

Witham Friary Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 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**)

21/04 Apologies

Will Sheppard,

21/05 Disclosure of Interest

None

21/06 Minutes of the last meeting

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

Matters arising

(1) HB spoke about Upton Noble School still looking for funds to upgrade their IT equipment. **WFPC** agreed to pay 1/3 amounting to £1,145.00, **Action – Approved**

(2) HB pointed out that development of the website had reverted to **CH**. **CH** said the site was almost ready to launch, but two matters were still to be settled: **(1)** where it was to be hosted and **(2)** training for the Clerk, to allow her to manage it.

Meeting was suspended for the Public to speak

Beth Horstman advised that there is red deer herd, possibly escaped, which is causing an issue and could possibly lead to a fatal accident. It is possible that the herd could have been part of re wilding project being undertaken by The Hermitage, Holt Farm & 42 acres & Ben Goldsmith. **MG – will speak to the council environment team.**

Tom Hyde advised that once a deer has escaped it is deemed to be wild and becomes the responsibility of the land owner. A suggestion to contact Nick Woods – Deer Stalker.

FN – brought to the councils attention that there is a poaching with crossbows issue in Gare Hill Woods, they have smashed through the gates. It was understood that the police at this time had not been informed.

HB – Police must be informed so that the rural crime team can investigate or at the very least be aware we have an issue. **MF** undertook to talk to the police.

21/07 Bus Shelter

MP – Requested a Bus shelter be erected for the School Children so they had some shelter for the winter.

Tom Hyde suggested that the dugouts be repurposed, they are stored at Will's Farm.

Action – Will Shepherd to speak to Richard Gould about the possibility of repurposing the dug outs.

21/08 Planning

Strap Lane Application NO 2019/2498/FUL. **Planning Declined by MCC Planning Dept**
Croft Cottage, Application No 202/0589/HSE, **HB** confirmed no malice intended with build, they have removed side windows and modified front of building to look better and be more functional.
WFPC Approved Planning

21/09 Witham Water

HB Wessex Water have no interest in taking on Witham Water. Bristol water have been requested to make a proper proposal. Public commented that Nick Hutton has some ideas **CH** to pass Nick's details to **HB**

JK suggested a Community Interest Company. **MG** source of finance – Public Works Loans Body.
JK has contacted Mendip Council, but no application has been made.

21/10 Recreation Field

Mandate wording agreed by WFPC

Tom Hyde requested an update on the track. WFPC confirmed works should start immediately.
Maddy Ferrari requested long term could a more sustainable track surface be looked at.

21/11 Finance

21/11.1 A current financial statement was presented.

21/11.2 Accounts for payment were:

- £591.31 Clerks wages and expenses for March to May 2020 - **Approved**

Also requested clerk to Invoice Mr Barnes for a further £47.00 in respect of the annual rent for the Dovecote.

21/12 Actions

No Actions to report as items were in discussion stage.

21/13 Reports

21/13.1 Highways **FN** Nothing to report **HB** advised road has gone yellow in front of Mrs Gould's house.

21/13.2 Communications, **CH** awaiting on line banking to purchase Domain name and hosting site.

21/13.3 Sustainable Witham – Maddy Ferrari -Requested 'NO MOW MAY' for the playpatch so the children can count the wildflowers for a national survey

20/99.5 Playpatch **JK** reported still closed, wall still needs attention.

20/99.6 Footpaths – **JK** advised no problems.

21/14

Clerk suggested a village fete after lockdown, WFPC agreed, clerk to liaise with various village groups to organise this, also clerk to obtain quotes from the village butchers for a hog roast which she suggested could be the PC contribution to the festivities.

21/15

To confirm the date of the next Remote WFPC meeting as Thursday 11th June 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*