

## Witham Friary Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020, 7.30pm

**Present:** Hugo Brooke (Chairman) (**HB**), Will Shepherd (Vice Chairman), Colin Horstmann (**CH**), John Knowles (**JK**), Marcus Powell (**MP**), Fred Nicholls (**FN**) Members of the Public

---

### 07/01 Apologies

Michel Gay (District Councillor)

### 07/02 Disclosures of Interest

None

### 07/03 Minutes of the last meeting

These were approved as an accurate record of the June 2020 meeting.

***Meeting was suspended for the Public to speak on any relevant issue.***

Members of the public offered these observations:-

Is there a need for a bus shelter? – **response recorded in item 07/06**

Re Wilding Project – Nick Hutton stated that contrary to My Goldsmith's assertion, there is a bull present in the field where the White Park cattle are currently grazing. He further stated that wild boar were not being shot, they are being chased onto adjoining land. He said there are many complaints of damage, those in Brewham being particularly bad. He said he had offered to help Mr Goldsmith to contain the deer and boar but as yet he has declined assistance. Horses can be spooked by wild boar, making it dangerous for owners to ride in the woods to the south east of the village for fear of coming across these animals. He warned that the boar will change the parish and that the NFU & Pig Ass are co-ordinating to try and contain and cull the wild boar population. He said there was concern at the lack of consultation with parish residents by Mr Ben Goldsmith. He has a history of similar acts and the PC needs to ensure that he does not repeat any more releases. **Responses to these comments are recorded in item 07/04.**

### 07/04 Re Wilding Plan

**HB** Reported that he had spoken to Ben Goldsmith and was advised the cattle were no risk despite being on a footpath because there was no bull nor any calves in the herd. He also confirmed that he would be culling the wild boar on his land. **HB** reported he happened to be present at Cannwood Farm when the stalker was given his instructions to shoot as many boar as he could. Mr Goldsmith had subsequently said six had been despatched so far. **WS** was very concerned where the re-wilding is going as Ben Goldsmith is not engaging with parish residents. **HB** said he had requested that the village be given more information to raise awareness. **MP** Parish council should be concerned about winter as when food is short the wild boar will migrate to the village. **JK** The PC should be influencing Ben Goldsmith. **HB** Agreed the village needs to make a stand so the problem does not become worse. Although the PC cannot order a shoot, if necessary the PC will explore this avenue and take a vote.

**Action – HB to engage further with Ben Goldsmith, signage to be put up and the situation to be monitored.**

### 07/05 Came & Co Parish Insurance

The PC voted unanimously to accept their quote and renew its insurance policy with the company in September.

### **07/06 Bus Shelter**

**MP** responded to the query of a need for a bus shelter, the older children are all collected in the same place by the school bus, the recreation car park is very exposed and the children are exposed to the elements all year round. A shelter is needed and we can afford to provide one.

**The PC voted unanimously to allow £500 for the project providing there are no objections within 48hrs of this being posted.**

### **07/07 Finance**

07/07.1 A current financial statement was presented and accepted.

07/07.2 Accounts for payment were agreed.

07/07.3 Network Rail have paid the full £4,900 for the rent of the car park last year. They have also requested use of the car park next Easter. It was agreed to ask for £500 for the Easter period and a further £100 per extra day if required before or after Easter. **FN** suggested NR be asked to pay in advance.

07/07.4 The external Audit and the AGAR form were discussed and approved.

### **07/08 Actions**

Actions were discussed from previous meeting, actions for this meeting are included in these minutes. This will be the format going forward.

### **07/09 Reports**

07/09.1 Highways: **FN** Road surface melted during hot weather this has been reported.

07/09.2 Communications: **CH** reported that the website has been purchased and hosted and that he would be providing training for the PC Clerk.

07/09.3 Sustainable Witham: **FN** requested the clerk email MDC to trim verges as Holt Lane and Private Lane visibility is seriously impaired at the moment and the bracken is choking the wild flowers. Action – clerk to e mail request to DC.

07/09.4 Recreation Ground: **WS** The Walking track is finished. There is an issue with fencing WS is trying to establish who owns it so it can be repaired.

07/09.5 Playpatch: **JK** reported that the Playpatch is open in accordance with safety instructions issued by SCC. A safety analysis has been done. The PC would like to extend their sincere thanks to Roy and Chris Featherstone for their assistance with the risk assessment and the warning signs for the play area.

06/10. Footpaths: **JK** advised warning signs have been posted in respect to the re wilding issue, some of which had been repeatedly torn down. **FN** undertook to nail up replacements.

### **07/10 Business referred to the clerk**

The PC Clerk had received a request to ask Manor Farm to hang bright tape on the wire gates used to keep the dairy herd from wandering into the village, as they are hard to see for riders using the bridleway. **WS** undertook to talk to the farmer concerned.

Witham Working Group is to have a regular slot on the agenda, which will be actioned from August.

**06/12 The next WFPC virtual meeting was scheduled for Thursday August 6th at 7.30pm 2020. This is one week earlier than usual to facilitate the Clerk's vacation. It is to be held on Zoom.**

*For the attention of: Hugo Brooke, Will Shepherd, Colin Horstmann, John Knowles, Fred Nicholls, Marcus Powell &*

*Mendip District Councillor for Postlebury Ward: Michael Gay.*