

## Witham Friary Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 7.30pm

**Present:** Hugo Brooke (Chairman) (**HB**), Will Sheppard (**WS**), Colin Horstmann (**CH**), John Knowles (**JK**), Marcus Powell (**MP**) Michael Gay (**MG**)  
Maddy Ferrari (**MF**), Members of the Public

**Clerk:** Rachel Nield (**RN**) Val Barton (**VB**)

---

### 20/83 Apologies

None

### 20/84 Disclosure of Interest

None

### 20/85 Minutes of the last meeting

These were signed as an accurate record of the January 2020 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***

- Michael Gay advised recently approved ability for MDC to borrow 100million to close the funding deficit for investment into portfolio. MDC to borrow 50 million for re generation important it is spent rurally and not just in towns. Puddles
- Headmistress of Upton Noble school would like to meet with the WFPC to ask for a possible donation towards the replacement of extremely outdated IT equipment. (**MG**)

### 20/86 Planning

Whiteoak planning approved. 1 objection raised by Mike Gay to be raised with the planning dept in March.

### 20/87 Correspondence and Emails

20/87.1 Letter from Cllr Ross Wyke, Leader of Mendip District Council regarding structural changes, **No Action** – On Website

20/87.2 Presentation of Parish Forum and Somerset Waste Partnership Recycle ``more Scheme **No Action** – On Website

### 20/88 Finance

20/88.1 A current financial statement was presented.

20/88.2 Accounts for payment were:

- £1108.35 Jim Rosser for Playpatch, Playing Field and Car Park - **Approved**

### 20/89. Actions

**HB** recapped previous actions and updates:

20/79.1 Village Car Parking. It has been noted on several occasions that some parking in the village constitutes a hazard. In particular in the vicinity of the railway bridge. Although currently there are no enforceable parking restrictions, all village residents are asked to be mindful of creating dangerous conditions when parking. Eg. Parking in such a way that traffic is forced onto the wrong

side of the road or creating blind spots for other road users – particularly on blind corners in the area near the railway bridge. The Parish Council will also consult with various authorities to review options for enforcing safe and considerate parking. **FN/MP**

20/79.2 Lights near the Rail Bridge. It was discussed and agreed that these fall within the responsibility of the Highways department. **It was resolved that FN/MP raise this issue with Highways. Action – Tactful request for careful parking of larger vehicles on blind bends, requesting villagers be aware of parking in potential hot spots**

### 20/90 Witham Water

Ben Newby & Tim St John from Bristol Water came to update WFPC on the ongoing situation.

Four options initially possible, a full survey will be required and as soon as the WFPC has Bristol Waters full report. A village meeting will be held in due course.

### 20/91 road signs and road Drainage

- Blocked Drains and possible water leak, **FN advised Highways but as of yet no action, email to be re sent with CC to MG.**
- Length Limit sign at entrance to village at ‘T’ Junction, Highways to be contacted **FN**

### 20/92 Grass Cutting

- Country Lawn & Trees quoted for grass cutting, **WS advised an additional quote is pending.**

### 20/93 Croft Cottage

- **MG** requested correspondence.
- **MCC Planning department has advised there is no contravention.**
- **MG** advised that all further complaints needed to be sent directly to the planning department by the individuals concerned.

### 20/94 Reports

- 20/94.1 **FN** is awaiting response from Highways
- 20/94.3**CN** reported no Broadband Issues, New Website is being looked at, Accessibility to Witham Website to be assessed, funding for this may need to be looked at in the future (June) **HB** to talk to Mike re hosting costs.
- 20/94.4 **MF** update re ordering trees for recreation field and submit a plan for planting the perimeter of the recreation field with trees, **HB** requested professional advice be obtained for the planting locations.
- 20/94.5 **WS** advised more quotes re required for the perimeter path of the recreation ground as no grants are available at the moment.
- 20/94.6 **MF** would like to plant a sensory garden for the children in the playpatch. **JK** looking at quotes to repair the wall of the playpatch.
- 20/94.7 **JK** footpaths are to be identified and added to the statutory map.
- 20/94.8 Bristol Water met with the parish council for and update and advised they are still putting together a report.
- 20/94.9 **HB** spoke to William Gilbert from Network Rail and advised he hopes the outstanding bill will be paid soon, **VB** emailed **WG** to confirm payment has been made.

### 20/96 Date of next Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> March 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*