

BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rob Sage

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Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council held on Wednesday 3rd October 2012 in the Old School, Batcombe, commencing at 8.00pm.

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

Also Present: The Clerk – Rob Sage.

3391 – Apologies for Absence: Yvonne Sommer, who was in hospital, and Gloria Cawood – County Councillor.

3392 – Declarations of Interest: Ian Sage and Jayne Cox declared interests in item 3401 – authorisation of the Clerk's salary and expenses as relatives of the Clerk. The Clerk reported that the Register of Interests forms had been received from all Councillors.

3393 – Public Participation: None.

3394 – Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 5th September 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3395 – Matters Arising: None.

3396 – Footpaths and Highways: The matters raised at the previous meeting had been reported to Somerset Highways. It was noted that only part of the trough in the road at the A359 junction had been filled in. The Chairman had spoken to [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] regarding the stones on the side of the road. If these were not removed, Somerset Highways would be asked to assess if they presented a hazard. It was also noted that wheelie bins were left in the road at [REDACTED].

A number of complaints had been received about the resurfacing of the Alham road and the road from Westcombe to Evercreech and had been reported to Somerset Highways. Somerset Highways had checked the road and did not find any problems. The delay in sweeping up the excess chippings on the Westcombe road may have resulted from the delay in resurfacing the Lodge road – with the contractors waiting to sweep both roads at the same time.

It was noted that a local farmer had used large vehicles on Moor Lane causing the road to crack and displacing the bags of boulders used to support the road. There were also problems in Saite Lane and the owner of Saite Farm was concerned about the water on the road outside her property which would turn to ice in the winter. Liz Hollis volunteered to raise the need for road closed signs in bad weather with the PCSO at the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting.

3387 – Playing Field – Maintenance Report: A bag of builder's waste and part of a concrete post had been dumped behind the bus shelter in the Playing Field. Iona FitzGerald volunteered to take it to the tip – the Parish Council would reimburse any charges.

The Clerk reported that there was a continuing problem with moles in the Playing Field. After discussion it was agreed to obtain a quote from a molecatcher. Iona FitzGerald disassociated

herself from the decision. Liz Hollis offered to supply the Clerk with the contact details of a local molecatcher.

Iona FitzGerald was authorised to apply for a grant of £2,300 from Viridor Credits and for a grant of £750 from our County Councillor's Health and Well-Being Budget Scheme towards the cost of play equipment for the Playing Field. There followed a discussion of the necessity of obtaining three quotations for the supply of any equipment. Iona reported that they had had a donation of a scramble net from a playground supplier. Ian Sage volunteered to store this at Portway Farm. There was also a supply of wood coming.

The Clerk reported that he had had a request from a local contractor to quote for the cutting of the Playing Field grass. As the current three-year agreement was coming to an end it was agreed to ask both contractors for quotes and to ask in the parish magazine if anyone else wished to quote, with a decision to be taken at the December meeting.

Iona FitzGerald noted that the area in front of the goals on the Playing Field needed filling in and reseeding. The Chairman suggested that a list of items to be done in the Spring should be produced.

3398 – Planning Applications:

There were no planning applications to consider.

Planning Application Updates: There was nothing to report.

3399 – Planning Policy: It was decided to postpone discussion of the Government's proposed changes to the planning system until after the meeting of the Mendip Rural Forum on October 29th when these would be discussed. The Chairman and Liz Hollis volunteered to attend the Forum.

3400 – War Memorial Wall: It was noted that the low wall in front of the wall memorial garden was in need of attention, and the Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for repairing the wall.

3401 - Authorisation of payment: Councillors authorised the following payments:

£636.44	The Clerk – Salary for the 2 nd Quarter.
£159.00	Post Office Ltd – PAYE on Clerk's salary for HMRC.
£89.27	The Clerk – Expenses for the 2 nd Quarter.
£96.00	Mr G Sparkes – Grass cutting for September.
£150.00	Mr G Sparkes – Footpath maintenance over the summer.

3402 - Other Business - Matters of Information: The Conservative candidate for the post of Avon and Somerset Police Commissioner had asked the Council to complete a questionnaire on policing matters that he would use to inform his campaign. It was felt that it would be inappropriate for the Council to respond.

The rent for the allotments would be due on November 1st and the Clerk would be sending reminders to the allotment holders. One allotment holder from Brewham wished to give up her allotment and this would be advertised in the parish magazine.

Liz Hollis reported on the post-festival meeting about the Sunrise Festival. She had received three complaints about the festival (South Somerset District Council had received five) but many positive comments and about 130 tickets to the festival had been distributed to Batcombe residents. One resident had requested that the Parish Council ask for the Sunrise Festival's licence to be called in. The Council did not feel it could accede to this request as

there was no evidence that the festival had not kept to the imposed conditions. Liz would respond to the resident concerned.

Next year South Somerset District Council would also monitor noise from the Sunrise Festival and there would be a number in the parish magazine to contact South Somerset. There was a possibility that there would be a drop in the numbers at the Festival next year instead of the allowed increase. Liz had also received two complaints about FarmFest and there was more general dissatisfaction with this festival. South Somerset would be talking to the organisers about the lack of controls at FarmFest.

Liz also reported that she had been invited to the next quarry liaison meeting on November 16th and to a celebration of the quarry having obtained planning permission.

3403 – Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 7th November 2012 at **7.30pm** in the Old School, Batcombe. The Chairman gave his apologies for the meeting in advance.

E A Hollis

7/11/12