

Witham Friary Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12 December 2019, 7.30pm

Present: Hugo Brooke (Chairman) (HB), Colin Horstmann (CH), John Knowles (JK), Fred Nicholls (FN), Marcus Powell (MP)
Maddy Ferrari (MF), Members of the Public, Michael Gay (Ward Councillor)

Clerk: Rachel Nield (RN)

19/63 Apologies

Will Sheppard (WS)

19/64 Disclosure of Interest

None

19/65 Minutes of the last meeting

These were signed as an accurate record of the November meeting.

***Meeting to be suspended for the Public to speak for 2 minutes on any relevant issue.
District and County Councillors may give short verbal reports on matters affecting the Parish***

- It was requested that a hard copy of the Council's contact details be distributed to residents as not all are able to access these online. **It was resolved to do this and post a copy of Minutes in the Seymour Arms for residents to access more easily**
- Additional grit to what had been provided by Highways should be purchased. **Following previous discussions regarding this, it was resolved to use £500 for this**

19/66 Planning

19/66.1 Planning application: 2019/2890/CLE

Application type: Certificate of Use Existing. Proposal: Application for a certificate of lawful existing development for agricultural land to domestic curtilage, use class (C3). Location: White Oak Farm, Strap Lane, North Brewham, Shepton Mallet BA10 OJW. Applicant: Mr & Mrs Ekin

It was resolved to recommend approval of this application.

19/67 Correspondence and Emails

19/67.1 Request to support the Local Electricity Bill

Having considered this, CH proposed that the Council support this. **It was agreed unanimously.**

19/68 Finance

19/68.1 A current financial statement was presented.

Resolution: clerk to chase Network Rail for payment.

19/68.2 Accounts for payment were:

- Grass Valet (Maintenance contract 3/3) £1,324

19/68.3 A proposal for the 2020/21 budget was put forward. Councillors suggested amendments that will be added (ie. Funds for winter grit, a bus shelter) and a final draft will be presented at the January meeting. FN and WS voluntarily clear the roads of snow when necessary and FN requested that WFPC contribute to replacement parts for the tractor used. **It was agreed that £1000 be earmarked for winter maintenance and this will include tractor parts.**

19/69 Actions

HB recapped previous actions and updates:

- Clerk to liaise with WS regarding charges for cricket and football clubs using the recreation ground
- Following the Rural Pact meeting, residents are encouraged to report all crime, however small to assist the Police in monitoring anti-social and criminal activity. **MF** agreed to be the point of contact for residents
- Councillors discussed parking in the village that create potential for accidents
- It was reported that the lights under the railway bridge are not working

19/70 Reports

To receive reports or updates on:

19/70.1 Highways (**FN**). Nothing further to report

19/70.2 Parish Plan (**HB**). To be arranged

19/70.3 Network Rail; car parking (**MP**). There were no issues to report

19/70.4 Communications. **CH** had investigated different options. BT offer a website that is free to community groups and he will look into this further. A domain name was discussed and the financial details need to be confirmed

19/70.5 Recreation Ground (**WS**). Carried forward to the next meeting

19/70.6 Playpatch. **JK** reported on work completed such as rusty bolts replaced. The wall repairs are expected to be carried out in the Spring but this is to be confirmed

19/70.7 Footpaths (**JK**). Nothing to report

19/70.8 Witham Water. An update was given as follows:

- A meeting with Sebastian Seymour was scheduled for Friday 13 December with **HB** and **JK**
- There had been a meeting that was helpful with Bristol Water when 4 potential solutions were identified
- A community meeting was planned once the Council have more information to share
- **MP** fed back that residents he had spoken with were keen to stay with Witham Water if possible and it was confirmed that this is another option that is being looked into
- The importance of meters was discussed
- Both the Local and Parish Plans should consider the water supply in planning future builds and developments

19/71 Other Business referred to the Clerk

None

19/72 Date of next WFPC meeting: Thursday 9 January 2020

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