

Witham Friary Parish Council Meeting

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

Present: Hugo Brooke (Chairman) (**HB**), Will Sheppard (Vice Chairman) (**WS**), Colin Horstmann (**CH**), John Knowles (**JK**)
Maddy Ferrari (**MF**), members of the public, Michael Gay (Ward Councillor)

Clerk: Rachel Nield (**RN**)

19/33 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Fred Nicholls (**FN**), Marcus Powell (**MP**).

19/34 Disclosures of Interest

None.

19/35 Minutes of the Last Meeting

MF - item 19/30.3. WFPC will also be sponsoring an award for one of the age groups.

MF – item 19/30.6. *'will be working with the Committee on rewilding the site.'* **MF** would prefer this to read *'will be working to improve biodiversity on the site.'*

Minutes of the meeting on 8 August were then signed as true and accurate records of the meetings by **HB**.

Public Access

- Vans are regularly parked by the bridge on the road exiting the village. Concern was raised that this creates an accident hotspot because the vans reduce vision to zero for drivers.
Resolution: WFPC to raise this with Highways in order that they can assess the situation. (FN). Cllr Gay to be copied into the email.
- A resident queried whether the water was fit to drink again as no letter had been received regarding this. **JK** confirmed that notice to boil water from Mendip District Council (**MDC**) had been rescinded. He explained that **WFPC** and **MDC** are working together to set up a system to allow email notices although GDPR is making this difficult. There is also consultation with Witham Water and the Drinking Water Inspectorate to avoid a similar situation in the future.
- Concern was registered about the proposal to build a sports pavilion on the playing field, as this would be in front of the parishioner's property. WFPC were asked if there are plans available of the proposed build and when these will be submitted. A new pavilion will impact on water supply and roads etc, and the resident asked for compromise around the build and that her objection be logged. **WS** explained that this issue would be covered later under Playing Fields.
- Cllr Gay reported as follows:
 - ◇ Connecting Devon & Somerset (CDS) have cancelled the Gigaclear provision that was to be used to deliver broadband. They need to rethink this and rollout will be delayed.
 - ◇ TrueSpeed is one of the alternative providers who are speaking to various parishes and may be the speediest option. **CH** added that everyone in Witham Friary parish has fibre broadband now if they want it. He noted that Openreach have been very cooperative in achieving this. **CH** was thanked for all his efforts.
 - ◇ Dog bins that weren't emptied were raised previously as an issue. Cllr Gay has inspected and these have now been emptied.
 - ◇ Mendip District Council accounts for last year are not finalised yet. These will be presented in October.
 - ◇ Wanstrow also has a Sustainable Wanstrow initiative that Sustainable Witham may wish to contact.

19/36 Planning

- a. Planning application: 2019/1962/CLP
Location: Foxes Farm, Strap Lane, North Brewham, Bruton, BA10 0JW
Proposal: proposed rear single storey enlargement to incomplete new build

Notification received that this application has been withdrawn

19/37 Correspondence and Emails

19/37.1 NALC Annual Conference, 28/29 October, Milton Keynes.

WFPC will not send a representative.

19/37.2 Parking overnight in car park

This issue appears to have resolved itself. WFPC to monitor.

19/37.3 Somerset Waste Partnership newsletter

This information has been shared with councillors and M Gorman for possible inclusion on website as information for residents.

19/37.4 Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) guidance regarding GDPR

RN to use the guidance to draft WFPC policies.

19/38 Playing Fields

WS reported as follows:

- ◇ The Conker Committee has paid the bill relating to the plans prepared for a sports pavilion. **WS** apologised for the confusion that this had caused.
- ◇ There was good attendance at the Open Meeting on Friday 6 September with considerable support for development in the village. It was agreed that the sports pavilion was not seen as a priority at this time and any future requirement would be for something on a smaller scale with provision for a toilet and shower facility.
- ◇ A pump track and perimeter track were agreed and grants to fund these have been applied for.
- ◇ The biodiversity around the playing fields will be increased and **MF** reported that Sustainable Witham will apply to the Woodland Trust for any available funds to assist with this.
- ◇ The Committee is reviewing the future grass cutting arrangements.
- ◇ **WS** is working on the insurance.
- ◇ Weather conditions have resulted in the far end of the field cracking. It will need levelling off and reseeded. **WS** volunteered to level this himself. The Cricket Club will pay for the seed. WFPC approved this. Reassurance was given that the cracks in the field will not present a health and safety issue.
- ◇ **WS** asked the member of the Public who had raised concerns about the development of the playing field whether they were reassured having heard more detail about the proposed changes. They stated that they still had concerns.

19/39 Finance

19/39.1 To present current financial statement – see 19/39.3 below.

19/39.2 Accounts for payment

- £320 J Rosser for work in the Playpatch
- £93.50 Clerk's payment

19/39.3 Audit of accounts and of year

RN reported that accounts were still with the auditor. As soon as these are resolved, an extra meeting of WFPC will be called to sign these off and close the end of year process. **This was agreed.**

19/40 Reports

To receive reports or updates on:

19/40.1 **Highways (FN)**

FN reported via **HB** that he had communicated with C Higgins at Highways and there will be a meeting in October to discuss the issue of safety at the corner in the village and road signs.

Discussion about grit provision confirmed that:

- ◇ The Parish Council is responsible for buying grit
- ◇ It had been agreed previously that grit would be spread from each end of the village
- ◇ Confirmation needed that the parish still have some grit reserves. Possibly held by **FN, WS** and D Liggatt
- ◇ The grit bin on the corner to be checked to see if any grit is left in it

19/40.2 **Witham Water (JK)**

A date for the meeting with various parties has yet to be confirmed. **JK** will keep WFPC informed.

19/40.3 Sustainable Witham (MF)

MF attended the playing field meeting as reported above. An event on 12 October is planned as a community café and apple pressing. New members have joined the group with technical skills that are welcome and useful. Posters will be going up to advertise the event.

19/40.4 Network Rail (MP)

Works commence on 29 September. Network Rail have asked if they can use part of the car park at the playing field for their equipment during the duration of the repair work for a payment of £3,250. The discussion that followed included comment:

- that this would impact on the planned Winter and Christmas events in the village
- residents near the car park would be affected
- the amount offered is paltry
- any agreement would require a written contract
- Cllr Gay suggested that Network Rail probably have contract for this type of arrangement
- More clarity is required about how much of the car park would be used, the hours of use etc
- JK registered his strong objection to accepting the Network Rail offer and allowing them to use the car park

It was resolved that HB and MP would meet with representatives of Network Rail and contact WFPC members.

19/40.5 Communications (CH)

CH reported that Nunney website looks quite good as an example for WFPC to follow. He needs further information such as who hosts and maintains this and associated costs. CH asked RN to confirm who the responsible member is at Nunney Parish Council so he can consult further.

19/40.6 Recreation Ground/Playpatch (WS)

The Recreation Ground had been covered under 19/38. JK reported that work is underway. The ivy has been cleared and repairs to the wall using the appropriate mortar can start in November. Swings are rusted. Wooden components need to be creosoted again. Once work is complete, JK will contact ROSPA. Checks take place weekly (JK), monthly (Roy Featherstone), every 3 years (ROSPA).

19/40.7 AED (Defibrillator) (JK)

The organisation responsible for overseeing the defibrillator was Heartsafe but this is moving to the South West Ambulance Service in future. JK confirmed that he checks the unit every fortnight (code, lights, pads etc and that all is in date).

19/40.8 Footpaths (JK)

The footpath behind the village hall is covered in slurry as the path is used to move cattle. **It was resolved that WS speak with the farmer.**

19/40.9 Dovecot Rent (HB)

HB confirmed that the tenant has agreed to a rent increase from £50 per annum to £97 per annum. RN to raise an invoice.

19/40.10 Footpath on Littlewood Corner (HB)

Following a conversation between HB, JK and the owner, the owner agreed to move the traffic cones.

19/41 Other Business referred to the Clerk

- **Tynemead track and bridge.** It was confirmed that ownership of this ground lies with the Crown Estates. They may be unaware of this. The main points of discussion centred around who is responsible for maintenance and repair currently, to what extent the condition of the fence represents a safety hazard to people and animals, any precedent that will be set by WFPC intervening to make this safe and ongoing responsibility. JK had been advised that the parish council can act if it is considered there is a safety issue. CH reiterated reservations of setting a precedent.

**It was resolved to vote on undertaking the repairs.
RN to contact Crown Estates.**

For – 3, Against – 1, Abstention - 0

- The Conker Committee took out insurance to cover events held at the playing field, including the 4 major events of the year. **WS** asked WFPC to contribute to the cost of £344.74.
It was resolved that WFPC will contribute £200.

19/42 The date of next WFPC meeting was confirmed as Thursday 17 October 2019.

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

Draft