

## Witham Friary Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 7.30pm

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

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### 11/01 Apologies

### 11/02 Disclosures of Interest

Clerk advised that planning app 2020/1903/FUL relates to her property

### 11/03 Minutes of the last meeting

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

11/03.1 Matters referred to the Chair

Maddy Ferrari advised that the Plant Packs and trees are en route.

There is new meeting arranged with the Beat Officer for 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Covid permitting.

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

### Members of the public offered these observations:-

**Jess Hyde** informed the PC that in the absence of any celebrations this year due to Covid-19, she is working with Roxy Sedgbeer to arrange a Witham Winter wonderland, this will involve putting Xmas silhouettes in the windows of the villagers and encouraging decorating for a Wonderland Walk around the village. It may be possible to organise a hot chocolate and cake venue, the money raised will go to the 'Help the Homeless' charity.

Jess has also requested that any donations of clothes, hygiene products, blankets, or cash donations would also be very welcome.

**CH** requested information to pop onto the website.

**Jim Rosser** advised the PC of the Selwood Facilitation Group, this has government funding and is monitoring the water quality in Frome, this is a 5yr project. **WS** requested this be entered into the minutes, as we are aware there is an issue with the water quality in our rivers and streams.

**Tom Hyde** brought to the attention of the PC various road side drains that are blocked. Especially noting the right hand side drain near the railway bridge causing issues with road side drainage. There is also a problem with drain outside the church. It was suggested that a farmer with a slurry tanker could possibly clear them, however, should any damage occur this could be an insurance issue.

**FN** advised that Highways had been notified and the references were available should anyone wish to check.

**Guy** informed the PC that the half yearly litter picking is going ahead on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. It will be organised in family bubbles, a poster will put on the village notice board and it will be Covid compliant.

## **11/04 Covid-19**

A link will put onto the Website so parishioners can access up to date information.

## **11/05 Planning**

**Application Number** 2020/2055/HSE

**Proposal:** Erection of single storey rear extension, detached garage and roof alterations including two dormer windows.

**Location:** 3 Manor Gardens Bindon Lane To Witham Hall Farm Witham Friary Frome BA11 5HN **Applicant:** Guy Maynar Griffin

**Application Type:** Householder Application

**Application Number** 2020/2125/TPO

**Town and Country Planning act 1990**

**Proposal:** Works to trees under a TPO (M1296):- T1 - Yew Tree, remove lower growth up to 3m and reduce up to 2m in height.

**Location:** Quarry Hill 61 Bindon Lane To Witham Hall Farm Witham Friary Frome BA11 5HD

**Applicant:** Nichols

**Application Type:** Works/Felling of TPO Trees

**Application Number** 2020/1903/FUL

**Proposal:** Erection of a single wood framed building for the sheltering of animals.

**Location:** Rough Stubbs 10 Holt Lane Witham Friary Frome BA11 5HJ

**Applicant:** Mr Andrew Nicholson

**Application Type:** Full Application

**Application Number** 2020/2186/HSE

**Proposal:** Erection of single storey front lean-to extension Location: 4 New Friary Cottages Bindon Lane To Witham Hall Farm Witham Friary Frome BA11 5HW

**Applicant:** MS HELENA CHARLTON

**Application Type:** Householder Application

**All of the planning applications were approved by the Parish Council unanimously**

## **11/06 Schools Initiative**

Update to be given in December's Meeting

## **11/07 Car Charging Point**

**Jim Rosser gave the following report.**

Cost of Installation is approximately £1500.00, this includes a 3 year warranty and a phone app to pay for use of the charging point. The Parish will get a return on its investment once the upfront costs have been covered.

**CH** said he has received objections regarding the costs, extra parking and movement of vehicles through the village.

**JK** We have to accept EV as we are faced with a future without petrol or diesel. The charging point can give a return on the investment and he would like more information. There is an issue regarding lithium and water pollution, this is being investigated. He proposed the PC continue to investigate and produce a costed plan.

**FN** the precept is not a bottomless pit. At the moment we don't have the spare money, it's possible we may be able to fund this in the future.

**JK** Will investigate the possible funding avenues available from MCC, so that the precept is not used.

### **11/08 Internal Auditor**

The Parish Clerk, requested confirmation that we are going to lose our Internal Auditor.

**HB** this is indeed a possibility and will confirm as soon as possible.

**VB** should this be the case, a replacement with the necessary qualifications will need to be found ASAP. The Internal Auditor is essential for the AGAR, especially this financial year as we are not going to qualify for the exemption, the year end accounts will require a qualified and certified accountant.

DRAFT

### **11/09 Finance**

11/09.1 To present current financial statement – **Approved**

**Jim Rosser** requested more information regarding the balance of the Bank Accounts, the clerk advised that the bank statements are available on request to anyone within the parish that wishes to scrutinise them.

11/09.2 To present accounts for payment :-  
SALC invoices

INV 20445 £30.00

INV 20422 £30.00

INV 20397 £30.00

Steve Orr £260.00 Playpatch wall

SSE electric bill £11.12

11.12

Clerks Wages £240.12

**All the above accounts were approved for payment by the PC.**

VAT Return 17/18 repaid at £2,336.85

Breakdown for possible saving on electricity bill

SSE Current Charges 42.04 pence per day standing charge, 19.01 pence per unit

Possible New Charges

EDF

INV 1/4 25 pence per day standing charge 17.4 pence per unit Direct Debit 23.2 pence per day standing charge, 16.18 pence per unit

SSE

Inv 1/4 29.3 pence per day standing charge, 15.9 pence per unit

Averaging about 40 units per year based on the last 6 months.

11/09.3 Budget 20/21

The Clerk requested input from the Business Owners on the PC regarding the submitted budget.

**JK** observed that the Distgen income and precept could be clearer.

The clerk agreed to look at it.

### **11/10 Actions**

11/07 – More in depth report and costing for car charging point **JR** Possible use of MCC funding for project, **JK** to investigate.

11/11.1 Private Drive road resurface as dangerous **MG** to chase highways. (See para 11/11.1 below).

Grit bins **Clerk** to request refill from highways.

11/11.1 **Clerk** to investigate who is responsible for clearing the snow from Witham.

11/11.2 Website updating to be added to December's agenda.

### **11/11 Reports**

11/11.1 Highways (**FN/MP**) Private Road, the road surface has degraded. Mendip claimed it has been resurfaced, but this is not the case –**Action – FN** requested assistance from **MG**, to get the resurfacing done as it is now dangerously slippery.

**FN** Grit bins require refilling, **Clerk** to e mail request, **FN** to supply contact e mail information.

**FN** Advised he is now the 'official snow clearing contractor for Skanska' however not for Witham Friary.

**MP** Drains have been cleared by hand.

**11/11.5 Witham end of the Wanstrow footpath:** **HB** to update on progress as an agenda item in Decembers meeting, following his discussion with Nick Hutton.

**11/11.2.2 Communications.** **CH** Ongoing cost of website hosting needs to be addressed, there is an allowance for this in the budget. Clerk advised that Beth Horstmann would be happy to take on this behind the scenes responsibility.

**FN** the website does require updating. To be added to the next agenda.

**11/11.3 Recreation Ground WS** It has now been harrowed and is ready to be reseeded.

Positive feed back about the perimeter track. Bus shelter now has a flooring surface and has been repositioned to better protect the school children from inclement weather.

**11/11.4 Play-patch (JK)** the first stage of wall repair has been completed, the PC approved the first payment as listed in finance.

**11/11.5 Footpaths (JK)** the Westend Wood track has been cordoned off and the repair is deferred until the new budget in April.

**HB** A complaint has been made to SCC about the state of the Wanstow Path at the Witham end. **HB** to speak to Nick Hutton. Update to be added to the next agenda.

**11/12 Witham Water Update**

**Nothing to report, HB to email MG**

**11/13 Witham Working Group**

**CH** there does not appear to be any enthusiasm for the group, no attendance at the PC meeting again this month. **WS explained** Covid is not helping, people are unable to get together to discuss a way forward.

**11/14 Other Business referred to the Clerk**

Mud on the road through the village – Advised PC

Flooring for the bus shelter – Completed

SSE tree cutting – Branches around the Wires have been pollarded

Upton Noble signpost. Quotes to refurbish, add to next agenda (December)

Village Xmas Tree – **HB** to enquire if the DoS still donates a tree, if so, to be placed in the Playpatch, hopefully will add a bit of extra sparkle to the Winter Wonderland Walk.

**After Note:** Seb Seymour has said the DoS Estate hopes to provide one Christmas tree to the village this year for the church, as is customary.

**11/15 The next WFPC meeting was confirmed as Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**After Note**

The Clerk wishes to remind everyone that only those items on the published agenda can be discussed at PCM's and asks that in future she be informed in good time of anything new anyone wishes to raise, so that due notice can be given.