

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 12th October 2021 at Witham Friary Village Hall

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

Also Present: J Gregory Proper Officer, District Councillor M Gay, representatives of FWAG¹ and Hydro-morph (part meeting) plus 10 members of the public

10/21/01 Apologies for absence

Cllrs W Sheppard gave apologies for his absence

Resolved: Given the circumstances the apologies were accepted.

10/21/02 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.

10/21/03 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To receive the minutes of the meeting held 14th September

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.

10/21/04 To receive a presentation by FWAG: Holt Farm Natural Flood Management Project

Ally Morgan of FWAGSW was welcomed to the meeting. A presentation was given on the Holt Farm site its aims and objectives to reduce the flood risk at Wallbridge in Frome, reduce hotspots within the village, slow the flow and reconnect rivers with floodplains by restoring rivers to a more natural state, shallow and multi-braided with high biodiversity.

Meeting paused for a public participation session whereby questions were asked. Representatives from the presentation bodies as a result of questions indicated that they were not working further upstream would not interfere with Witham water pipes. Apologised for not engaging sooner and had indemnity insurance should the plan not work and cause flooding.

10/21/05 Planning Applications

To receive updates on current planning applications and as part of consultation

Resolved: There was no planning applications to review, nor updates. The Clerk advised that the Council would move to Planning Consultee Access an online portal for applications, tracking and feedback

10/21/06 Finance

There appeared to be queries with Came & Co with insurance, an outstanding Zoom payment and the Clerk's payment, which will be paid on clarification with Council and reported back at the next meeting.

1. To receive financial statement

¹ Farming and Advisory Wildlife Group

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The Chair reported that balances on the accounts were as follows:

Current Account £8741.91, business reserve £27201.12. A payment had been received from the windmill of £875.00 but it was questioned if this was low in comparison/ or the time of year of low wind speed.

Resolved: It was agreed to ringfence £20k of the business reserve for any future need with Witham Water (legal fees etc). The Clerk was authorised to pay the Clerk's remuneration and for the insurance invoice to go to Cllr Knowles to be checked. It was felt the Zoom cost had been resolved

10/21/07

Actions

1. Bus Back Better: Somerset Bus Partnership

Council to consider whether to re-establish the bus service for the village. Discussion had about its use, subsidy and social need.

Resolved: to look for someone in the village to act as a conduit between the village and ongoing talks possibly teaming up with another village to look at routes. Use of the newsletter to promote.

10/21/08

Reports

1. To receive 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. Had no objections to us doing it as our own cost.

Resolved: Cllr Nicholls to look at sourcing this at a maximum cost of £400

The trees at Gare Hill giving damage to vehicles had progressed with Highways but when looking up contact information found out that there was a cyclical programme in place to cut back

Resolved: Trees part of a cyclical programme. Matter resolved itself

2. To receive Cllr Horstmann report on Communications

Nothing to report

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

In the absence of Cllr Sheppard members were asked for agreement for Frome U9s to use the recreation field.

Resolved: Agreement made unanimously for Frome U9s (Rich Gould) to have use of the field for the season however R Gould to include interested children from the village and to advertise such in the village newsletter.

Cllr Knowles reported that he had met with the electrician for the 3rd time and was awaiting quotes on the lighting.

Resolved: It was agreed that should the cost be £250 or less, the work to replace 3 lights by the pedestrian entrance go ahead

4. To receive Cllr Knowles report on the Play Patch

Reported that there was slow progress with the installation company who will be carrying out repairs (free of charge) in due course. The replacement seat for the see-saw was being quoted for and will be discussed at a later date.

5. To receive Cllr Powell report on Footpaths

Nothing to report.

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- 10/21/09 Network Rail**
It was reported that Network Rail had sent him an email minutes prior to tonight's meeting which was read, indicating that they would visit the site/landowner (Howard) regarding the fence to discuss current and future plans but could not advise when it would be replaced.

The bridleway was more complicated as to replace would be akin to providing financial support and any used ballast would be contaminated. They did indicate that they could provide manpower support.
- 10/21/10 Witham Water**
There was no new developments concerning WW-LLP. Some outage of supply was experienced at the weekend which had been resolved perhaps due to a small leak adjacent to Holt Farm. Remedial work scheduled for Friday.
- 10/21/11 Bus Back Better**
Discussion previously in item 10/21/07.1
- 10/21/12 Annual Parish Meeting**
Resolved: To arrange for a half an hour meeting prior to the PCM on the 9th November 2021
- 10/21/13 Civil War Event**
Resolved: Cllr Knowles to check insurance situation ahead of the event on 23rd October
- 10/21/14 Mud on Roads**
Discussion had on the amount of mud/manure and resultant dust of late particularly caused by one element and the level of the tank causing overspill.
Resolved: To address the matter with Nick Hutton and ask that he police contractors also
- 10/21/15 Signposts**
There were more signposts that needed to be refurbished namely Buns Lane and slightly out of area at Private Road.
Resolved: Chair to speak to the Conker Committee who had arranged previously refurb, if necessary the meeting agreed to spend some money to have completed.
- 10/21/16 Any Other business**
The Chair had received thanks and applause for his efforts in prepping a lot of the admin tasks whilst the previous Clerk had been unwell.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

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