

Witham Friary Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14 November 2019, 7.30pm

Present: Hugo Brooke (Chairman) (**HB**), Will Sheppard (**WS**), 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**)

19/52 Apologies:

None

19/53 Disclosures of Interest

None.

19/54 Minutes of the Last Meeting

MF – asked for addition on 49/2, Witham Water. Clarification that the meeting mentioned is with the village. The Chairman then signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and accurate record.

Public Access

A representative of Boone Brown architects introduced himself and was present to answer any questions regarding item 19/55.1.

19/55 Planning

Planning application: 2019/2498/FUL, Applicant: Mr J Ekin

Proposal: Demolition of existing buildings and erection of a replacement dwelling with associated works.

Location: White Oak Farm Strap Lane North Brewham Shepton Mallet BA10 0JW

Councillors discussed concerns about development generally of the Strap Lane area.

Resolution: 4 councillors approved the proposal. Also, councillors agreed to raise their concerns regarding the ongoing development of Strap Lane with Mendip District Council.

19/55.2 Planning application: 2019/2632/HSE, Applicant: Mr & Mrs B. Riley

Proposal: Proposed single-storey garden room, covered walkway and pavilion to side, two-storey rear extension, front porch, reconfiguration of roof, re-cladding of existing extension and other internal and external alterations.

Location: Beech Tree Stud Farm Crosselm Road Upton Noble Shepton Mallet BA4 6AX

HB had studied this proposal and noted that there were no objections from any neighbours.

Resolution: Councillors voted unanimously to recommend the application.

19/56 Correspondence and Emails

19/56.1 Zero Carbon power point. This was sent onto MF for use by Sustainable Witham. The information can be used to inform the Village Plan.

19/56.2 Somerset County Council's highway winter service update. Confirmation had been received for WFPC request to have grit bins filled and to be included in the Snow Warden initiative. **RN to follow up for further information.**

19/56.3 Climate Change Adaptation. This took place on Tuesday 22 October and Michael Gay was invited to comment on this and reported that the event was well attended with a good variety of people. A key message was that self-help and opportunities for this are possible. **JK** agreed that there had been an interesting presentation and the event raised the question of what could be done in Witham Friary. **It was resolved to revisit the topic at a future meeting.**

19/57 Finance

19/57.1 Recent expenditure and receipts were presented.

19/57.2 Payments were agreed as follows:

- £30 SALC
- £1,378 Grass Valet (2/3 maintenance)

- £181.50 Clerk (Sept & Oct)
- £390 J Rosser (Repairs at Tynemead Track)
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19/57.3 RN advised that the deadline for setting the budget is January 2020 and this will be on the December agenda. Councillors were asked to consider any projects or proposals for the next financial year that would impact on this.

19/58 Review of actions from previous meetings

Councillors gave updates on actions outstanding.

- **MF** updated councillors on the recent Rural PACT meeting that she attended which was informative. The priorities set for the next quarter are: speeding, poaching, theft. The Police strongly encourage the Public to report all incidents to help them address criminal activity. The minutes of the meeting will be shared once they are received. **MF** confirmed that she will write up the key points and post on the website.
- **WS** confirmed that the Conker Committee cleared mud off the roads last year and expected that they would be willing to do this again once the last crops have been harvested. **WS** to speak with the Conker Committee.

19/59 Reports

19/59.1 Highways. **FN** reported that meetings had been arranged with Highways but that the representative had not attended. He had notified Cllr Gay. **FN** confirmed that he will continue to try to meet with someone in the Highways department.

FN asked the Clerk for an update on the trees on Gare Hill. RN confirmed that she had raised this with Trudoxhill Parish Council and would follow up on any progress.

19/59.2 Witham Water. **JK** recapped on the research he has been doing regarding the water provision to the Parish and steps taken to improve communication between all parties. It was confirmed that meetings will be arranged. **CH** has spoken with the MDC representative who is looking at how communication can be improved and information shared more quickly.

19/59.3 Network Rail; car parking. **MP** reported that he had not received any complaints regarding the work being carried out by Network Rail.

19/59.4 Communications. **CH** reported that work has been taking place and the residents not yet connected to the network should be by the end of November.

RN to send **CH** Michael Gorman's details.

19/59.5 Recreation Ground. **WS** informed the Council that an application for funding had been unsuccessful. However, other grant possibilities are being investigated.

WS advised that quotes will be invited for next season's grass cutting.

WS confirmed that he will chase the Football Club for insurance details needed by WFPC.

19/59.6 Playpatch. **JK** reported that work identified by the action plan have continued. Although it is safe at the moment, the wall has been identified as requiring work in the future.

19/59.7 Footpaths. **JK** had one report of a broken sign.

19/59.8 Parish Plan. **HB** confirmed that a meeting will be arranged as soon as possible to draw this up.

Sustainable Witham. **MF** reported that a Compostable Fair is arranged for Saturday 23 November and a Christmas Fair with local crafts people and food provider will take place on 8 December.

19/60 Other Business referred to the Clerk

None.

19/61 Due the elections taking place on December 12, the date of next WFPC meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 11 December 2019 at 7.30pm in the 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