

WITHAM FRIARY PARISH COUNCIL

Mendip District of the County of Somerset

Chairman: Hugo Brooke, hugobrooke@gmail.com

Clerk: Jen Gregory, withamfriary.parishcouncil@gmail.com

MINUTES

Of Witham Friary Parish Council

Held on Tuesday 9th November 2021 at Witham Friary Village Hall

Present: Chair H Brooke, Cllrs C Horstmann, J Knowles, F Nicholls, M Powell

Also Present: J Gregory Proper Officer, plus 3 members of the public

Members of the public raised the following:

The representative of the Conkers Committee said they would help with infrastructure etc relating to the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations but did not wish to organise the event.

The perimeter track needed attention and Council agreed that WS would look at the terms of maintenance with Grass Valley

A litter pick was advised for the first weekend in December

Appetite was sought for the possibility of solar panels on the church and village hall roofs, grants would be sought. The Council agreed that the Village hall could be a possibility but the Church was not under their control.

11/21/01 Apologies for absence

Cllr W Sheppard and District Councillor Gay gave apologies for absence

Resolved: Given the circumstances the apologies were accepted.

11/21/02 Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to advise any Declarations of interest in today's agenda items or any pecuniary interests in line with Councils' Code of Conduct.

Resolved: It was noted that no declarations, pecuniary or otherwise were received.

11/21/03 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To receive the minutes of the meeting held 12th October 2021

Resolved: Minutes of the previous meeting was signed by the Chairman as a correct record in the presence of the Proper Officer and meeting attendees.

11/21/05 Planning Applications

To consider the following applications:

2021/2255FUL	Erection of Plantroom Hermitage Holt	Extension granted 11.11.21
Resolved: Council approved this application. There were no objections		
2021/2389/VRC	Application to remove condition 4 (agricultural occupancy) to planning appln 71933/B	Deadline 22.11.21
Resolved: Council approved this application. There were no objections		

11/21/06 Finance

1. To receive financial statement

A financial statement had been produced by the Clerk with balance on cashbook of £35943.06. Cllr Horstmann wanted more of a breakdown and something akin to the previous spreadsheet. In response the Clerk advised that the financial statement was an overview of activity and further detail was provided in a linked

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spreadsheet previously sent, Cllr Horstmann had not received this. The amount in the bank was also considered excessive. Discussion ensued about the ringfenced amount for Witham Water and whether initial legal advice should be sought at an early juncture. Other projects in the village would be promoted and advertised for further consideration at a later date.

Resolved: It was agreed for the Clerk to provide all members with the full spreadsheet via email. Cllr Knowles was authorised to progress the legal advice re Witham Water and village projects wanting financial assistance would be promoted via website and social media.

Cllr Horstman also wanted full sight of all invoices not just a summary

Resolved: The Clerk would make note of the request and ensure all invoices are circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

2. To agree schedule of payments as indicated below

Payment Method	Payee	Amount
BACS	D Featherstone Clerking for May/June/July/August	£595.08
BACS	Came and Co Insurance Agreed Cllr HB and JK paid 19.10.21	£640.62
BACS	J Gregory Clerk Salary 01.10.21 – 31.10.21 plus WFH expense	£225.68
BACS	Jims Country and Garden Recreation Field and River	£50.00
BACS	PCC of Postlebury Annual Insurance Dovecote To Re-invoice Roger Barnes	£987.98
BACS	PCC of Postlebury Dovecote Rent £50 previous paid (to reinvoice £47)	£97.00
Total Agreed at November 2021 PCM		£2,596.36
Amount to reinvoice		£1,034.98

Resolved: The above payment schedule was agreed with the exception of PCC Postlebury for the annual insurance as it was felt further clarification was needed and the date of cover queried

3. The Clerk requested changes to the mandate to allow her to access the bank account and deal with any issues or queries should they arise. The Chair and herself had attended Natwest Frome to be told that they no longer deal with business accounts. A resolution was required for the mandate as minutes would need to be supplied and the mandate completed online.

Resolved: For the Clerk, Mrs J A Gregory to be added to the mandated signatories for the bank. The current mandate for the account to be changed as detailed in Section 1.3 of the mandate form and the current mandate will continue as amended

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11/21/08 Reports

1. To receive Chairman's Report

The Chairman echoed some of the content already raised in the meeting. A Queen's Jubilee Committee would be sought from willing volunteers – this needed careful planning and ideas. Money would be ringfenced for the celebration. Training was being undertaken by himself and the Clerk regarding setting the precept, a topic for the next meeting. The Chair expressed thanks to the Conkers Committee for the Guy Fawkes evening where it was noted that proceeds would be donated to a Mental Health Charity

Resolved: It was agreed to ringfence 5k for the Jubilee celebrations. A Jubilee Committee would be advertised using usual methods

2. Cllr Nicholls/Powell report on Highways

Advised that Highways considered it late in the season to be cutting verges, surprised it had not been done.

Resolved: Thanks expressed to farmers that had completed some work. Allocation of £500 to anyone that wished to apply to cut the rest of the verges around the village this could be advertised by social media and the newsletter although noting there would be natural die back during winter.

Cllr Nicholls said that the damn created by FWAG had caused flooding of his brother's property. This was after one night of heavy rain which sent the water out to the road and property. Alison Morgan has been to look at the issue and suggested the damn be moved further upstream (which FWAG refer to as downstream). Much discussion was had on this issue and possible corrections to the problem.

Resolved: It was agreed for the Clerk to write to FWAG for their comments and report further.

There had been further flooding to the rail yard, drain outside the church, outside Tom's house and under the bridge. Highways had been in the spring but stated they didn't have the equipment to fully clear the drain and would need to return which they haven't done.

Resolved: It was agreed for Cllr Nicholls to follow this up with Highways although the "leak" outside of Tom's house may be considered a spring but investigation would be sought.

Cllr Nicholls felt it prudent to mention snow clearing. Approximately 2 years ago dump bags were purchased by the Parish Council and very cost effective. It was noted that the salt bins were reasonably full but some deterioration will have occurred.

Resolved: Clerk to source the cost and availability of tonne salt bags

3. To receive Cllr Horstmann report on Communications

Nothing to report, changes were being updated on website. Cllr Knowles indicated that BT was going to get rid of copper lines but 2025 which would affect a small number of properties.

4. To receive Cllr Sheppard/Knowles report on the Recreation Ground

Cllr Knowles had circulated prior to the meeting a quotation for the lights to the car park. Discussion at length ensued regarding location, further quotes and the health and safety of the area generally.

Resolved: Agreement made unanimously for lights to be provided. A further vote was cast for an amended quote to be supplied for 3 bollards and on this basis the quote accepted. This was agreed as a majority decision of 4 votes (1 abstention).

5. To receive Cllr Knowles report on the Play Patch

Following the ROSPER report there was deterioration to the wooden parts of some equipment however noting that nothing was unsafe Cllr Knowles was pushing for the installation company to return and make

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good. The see-saw had identified gaps on the seat and whilst quotations were sought there was a delivery charge in excess of £100.

Resolved: It was suggested that a local blacksmith be approached for a quotation for repair.

6. To receive Cllr Powell report on Footpaths

Cllr Powell mentioned the stile at the Howard's place. Young cattle had been placed in the field with the footpath at Hope Farm.

Resolved: Cllr Powell would address the stile issue at the Howard's. The cattle situation was a temporary move due to weather and would be moved by the 18th November

11/21/09

Network Rail

The Howard's have had a meeting but there had been no action as a result.

Resolved: Cllr Powell to provide contact information and he would chase. Suggested the Howard's did same copying him on correspondence.

11/21/10

Witham Water

Nothing new to report.

11/21/11

Further correspondence:

Stile at Howards residence

Rewilding event at SALC 19.11.21

Resident question - funding available to community/residents views

Resident question - Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations for the Village

Resolved: All the above had been covered by previous items and the re-wilding event was noted as taking place on the 19.11 at SALC premises in Taunton

11/21/12

The date of the next PCM was confirmed as 14th December 2021 in the Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9.17pm

A signed copy of the minutes can be viewed by arrangement via the Parish Clerk.