

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
WITHAM FRIARY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 19 JULY 2018 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Present | Roy Featherstone (Chairman) | RF |
| | Will Sheppard | WS |
| | 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 Fred Nicholls (FN)

3 PUBLIC ACCESS

3.1 Speeding Vehicles

3.1.1. JK reported that Community Speed Watch had been involved in carrying out a survey on speeds and numbers of vehicles in the village. Unfortunately the village does not meet the strict criteria to have a CSW site. However there are several things that can be done as follows

- Clear the foliage from the 30mph signs – suggest that Jim Rosser is asked to do this
- Get proper signage on ‘the bend’ both on and off the road. RF will speak to Highways about this.
- Check that there is street lighting at least at 200 yard intervals otherwise technically this is a requirement for a 30mph zone
- Investigate repeating the 30mph speed signs if the lighting is not correct.

JK

RF

**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 12 APRIL 2018

5.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 APRIL 2018

6.1 **Co-option of New Councillor** – The Clerk will place an article in Postlebury News and a notice will be put up in the Seymour Arms. **Clerk**

6.2 **Emergency Plan** – RF and JK are working on this together and will report back to the next meeting **RF/JK**

6.3 **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**

6.4 **Walk Around the Village** – a date to be arranged for this. **RF**

6.5 **Railway** – the Council had been informed about clearance of undergrowth and foliage by Network Rail along the edge of the railway line. This has exposed the fact that the fencing and posts are not fit for purpose meaning that there is an inadequate barrier left. RF had informed Network Rail about the danger this imposed and was waiting for a response from them together with a plan of what they are proposing to do. **RF**

6.6 **Disabled Swing for Playpatch** – a request was made at the Annual Meeting for a special swing to be provided on the Playpatch for a local child with brain damage. RF had looked into the cost and this was estimated to be in the region of £4,500. A discussion took place about the cost of updating the current swings and installing a disabled swing as part of the apparatus. It was agreed to ask for a quote for this from Outdoor Play South West. **RF**

7 PLANNING

7.1 **2018/0090/FUL Erection of new garage workshop building for equipment and vehicles, new access and associated works at Tynemead Barn, Bindon Lane to Witham Hall Farm, Witham Friary for Mr & Mrs Yates** – approved with conditions

- 7.2 **2018/0548/FUL Erection of an agricultural building at Silver Birch Farm, Witham Friary for Mr P Snook**
– approved with conditions
- 7.3 **2018/1125/HSE Proposed new drive and access at 4 Yew Close, Witham Friary** – pending decision
- 7.4 **2018/0834/HSE and 2018/0835/LBC demolition of existing garage and outbuildings, erection of new rear extension and new garage at Mulberry House, Witham Friary** – approved with conditions.
- 7.5 **2018/0665/FUL Proposed horse walker at Little West Barn Farm, Strap Lane, North Brewham for MacIntosh (Listed Building Consent)** - withdrawn
- 7.6 **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 consideration
- 7.7 **2018/0113/FUL New sustainable life time home for disabled use at Druley Hill Farm** - withdrawn

8 FINANCE

- 8.1 **Financial Statement** – the financial statement at 19.07.18 was approved and signed
- 8.2 **Cheques for signature**
- SALC Affiliation Fee - £109.08
 - Mendip Community Transport – bus subsidy – April and May - £142.08
 - AED Location Defib annual monitoring fee - £58.80
 - Grass Valet – VAT owing from invoice paid at previous meeting - £245.67
 - Mrs A Brooks – Clerk’s Salary for June and July - £326.24
 - PCC of Postlebury – donation towards refurbishment of Witham Friary organ - £1,500 (previous cheque withdrawn)

9 WITHAM WATER

- 9.1 RF reported that he had met with Sebastian and a new website has been set up www.withamwater.co.uk which has a status bar which is updated on a daily basis. There is also information on the telephone number to ring and an on line form to complete to report a leak. Further information will be placed on the village Facebook page and in Postlebury News.

9.2 It was noted that contingency pumps are being installed alongside the existing pumps to take over if the pumps fail. The other suggestion is to stockpile some bottled water somewhere in the village which could be used in an emergency. RF stated that he would contact Environmental Health to see what they feel about this. **RF**

9.3 RF reported that he had been approached by residents about possible shortages of water during the current dry spell. It was noted that at present there is not a problem as an additional spring is now also supplying water to the village.

9.4 WS reported that he had come across a tanker filling up from a standpipe which is not allowed. RF agreed to contact Network Rail about this. **RF**

9.5 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.

10 VILLAGE HALL

10.1 Nothing to report

11 BROADBAND

11.1 CH reported that the three properties at Tynemead Farm had now been connected. Another property which is having problems is Henleaze, however it transpires that they are several metres outside the parish and are actually in Trudoxhill. Their area is due for installation by Gigaclear in Q2 2019 with finalisation in Q3/Q4 2019.

12 BUS SERVICES

12.1 The Clerk reported that due to lack of use the bus service is no longer sustainable, the last service ran on 18 July. There was general disappointment with this decision but a recognition that without more support the service was not sustainable in the long term.

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 and insurance details have not yet been received. 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.

Some alterations were made to the letter and a final version will be agreed at the next meeting.

Clerk

13.1.2 **Working Group** – it was noted that the establishment of a Working Group to take forward the possible refurbishment of the Recreation Field had garnered a great deal of support at the recent Annual Meeting and that an inaugural meeting was to be held very shortly. It was agreed that the Football Club need to be represented on this Group and a further invitation will be extended to them in the letter (see above)

13.1.3 It was noted that the Football Club want to make the pitch wider in order to accommodate the rules of the older team which will be using the field. WS will talk to Richard Gould about this and find out the timescale of when they want to start playing.

WS

13.1.4 It was noted that as a result of the extreme dry weather recently the surface of the field is cracked especially where the white lines are marked for the football. An alternative system was discussed using small plastic discs which can be mowed over without losing the lines. It was agreed to discuss the marking out of the field and what is used by the Football Club to do this.

14 HIGHWAYS/ROW MAINTENANCE

14.1 It was reported that the stile directly opposite the plantation at Moorleaze needs attention. JK agreed to look into this and supply the correct grid reference to report it.

15 CORRESPONDENCE

- 15.1
- Email from MDC regarding Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans and Sites to take place on 19 July
 - Email from Chair of SCC regarding Chairman's Awards for Service to the Community 2018
 - Email from PA to the Chair of Council, SCC, regarding a Civic Service to be held at Priddy Parish Church on Sunday 23 September at 2.30 p.m. followed by refreshments
 - Email from SCC with a press release entitled 'Could you lend a hand to help restore Somerset's iconic fingerposts?'
 - Email from SALC – two new Councillor training opportunities in September and October. 12 September the Council as an Employer and 3 October Local Council Finance Explained
 - Email regarding NALC Annual Conference 2018

- Information regarding Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day on 3 September 2018

16 **MISCELLANEOUS AND FUTURE BUSINESS**

16.1 Nothing to report

17 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

17.1 Due to the Clerk's ongoing health issues it was agreed to cancel the August meeting. The next meeting is therefore on Thursday 13 September 2018. RF gave his apologies. WS will chair the meeting.