

**Minutes of the Witham Friary Parish Council Meeting
On Tuesday 14th September 2021**

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

09/21/01 Apologies: Will Sheppard & Cllr Michael Gay.

09/21/02 Disclosures of Interest: None

09/21/03 Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 17th August 2021 were unanimously approved as an accurate record of that meeting.

09/21/03.1 Matters referred to the Chair: None

The Chairman asked if any member of the public present wished to raise anything. No-one did.

District Councillor M. Gay was not present. However he had sent an email outlining new guidance for accessing planning applications, which will be put on the website.

09/21/04 Covid 19

HB recommended everyone to continue to be very careful as infection rates are still high.

09/21/05 Planning: Application 2021/1430/FUL

The Chair invited Maria Pritchard to explain her application to establish a riding school on land between Bindon Lane and the railway line adjacent to Little West Barn Farm. He then asked Fiona Macintosh to summarise the views of the parishioners who were unhappy with this application. CH reported on the research he had done on behalf of the Parish Council, illustrating where the application appeared to be at odds with Mendip Council's planning regulations. After a robust but polite discussion the Council voted unanimously to recommend refusal on the following grounds;

(1) It was felt the whole project has not been fully thought through. Access to water and electricity was not assured and the impact on the local area has not been properly assessed.

(2) It was felt that Bindon Lane could not cope with the extra vehicular traffic and horse riding traffic that the proposed riding school would create.

(3) It was felt that the application does not meet the requirements of many of Mendip Council's planning regulations, namely: DPs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 13.

09/21/06 Finance

09/21/06.1 HB reported the financial situation was good, there being £27,200.90 in the Business Reserve Account and £7,866.44 in the Current Account. It was agreed that a substantial amount should be kept in the Reserve Account in case legal advice etc. was required in relation to Witham Water. Once this was resolved the money could be spent on improvements to the village.

09/21/06.2 To present accounts for payment:

SSE Invoice for car park lighting £47.48 was approved unanimously.

09/21/06.2 HB raised concern that the Bank's digital payment system did not meet the SOP's and that he was seeking a meeting with NatWest to resolve this situation.

09/21/07 Actions

To review actions from the previous meeting:

HB still to discuss next year's jubilee celebrations with the Conker Club Committee.

09/21/08 Reports

09/21/08.1 Highways. FN reported that the verges were in urgent need of cutting, but the MDC had not been in contact with local contractors to facilitate. FN to talk to Highways about the schedule and also to report new potholes on Holt Lane.

09/21/08.2 Communications. CH. Website was up-to-date.

09/21/08.3 Recreation Ground, JK

09/21/08.3.1 The ROSPA recommendations had been actioned. However a watch needed to be kept on the state of the perimeter and cycle tracks.

09/21/08.3.2 The car park lighting: JK was obtaining quotes for ~~two~~ lights at the pedestrian entrance only: switching options yet to be decided.

09/21/08.4 Play Patch, JK. NTR

09/21/08.5 Footpaths, MP. NTR

09/21/09 Network Rail. MP reported an improvement in noise levels for night workings.

09/21/ 10 WW LLP. HB to send Minute 08/21/10 to Ben Jukes at DoS Estates

09/21/11 Bus Back Better. HB to report at next month's meeting having attended an on-line meeting in the meantime.

09/21/12 Dovecot NTR

09/21/13 Working Group Report. It was agreed to drop this item from the agenda as the new parish newsletter now seemed to be coordinating parish events adequately.

09/21/14 New Parish Clerk. HB reported 23 applications had been received but that the short list was very short. He hoped to interview three possible candidates in the coming week or two.

09/21/ 15 No other business had been referred to the Chair.

09/21/16 The date of the next PCM was confirmed as Tuesday 12th October in the Village Hall.

All members of the Council are summoned to attend the meeting as detailed above to discuss and resolve the business on the agenda.

Hugo Brooke, Chairman, Witham Parish Council.

For the attention of: Mr W Sheppard, Mr F Nicholls, Mr C Horstmann, Mr J Knowles, Mr M Powell & Cllr M Gay.