

Witham Friary Parish Council Meeting

**Minutes of the meeting held on:
Tuesday 29th June, 2021 @ 7.30pm**

Present: Hugo Brooke (Chairman) (HB), Colin Horstmann (CH),
John Knowles (JK), Marcus Powell (MP),
Fred Nicholls (FN),
Donna Featherstone (DF)

05/21/01 Apologies: Cllr Michael Gay, Will Sheppard (WS)

05/21/02 Disclosure of Interest: None

05/21/03 Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting on 4th May 2021 were approved as an accurate record.

05/21/03.1 Matters referred to the Chair

HB stated that leaders of groups within the village were not keeping RF up to date with their actions/activities. He stated that he would request that each group give RF a report one week prior to the Parish Council Meetings, ready for reporting by RF.

Action: HB

CH suggested that the Conker Committee would be useful with regard to the Queen's Jubilee next year. HB agreed to ask them to take the lead on this.

Action: HB

HB explained that RF does a great deal for the village for free but has to pay for his IOSH membership in order to do this. HB proposed that the Parish Council paid half of this. All agreed.

Meeting to be suspended for the Public to speak for 2 minutes on any relevant issue.

None present at time.

District and County Councillors may give short verbal reports on matters affecting the Parish.

Report sent.

05/21/04 Covid 19

MG reminded us to be on our guard regarding Covid 19 as numbers had risen in our area due to the new variant.

05/21/05 Planning:

Proposal: Erection of an outbuilding, alterations to an existing garage with a new car port
Location: The Great West Barn, Bindon Lane, Witham Friary, Somerset
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Standen McDougal
Application Type: Householder Application
Application Number: 2021/0944/HSE

HB reported that the building could not be seen from the road and that there was already a building on the sight.

Unanimous approval

05/21/06 Finance

06/21/06.1 To present current financial statement
DF stated that the accounts were looking very healthy and that the Cash Book was up to date.
HB proposed moving another £10K into the deposit account. All approved.

Action: DF

06/21/06.3 To sign off Year End/AGAR 20/21
The Year End accounts were approved and signed off.

06/21/06.4 To present accounts for payment:

SSE 951168801 0001 Car park lighting - £49.95 (paid)
D Featherstone – order 0635167530, ink cartridges - £27.48
Jim's Country & Garden Resources – 2021/011, Finance & Swings - £80
A.A. Liggatt – Year End accounting services - 2454, £150.00
Steve Orr – Wall in playing fields, £550.00
123 Reg – 123-046832943, Domain renewal, £14.39
ROSPA, 56165 – Inspection of Playpatch & Pump Track, £164.40

All approved for payment.

Action: DF

05/21/07 Actions of Previous Meeting

- HB to speak to Mendip re Rule of 6 and meetings in person. This is on-going, hence meeting in the garden.
- HB to set up meeting with Network Rail and to continue chasing re aggregate spillage into Martin Howard's land. MP has sent several emails but has not received a reply. He will keep trying.
- WS suggested that we ought to thank RH and AJ Batemans and Siddenhams Builders Merchant in Frome for their contributions. WS was absent. HB to send letters.
- HB/DF to follow up Bus Back Better - ongoing
- Clerk to pay Jim Rosser £60 for assistance with accounts. DF actioned.

05/21/08 Reports

05/21/08.1 Highways (FN)

Highways have reported that Private Drive will be resurfaced very soon and that they will endeavour to work around local businesses by working on a Saturday or Sunday.

05/21/08.2 Communications (CH)

CH is liaising with Postlebury News to make placing it on the Website easier. Several changes need to take place at the moment.

05/21/08.3 Recreation Ground (WS)

WS sent an email: The Conker Committee will maintain the Pump Track on an ongoing basis. They have also erected a Gazebo for shelter.

WS is awaiting a response from Grass Valet regarding topping up the perimeter path with stone.

The spring re-seed of the playing field is looking fantastic.

The issue regarding the fence bordering Emery's land is ongoing.

05/21/08.4 Play Patch (JK)

A ROSPA inspection has taken place and concerns raised re the state of repair. JR and RF held a meeting with the installers and they have agreed to make the repairs at zero cost. JK expressed gratitude to RF and JR for their work in this matter.

ROSPA also inspected the Pump Track and highlighted some deterioration in the surface.

The Conker Committee are going to carry out ongoing repairs.

CH enquired as to who was responsible should there be an accident. JK responded that the professional advice was that you could not mitigate everything: as long as regular maintenance was carried out there were no concerns. Insurance would then cover any issue.

05/21/08.5 Footpaths (JK)

A discussion took place regarding methods of maintaining the Wanstrow track. HB stated that NH had offered to pay 60%. HB agreed to speak to NH once he had obtained measurements and a rough idea of cost. The Parish Council would then suggest a 50/50 split of costs with NH carrying out the work. It was suggested that maybe Network Rail could contribute.

Action: HB

05/21/09 Network Rail Update

No further comment – ongoing.

05/21/10 Witham Water Update

HB stated that a meeting had taken place with the Land Agent and owners of Witham Water. The target date was extended to March 2022.

Several solutions are being looked into including setting up a meeting with Wessex Water (via MG) and creating a Community Interest Company. This would involve finding a person to do the administration and one to maintain the water supply and read the meters.

JK agreed to draw up a basic, preliminary business plan.

Action: JK

HB agreed to draft a preliminary advertisement for personnel.

Action: HB

05/21/11 Outdoor Table Tennis

HB reported that there had been very little positive response to this idea so maybe the idea should be withdrawn. All agreed. It was decided that an indoor table for the Village Hall would be better. HB agreed to speak to the Village Hall Committee.

Action: HB

05/21/12 Churchyard Trees

Work has been carried out.

MP stated that he was unhappy with the state of the churchyard. He was not opposed to a greener churchyard but felt it looked very untidy at present. It was suggested that Witham Friary Parish Council could take on the maintenance. HB agreed to speak to GP regarding this.

Action: HB

05/21/13 Car Park Lights

The area has now been cleared and the company are returning to fix the lights on 6th July. JK will put out cones to ensure cars are kept away from the lights on that day. *Action: JK*

05/21/14 Bus Back Better

Form completed and awaiting response.

05/21/15 Location of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.

05/21/16 Other Business referred to the Clerk

AH expressed concern at a very large lorry travelling through the village. It was stated that this was ok if the lorry needed to deliver within the village, such as to a farm but that AH should keep the council updated.

05/21/17 The next WFPC meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 10th August at 7.30pm.

DRAFT