

## Witham Friary Parish Council Meeting

### Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 August 2019, 7.30pm

**Present:** Hugo Brooke (Chairman) (**HB**), Colin Horstmann (**CH**), John Knowles (**JK**), Fred Nicholls (**FN**), Marcus Powell (**MP**), Roy Featherstone (part of meeting), Maddy Ferrari (**MF**), members of the public

**Clerk:** Rachel Nield (**RN**)

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#### 19/20 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Will Sheppard (Vice Chairman) (**WS**) and Michael Gay (Ward Councillor)

#### 19/21 Disclosures of Interest

None.

#### 19/22 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting on 18 July were signed as true and accurate records of the meetings by **HB**.

#### Public Access

- Potholes reported previously have been repaired but not all of them
- It has been established that a drain that fills up with detritus and which has been flagged up in a previous meeting is not a drain but a sump

#### 19/23 Planning

Mendip had sent two planning applications for consideration after the Agenda had been published. **HB** proposed that these be admitted to the meeting. This was seconded by **JK** and agreed.

a) 2019/1763/HSE

**Proposal:** 2 storey rear extension to existing detached house with single storey utility room extension at ground level

**Location:** Holly Cottage, Bindon Lane to Witham Hall Farm, Witham Friary, BA11 5HF

**Applicant:** Mr A Thornley-Davies

**Resolution: Councillors did not have enough information to comment on this proposal and referred this to the Planning department at Mendip District Council. Anyone wishing to comment can do so by contacting [consultations@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@mendip.gov.uk) by 26 August 2019.**

b) 2019/1784/HSE

**Proposal:** Proposed enlargement of the existing utility room and new single storey rear extension with roof terrace

**Location:** Holt Barton, Holt Lane, Witham Friary, BA11 5HP

**Applicant:** Mr & Mrs Canterbury

**Resolution: Councillors agreed to recommend approval.**

#### 19/24 Correspondence and Emails

Notification of a temporary road closure of Kingsettle Hill, Brewham has been received. This commenced on 15 July and is expected to last 54 days.

#### 19/25 Roles & Responsibilities

**HB** explained why Councillors are being allocated particular areas to be responsible for. He asked if all Councillors were in agreement to the proposals made at the last meeting.

**Resolution: Councillors agreed to the responsibilities allocated.**

#### 19/26 Dovecot Rent

The current lease is due for review. Our landlords, the Parish of Postlebury, wish to increase the rent to £97. HB is investigating the terms of the lease and will report further at the next meeting.

### 19/27 Village Inspection Plan

HB outlined the actions required from the inspection in March 2019 as follows:

1. Notice board on storage shed. **JK to collect keys from Mike so that 3 further sets can be made.**
2. Grill on leat. **JK and J Rosser to check and clear out again before the Autumn.**
3. Barrier at the end of the car park. **Council agreed NFA for the time being.**
4. Light at the church end of the car park. **Done.**
5. Nets and Poles around field. **Tom Hyde and the Conker Committee to be asked to do this.**
6. Slow sign on corner by the church. **FN to speak with Highways regarding a sign to indicate the bend in the road and to get markings on road.**
7. Metal swing frames are rusty. **J Rosser to be asked to repair these and other items in the report. (JK)**
8. Protective matting under swings. **Grass Valet to be asked to provide these. (RN).**
9. Wall around the Playpatch. **J Rosser has already been tasked to clear the ivy. Once cleared, JK will get quotes for wall repairs.**
10. Goal post damaged in playing field. **WS asked to speak with Richard Gilman regarding these being fixed. It was proposed that posts could be laid down when not in use and should be left down until repairs have been completed.**

**Disposal of damaged goal posts to be arranged by RN once the post material is confirmed.**

11. Signpost to Upton Noble. This needs to be repaired or replaced. Councillors discussed the awkward positioning of the post currently which means that is susceptible to vehicles hitting it but if moved onto the bank, it could be obscured by greenery. **FN will speak with Charlie Higgins at Highways to see if we can have signs put on each bank, rather than replacing the finger sign.**
12. Wooden fence by stream on road to Tynemead. This is broken and potentially hazardous to anyone using the track, particularly when the River Frome is in spate. **Ownership of the fence is to be confirmed so WFPC can request that this is made safe (HB JK).**
13. Height of railway bridge. It has been reported that the signs indicating the height are hard to read. **MP to refer to Railways.**
14. Parking at the recreation field. **JK volunteered to put signs up to indicate that overnight parking is prohibited.**

### 19/28 Parish Insurance

A renewal notice has been received from Came & Company. This was agreed to be acceptable. **It was resolved that RN speak with the company to change the amount insured against mowers and machinery to playground equipment as shown on the line above. The asset register is from 2017 so RN to ask Came & Company for depreciation of values to be taken into consideration.**

### 19/29 Finance

RN reported that the accounts were now with an independent accountant (Andrew Liggat) for auditing. Once this is completed, the end of year accounting process can be completed and monthly accounts presented at WFPC meetings.

### 19/30 Reports

**19/30.1 Highways (FN).** FN reported that trees on Gare Hill that are overhanging the road have been reported to the land owner for action and this has been acknowledged by the land owner. **FN asked that RN inform Trudoxhill Parish Council as part of Gare Hill falls within their parish.**

**19/30.2 Witham Water (JK).** JK reported that the Boil Notice for water has been lifted as recent tests have shown that the quality of the water is acceptable for drinking. The issue of how information is

communicated to residents was discussed with the suggestion that email and/or texting may be faster and more efficient. Mendip District Council, the Water Inspectorate and Witham Water will work together to examine and implement better testing procedures and best practice generally. **CH** raised the importance of ascertaining how the pollution of the water occurred so that future problems can be prevented. A meeting with the supplier is to be arranged with the aim of a better mutual understanding of the operation (**JK**).

**19/30.3 Sustainable Witham (SW representative). (MF)** reported an encouraging start to the **SW** group. Lots of ideas were put forward and enthusiasm. The group asked for WFPC support with the following:

- Some help with the cost of hall hire
- To encourage young people, **SW** asked if WFPC would sponsor a couple of awards or prizes

**It was resolved that WFPC would pay the cost of hall hire for 4 sessions.**

**A member of the Public generously offered to provide £20 for an award for one of the age groups.**

**19/30.4 Network Rail (MP).** Nothing significant to report.

**19/30.5 Communications (CH).** 2 people had approached **CH** as they have been trying to get connected to fibre optic for 2 years. **CH** contacted Open Reach and resolved the issue within a couple of days.

**19/30.6 Recreation Ground/Playpatch (WS).** In **WS**'s absence, **MF** confirmed that Sustainable Witham will be working with the Committee on rewilding the site.

**19/30.7 Female representation on WFPC (HB).**

Mendip District Council have advised that it is not possible to add another member to the Council. So **HB** invited Maddy Ferrari to attend future Council meetings as an advisor in addition to her involvement and representation of Sustainable Witham. She kindly consented to do so.

#### **19/31 Other Business referred to the Clerk**

- Confirmation of Clerk's pay. **HB proposed £11 per hour which was agreed for up to 20 hours per month.**
- **RN** confirmed that an application had been sent to SCC for any funds available to help WFPC create a new website
- **RN** to share questionnaire designed to help clarify what the new website will look like and what information WFPC wish to include
- **JK** confirmed that he has a checklist from SCC regarding what constitutes a footpath. The footpath in the Parish to the church where there is an ongoing query does not meet the criteria
- **HB** to speak with the owners of Corner Cottage as the relevant entry in the Land Registry shows the footpath is not part of their property and they are not entitled to block it.
- It was confirmed that WFPC meetings would be held regularly on the second Thursday of each month

#### **19/32 Date of Next Meeting**

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 12 September 2019 in Witham Friary Village Hall.**

*For the attention of: Hugo Brooke, Will Sheppard, Colin Horstmann, John Knowles, Fred Nicholls, Marcus Powell, Maddy Ferrari*

*Mendip District Councillor for Postlebury Ward: Michael Gay*