

Witham Friary Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Thursday 9th October 2020, 7.30pm

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

10/01 Apologies

Will Shepherd.

10/02 Disclosures of Interest

None

10/03 Minutes of the last meeting

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

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

Members of the public offered these observations:-

Michael Gay offered an update about the 'recycle more' blue bags to be delivered from the 12th October onwards, parishioners can refer to the somerset waste partnership fb page for more information. Cllr Michael Gay will also send information to the clerk about the green grants available to householders and landlords. Also advised he has now accepted the role of vice chairman of the Audit Committee, in addition to his councillor role. WFPC wishes councillor Gay the best of luck with his new duties.

On behalf of the village **Anne Howard** wished to extend heartfelt thanks to the WF helping hands group for their hard work and support during the lockdown and for carrying on afterwards for our folk that need a bit of extra tlc. Well done all, you should be very proud.

10/04 Planning

Application Number 2020/1832/FUL

Proposal: Stable block, track and change of use of field to mixed equine and agricultural.

Location: Land At 374747 140159 Holt Lane Witham Friary Frome Somerset

Applicant: Mr Nicholas Wood

Application Type: Full Application

Planning approved by WFPC

10/05 Re Wilding Plan Update

Ben Goldsmith has had two meetings with his affected neighbours and has agreed to compensate a farmer for the damage to his crop/grazing. He has confirmed he will not be releasing anything else unless it is part of a larger project. He will install adequate fencing for the white park cattle and agreed to communicate any future endeavours.

10/06 Bus shelter Update

The bus shelter has now been completed

10/07 Picnic Tables

PC agreed to revisit this request in the spring

10/08 Finance

09/07.1 To present current financial statement - **Approved**

09/07.2 To present accounts for payment – **Approved, clerks timesheet approved, Payment for J Rosser for general repairs and the bus shelter, Approved**

09/07.3 Network Rail – **No further update regarding the Easter Programme**

09/07.4 Online Banking - **Pending**

09/08.5 VAT Return – **2019/2020 has been paid, clerk will now submit further claims.**

10/08 Actions

Actions from September meeting, confirmed as completed.

10/10 Reports

10/10.1 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 has cleared the vegetation obstructing vision at Private Drive.

MP said drains at Private Road still needed clearing.

HB reported a blocked drain outside the goods yard. **Action FN**

10/10.2 Communications. **CH** confirmed that the Village Website conforms to accessibility for people with disabilities.

10/10.3 Recreation Ground (**JK**). Work has started on the second phase of the rec field surface improvement.

A smart meter has been installed for the car park lights. A new padlock is required for the meter box. It has been noted that the car park lights are on all night because the timer needs adjusting. **HB** will action both.

10/10.4 Play-patch (**JK**) Requested a £1000 for urgent repairs to the wall around the play-patch, **Passed Unanimously**

10/10.5 Footpaths (**JK**) the stile between 42 acres and the stud farm, the repair has been agreed. Claire Haskins to be approached for an update on the repair to the track in West end woods. **Action JK**

10/11 Witham Water Update

HB reported that Bristol Water have yet to start work on their proposal to supply the Parish of WF with water. **MG** asked for the contacts at Bristol Water to see if he can assist in any way.

10/12 Witham Working Group,

Roy Featherstone has agreed to chair the WWG. **MF** has spoken to the WI & the Church and other groups, all of whom are quite keen on the idea and have many suggestions.

MF Reported that the 'Planet Protector Packs' are £5.00 each and there are 24 families with children under 11 yrs in the Parish. MF asked for funding for each of those households to have a pack which includes various activities as well as seeds. Expenditure of £120 was **approved Unanimously by PC.**

MF confirmed the Woodland trust will have delivered the sapling trees by early December, and suggested that the village children could look after them in pots until they can be planted out. She requested the clerk to confirm the date of the tree trimming with SSE, and to find out what the rules are about using a working BT phone box as the village activity swap shop. **Action – Clerk** agreed to assist and send the information to Maddy

10/13 Other Business referred to the Clerk

CH would like to instigate a parish programme of school age children to visit farms, studs, re wilding projects in the area, this will educate children as to where their food comes from, planet saving projects, various rural businesses and asked **MG** for assistance. This will be added to November's agenda.

It was suggested an EV charging point was installed in the car park, it was agreed to pass this on to sustainable Witham for investigation and a feasibility report.

09/13 The next WFPC meeting was confirmed as Thursday 12th November 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.