

Witham Friary Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Thursday 11th June 2020, 7.30pm

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

Clerk: Val Barton (**VB**)

06/01 Apologies

None

06/02 Disclosure of Interest

None

06/03 Minutes of the last meeting

These were approved as an accurate record of the May 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**

MG. suggested reducing hedge cutting to once a year and planting wild flowers.

It was suggested that the re wilding should include local input to avoid situations such as with the red deer.

06/04 Bus Shelter

MP Update – Richard Gould offered 2 dug out frames for the shelter, it was suggested the PC should offer a payment for these. An upper limit for the refurb into bus shelters was set at £500 maximum to include the two frames.

Possibly be reclad in timber.

MP/JK/WS to speak to Jim Rosser

06/05 Planning

None submitted

06/06 Revised Website Partnership Website Update

CH Advised that the link on the Somerset Waste collection site leads to completely inaccurate information.

MG Is going to look into the issue

06/07 Somerset One council Proposal

JK Not in agreement with a unified council.

MG Create a higher ratio workload per person per councillor

Action the PC would like more information, **HB** will respond with the form.

06/08 Finance

06/08.1 A current financial statement was presented.

06/08.2 Accounts for payment were: Clerks Wages

06/08.3 Network Rail have advised they will pay shortly

06/08.4 Nat West seemingly unable to move us to on line banking, the PC have agreed to give the manager of the local branch a chance to rectify this.

06/08.5 Outstanding payments, Dovecote and Network rail

06/08.6 Clerks Wages authorised for payment

06/09 Actions

Actions were discussed from previous meeting a separate update is pending.

06/10 Reports

06/10.1 Highways **FN** Aware of potholes, not completed due to Covid

06/10.2 Communications, **CH** Website expires 17th of the month.

06/10.3 Sustainable Witham – **MF** – Requested a tree to be put up to thank helping hands, **Action**, put on website to ask villagers for suggestions. **CH** Asked how they are going to achieve 0 carbon by 2030.

06/10.4 Playpatch **JK** reported still closed, wall needs inspecting.

06/10.5 Footpaths – **JK** advised this is ongoing

06/10.6 Witham Water **JK** reported that Nick Hutton advised it needs to be a village decision, the water infrastructure is in pretty good condition, what would be Bristol Waters connection charge for individual properties. **HB** updated that Witham Water has been moved to Bristol Waters project dept.

06/10.7 Playing Field **WS** reported that the windblown trees have been tidied and the footpath is due to start.

06/11 Business referred to the clerk

Suggested that the various groups in the village come together to become an Advisory Group working along side the PC. **Clerk now wishes to advise that we can have a working group to assist, however, the group can have no influence in the decision making process, they may bring issues or suggestions and research projects and ideas, but cannot be considered as the PC, they will be a working group to assist in projects voted on by the PC for the benefit of the WHOLE parish.**

The working Group will have a regular monthly slot on the Agenda to speak about relevant projects, suggestions and ideas.

06/12 To confirm the date of the next WFPC meeting – Witham Friary Village Hall Thursday July 9th at 7.30pm 2020

*For the attention of: Hugo Brooke, Will Sheppard, Colin Horstmann, John Knowles, Fred Nicholls, Marcus Powell
Mendip District Councillor for Postlebury Ward: Michael Gay*