The Clerk reported that as the Parish Council own the Recreation Field any bids will be have to be

made by the Council. This may present a problem for some funders as the Council is not a Charity, however there are other funders who will consider organisations such as Parish Councils. The Council will also have to draw up a Constitution or Governance document which will be required by possible funders. The Clerk stated that she would do some research into how to go about drawing up such a document using experiences in another village which has gone through a similar bidding process. The other alternative would be if the Working Group was set up as Witham Friary Recreation Field Management Committee and established as an independent charity with authority to run the field under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council – this also needs to be investigated.

Clerk

13.3.1 Any potential funders would also need properly drawn up plans with costings before considering any applications and alongside this the possibility of planning permission would have to be considered especially if a building with showers and toilets is to be installed. Advice from MDC would be useful.

13.4 Under 14 Team request – the Clerk had received a request from the Frome Town Robin's U14's to use the Witham Friary pitch for their home games this season. This would consist of 8 – 10 games on a Sunday. Any clashes with the U13 team would be sorted out by the coaches involved.

13.4.1 The Council discussed this request and after consideration it was felt that the field would not be able to sustain two teams playing on it. It would also be going against the constitution of the Recreation Field which states that the field is to be used for the benefit of the residents of Witham Friary. The Clerk stated that she may have an alternative pitch available in another village and she will contact the U14 Coach to inform him of this.

Clerk

13.5 Pitch size – The Clerk had received an email from Tom Hyde of the Cricket Club. Due to the increase in the age group playing football on the field this year the pitch has been widened and it now just about fits without compromising the cricket square. However in two years' time the age group will need to play on a full size pitch which means widening the football pitch again so that the touchline will run halfway through the first wicket on the cricket square.

13.5.1 TH suggested a compromise in taking the pitch the other way towards the car park. This would mean digging up and reseeding the turning area at the far end of the car

park (a very rarely used area) and moving the benches back a bit. It is understood that the dug outs are going to be removed and become mobile dugouts.

13.5.2 The Council discussed the above and agreed that although this scenario is two years away the compromise as suggested by the Cricket Club makes most sense. This would provide a full size pitch for the football club to use and could be used by a village team if such existed. A query was raised on where the funding for this would come from and whether this could be included in the development of the all-weather surface. For further consideration.

13.6 **Goalposts** – WS reported that the goalposts which the Council had bought were damaged and unsafe and he had removed them. A discussion was held on the way forward and it was agreed that the Clerk would look back and find out the name of the company from which they had been purchased with a view to contacting them to get a cost for repair. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Clerk

13.7 It was noted that despite the cracked surface of the field the Football Club have gone ahead and marked out the pitch. Hopefully this will not result in further damage.

14 **HIGHWAYS/ROW MAINTENANCE**

14.1 JK had reported the condition of the stile opposite the plantation at Moorleaze and stated that there was another stile which also needed attention. He will discuss this further with RF. The Clerk stated that Clare Haskins at MDC is the contact to speak to but that Mendip Ramblers are also a useful organisation to make contact with regarding footpaths and their upkeep.

JK

14.2 **Grit Bin** – WS reported that a grit bin needed replacing near his farm. The Clerk will find out the cost of a replacement bin and inform WS.

Clerk

15 **CORRESPONDENCE**

15.1 Nothing to report

16 **MISCELLANEOUS AND FUTURE BUSINESS**

16.1 Nothing to report

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17.1 The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday
11 October at 7.30 p.m. (**NOTE:** subsequently moved to
Thursday 18 October at 7.30 p.m.)