

## **Witham Friary Parish Council Meeting**

**Minutes of the remote meeting held on:  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 @ 7.30pm**

Present: Hugo Brooke (Chairman) (HB), Will Sheppard (Vice Chairman) (WS) Colin Horstmann (CH), John Knowles (JK), Marcus Powell (MP), Fred Nicholls (FN), Michael Gay (MG), Donna Featherstone (DF)

**02/21/01 Apologies:** None

**02/21/02 Disclosure of Interest:** None

**02/21/03 Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were approved as an accurate record.

**02/21/03.1 Matters referred to the Chair**

HB reminded the council of a theft of some equipment from the village. He is going to establish whether the Days had a crime reference number to see if he could prompt further action. HB believed that the police knew who took the equipment but no action had been taken.

AH was concerned that potholes in the road past FN's drive were really bad when she last went up there. Fred responded and said that lots of work had been carried out and that there are now several rough patches but no potholes.

MG reported that Mendip Council have changed priorities to supporting the vaccination and test and trace facility and thereafter, aiding with economic bounce back. Officers throughout Mendip have been redeployed and this will affect the speed of the planning department. He also reminded the council to keep an eye on the Business grants page of the Mendip website. The deadline for applications is this Friday. MG will be working on the Audit Committee. Last year's audit figures have not been signed off yet because of an objection but they have seen draft figures regarding money in the forthcoming year. He is satisfied that the council is fine as a going concern and although there was a deficit, there will be no reduction in services in this coming year. He offered to answer any further questions via email.

### **02/21/04 Covid 19**

HB stated that the situation seemed to be improving in this area. He enquired as to whether anyone in particular required any support or help. The Council did not think there was anyone.

### **02/21/05a Car Charging Point**

No progress at present. JK recommended leaving the decision for the time being until Somerset and Mendip decide on their policy. JK felt it was too early to work out a policy. All agreed.

### **02/21/05b Schools Initiative**

CH has found an organisation called Farm Link which may be of interest. They offer tours to schools linked to the curriculum but cannot do so at present because of Covid. They hope to continue after Easter. The Farm Link website shows a number of farms on there so this needs to be looked into after Easter. MG stated that an initiative called 'Farm in a Box' which he had seen on Farming Today, also looked interesting.

### **02/21/06 Planning**

#### **Application Number: 2021/0081/VRC**

**Proposal:** Application to vary condition 2 (plans list), remove conditions 3 (materials), 5 (surface water drainage) on planning permission 2020/1240/FUL to plans list GA-00, GA-01, GA-02, GA-04, GA-05, GA-06. 3963-BBA-EH-XX-DR-A-12300 1, 3963-BBA-EH-XX-DR-A-12301 1.

**Location:** White Oak Farm, Strap Lane, North Brewham, Bruton, Somerset, BA10 0JW.

**Applicant:** Jono and Zoe Ekin

**Application Type:** Householder application

HB stated that he hadn't been able to visit the site but was able to have a long discussion with Zoe Ekin. They have changed architects and scaled the house down. They can now put a pitched roof on because of the changes. HB thinks that it doesn't detract from the original plan that was approved, so he has no objections to the modification. He did state that there was an objection received from a neighbour because water run off was running down the road. They have now put a pipe in to prevent this.

CH was uncertain about the drainage but was reassured by HB's statement that it had been resolved.

Unanimous approval given.

## **02/21/07 Finance**

02/21/07.1 It was stated that account funds were looking healthy.

CH expressed concerns regarding some errors in the Cash Book. After discussion regarding specific issues, CH agreed to revise the spreadsheet for approval.

### **02/21/07.2 To present accounts for payment:**

Cartridgesave.co.uk 005726432 £73.31 Approved  
Hand Sanitiser 23720 £49.95 Approved

HB asked for Reimbursement for Website Hosting Fees – DF to speak to VB re invoice.

Citizens Advice have asked for donation. HB stated that we have never paid this before but people in Witham have used it. HB gave example offerings from other villages. He proposed that we should pay £100. Approved

## **02/21/08 Actions**

- CH to detail the errors found in the Cash Book and liaise with DF.
- HB to send an email to Claire Haskins thanking her for work carried out at West End Hill.
- CH to put notice on the Website regarding the switch off of power on 5<sup>th</sup> March.
- JK to liaise with Jim Rosser re costs for improving the Recreation Field entrance.
- WS to investigate further the use of Danny Shepperd's farm for car parking.
- DF to invite Network Rail to next WFPC meeting and to copy MP in on all correspondence.
- MP to chase up network rail regarding the rubbish on Tynemead track.

## **02/21/09 Reports**

02/21/09.1 Highways (FN)

FN reported that a “magnificent job” had been done on West End Hill, but that there was still more work to be done and that they were monitoring water flow from the top road, as water is flowing down from there. He suggested sending

an email to Claire Haskins thanking her for facilitating this. HB to send said email on behalf of WFPC.

JK asked whether the same contractors could be used for the Bridleway next to the church. HB to include in his email.

### **02/21/09.2 Communications (CH)**

CH reported that SSE had informed him that they are going to do a 'turn off' on 5<sup>th</sup> March from Sweetnap to Rough Stubbs and up to Park Farm. He was given a map of the area involved and was told that it was likely to take a whole day. There were no plans to supply generators. CH to put this information on the website to inform residents.

CH stated that there were no reported internet problems in the village. The Home page of the website has been updated. The Postlebury News page now has electronic magazines dating back to May plus zoom church service information.

### **02/21/09.3 Recreation Ground (WS)**

WS stated that there was nothing to report.

JK said that the track was a huge success. However, on the far side there were areas that needed some maintenance. He suggested that when the team do the bicycle track in spring, the council should fund them for carrying out the repairs. WS asked if it needed to be done before this? JK said it wasn't bad enough for immediate action. All agreed to tie in with cycle track action and to fund repairs.

JK has received concerns regarding the entrance to the Recreation Ground near the church corner. There are lots of children using the track but the pedestrian access has limited vision. JK suggested that Jim Rosser have a look into possibly cutting back the hedge over 3 or 4 metres so any children can be seen and can see. JK also suggested improving the gate so it has to be physically opened and closed. He suggested using the maintenance money agreed last year. HK asked whether he could ask JR to cut the hedge down to the right and left and look at the gate at a later date. HB asked where the metal bar would go. JK said it would be removed and a new gate installed. All agreed as proposal at this stage.

Need to see if it costs more than maintenance grant that has been approved. JK to investigate.

#### **02/21/09.4 Play Patch (JK)**

The hand sanitiser was stolen from the Play Patch after 6 days! It was suggested that the three spare bottles be put in the Village Hall. JK stated that they would not be replaced in the Play Patch.

JK stated that inspections of the Play Patch are carried out on a monthly basis by Roy Featherstone and by himself weekly. RF has advised that a bi annual inspection should be carried out by someone outside of the village. JK approached ROSPA who advised that this would cost less than £100 . JK requested that a limit of £150 was set for an external inspection. All approved.

#### **02/21/09.5 Footpaths (JK)**

Nothing further to report.

MG would welcome path by church being a bridleway. HB to put that to Claire in the thank you letter.

#### **02/21/10 Witham Water Update**

An apology has been received from Bristol Water for lack of progress. They have promised a costed proposal by the next meeting.

#### **02/21/11 Other Business referred to the Clerk**

##### **02/21/11.1 Network Rail**

DF stated that Network Rail had informed her that they were planning to carry out more work over the next two weekends and at Easter. She explained that Network Rail were keen to maintain good relations with the village and to minimise disruption. They had offered to attend the next WFPC meeting. WS stated that it was Danny Shepherd's field they were planning to use as a car park. He felt it would be better than lots of cars in the village.

WS to investigate further.

DF to invite Network Rail to next WFPC meeting and to copy MP in on all correspondence.

MP to chase up Network Rail regarding the rubbish on Tynemead track.

## **02/21/11.2 Working Group**

HB was concerned that there was underrepresentation of other organisations in the village so a working group had been set up. He stated that he was expecting a representative to attend the meeting but this hadn't happened. Since the meeting, Roy Featherstone has apologised for a misunderstanding and stated that very little could take place at present due to Covid but that he would keep the Council informed.

**02/21/12 The next WFPC meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 9th March at 7.30pm, via Zoom.**

DRAFT