

BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rob Sage

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Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council held on Wednesday 4th April 2012 in the Jubilee Hall, Batcombe, commencing at 6.45pm.

Present - Councillors: Chris Wildridge – Chairman, Jayne Cox, Iona FitzGerald, Liz Hollis, Bryan Mead and Ian Sage.

Also Present: The Clerk – Rob Sage, and two members of the public.

3309 – Apologies for Absence: Yvonne Sommer and David Stevens - District Councillor.

3310 – Declarations of Interest: Ian Sage and Jayne Cox declared a personal interest in item 3320 – authorisation of payments to the Clerk – as relatives of the Clerk.

3311 – Public Participation: None.

3312 – Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 7th March 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3313 – Matters Arising: War Memorial Wall - The Diocesan Board of Finance who own the Parsonage field on the other side of the wall were willing to pay for its repair. The Clerk sent them Kicko Cox's quote for the work but they preferred to use their contractor and asked him to make the repair. Holly Cottage Planning Application – there had not been any response from the Planning Officer to the Council's letter about its concerns with the way the application had been dealt with. The Chairman to liaise with the Clerk on how to take the matter forward.

3314 – Footpaths and Highways: There was nothing to report.

3315 – Playing Field – Maintenance Report: The Clerk reported that Geoff Sparkes had begun cutting the Playing Field grass.

Anthony Greenhalgh of Mainstay Projects was present and discussions were held about making the small gate to the Playing Field more of an obstacle to dogs. It was agreed to lower the gate and add an extra row and column of squares in the gate so the squares would be smaller. Anthony Greenhalgh would provide a revised quote on this basis and the Clerk was authorised to accept the new quote after consultation with the Chairman.

Play Equipment Project – Iona FitzGerald was authorised to make an application for a grant from Viridor. She also reported that the Working Party were organising a sponsored walk for children on Sunday May 13th during which the parents would undertake a litter pick.

3316 – Planning Applications: There were no applications to consider.

Planning Application Updates: The application for the construction of a track at Valley View Farm [*February 2012; Minute 3281*] had been approved. The internal alterations to studwork and replacement of rooflights at Church Farm [*February 2012; Minute 3281*] had also been approved.

3317 – Electoral Review of Somerset: The Clerk was asked to write to the Local Government Boundary Commission to request that Batcombe remain in the Mendip Central and East division rather than be transferred to the Mendip South division (which would extend from Upton Noble to Butleigh) for County Council elections.

3318 – The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee: The Clerk had spoken to the Diocesan Property Officer about the planting of an oak tree in the patch of land below the Parsonage. There was no problem with the principle of planting a tree there, but the Council would need to provide details of what is being proposed. The Property Officer did point out that the Diocese may at some point in the future sell the Parsonage, in which case our Jubilee tree would be on private property and the owners could do whatever they wanted with it.

100 Jubilee commemorative coins for the children in the parish had been ordered at a cost of £239.39 plus VAT. The Parish Council would be able to reclaim the VAT and it was hoped that there will be some donations towards the cost. Jayne Cox expressed concern that the design produced by her son Brendan had not been used for the coins.

3319 – Parish Council Website: The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had set up a Parish Council website on a 30 day free trial, which would thereafter cost £9.99 a month. The website was relatively easy to develop along the lines that we previously specified and an early version will be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting. The Council authorised the monthly payment which by Direct Debit from the Council’s bank account. The fee was in line with what had been budgeted for the previous website.

3320 - Authorisation of payment: Councillors authorised the following payments:

- £33.32 Read Agriservices Ltd – Padlock and chain for the Playing Field gate.
- £102.24 SALC – Affiliation Fee for 2012/13.
- £35.00 Community Council – Subscription for 2012/13.
Payment was made under the s.137 power.
- £636.24 The Clerk – Salary for 4th Quarter.
- £159.20 Post Office Limited – PAYE paid to HMRC for 4th Quarter.
- £53.94 The Clerk – Expenses for 4th Quarter.
- £36.65 The Parish News – Photocopying.

3321 - Other Business - Matters of Information: Bryan Mead reported that he would be leaving the village in August and so there would be a vacancy for a Councillor then.

Ian Sage reported that Dave Reynolds had replaced the security bolts on the light in the Westcombe telephone kiosk with ordinary bolts.

3322 – Time and Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 2nd May 2012 at 7.30pm in the Old School, Batcombe. This is the Annual Parish Council Meeting at which the Parish Council Chairman is elected for the year.

Chris Wildridge

2 May 2012