

# BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rob Sage

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**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013 in the Old School, Batcombe, commencing at 7.30pm.**

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

**Also Present:** The Clerk – Rob Sage, Gloria Cawood – County Councillor and one member of the public.

The death of Councillor Yvonne Sommer that day after a long illness was noted with great sadness and a minute's silence was kept in memory of Yvonne and her many contributions to the Parish Council and the parish.

**3460 – Apologies for Absence:** None.

**3461 – Declarations of Interest and Granting of Dispensations:** None. The Clerk was asked to check when the Councillors' details would be published on the District Council website.

**3462 – Public Participation:** Louise Nicholson reported that she was making a second application for photovoltaic cells on Chandlers and had consulted her neighbours. She also reported a pothole outside Romsey Cottage that had not been filled, asked if the Parish Council website could promote other village organisations and businesses, and commented on the "eco-house" behind Chapel Row.

**3463 – Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013** were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**3464 – Matters Arising:** Iona FitzGerald noted that replacement of the Cypress hedge at the Weavers was being undertaken by the owners and not by her husband.

**3465 – Footpaths and Highways:** The Chairman provided notes on a very positive meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup> that was attended by himself and Justin Witcombe from the Parish Council, Charlie Higgins and Steve Palmer from Somerset Highways, Claire Haskins the County Council's Rights of Way Department, Ginnie Jones from MBBA and Colin Pool. Site visits and discussions had taken place over the problems of water flow from Frys Lane, Walters Lane and the footpath in Back Lane and Somerset Highways would consider possible solutions. The Chairman had received a list of gullies in the parish but this was not much help in identifying their location. Discussions of the problems at Honeycliff resulted in a further meeting at Honeycliff on February 27<sup>th</sup> attended by the Chairman, Claire Haskins, Ginnie Jones and Stephen Butler. Justin Witcombe had prepared notes for this meeting which were discussed and Claire Haskins would discuss the proposed repairs with her manager. It was noted that if these repairs did not work there would be no further major works attempted and one option would be to downgrade the bridleway to a footpath.

**3466 – County Councillor's Report:** The report had been e-mailed to Councillors. Gloria reported that a temporary classroom at Upton Noble primary school had to be moved because of a complaint from the village. Batcombe Parish Council had not been consulted on the

planning application but would probably have recommended approval. Gloria was asked to express the Parish Council's concern about the lack of consultation given the parish's interest in the school. Gloria also noted that there was £48,000 left in the Health and Well-being Budget, so the Council could apply again for a grant from this source.

The Strimmer Project where the County Council provided and maintained a strimmer that trained volunteers could use to maintain the footpaths was discussed. The Clerk was asked to reply stating that the Parish Council was interested and to ask on the website if anyone was interested in volunteering.

Under the Community Environment Grant each District Councillor has £2,000 to be spent under their own criteria. Iona FitzGerald had contacted our District Councillor, David Stevens, to ask for a grant for the Playing Field project and he was consulting the other parishes in Postlebury. There was also the Local Legacy Fund for projects costing over £10,000 but applications had to be made by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Gloria also noted that the Wanstrow Road Safety scheme was due for consultation in June 2013. Before leaving the meeting Gloria noted that she would no longer be Batcombe's County Councillor after the May elections due to the reorganisation of electoral divisions. Gloria was thanked for her service to Batcombe during her time as a County Councillor.

**3467 – Playing Field – Maintenance Report:** The Clerk reported that since the visit of the molecatcher there had been no further evidence of moles in the Playing Field.

Iona FitzGerald reported that the Willow Weaving Day had been very good with about thirty adults and forty or fifty children taking part. It was planned to put some seating in the dome and an oak bench had been placed by the shelter at the bottom of the Field looking towards the Church. Anthony Greenhalgh of Mainstay Projects had donated the oak and just charged £290 plus VAT for making and installing the bench. Because the willow was cheaper than expected the willow weaving day and the bench had come within the budgeted £500 without VAT. This included the cost of a pair of secateurs given to Floss Barrett-Howland for organising the willow weaving. It was decided not to paint the bus shelter while all the children were present and this would be done in the future. It was also decided to paint the swings after they had been moved.

The Clerk reported that an anonymous donation of £50 had been received for the project. Iona reported that the Horticultural Society might make a donation to the project and a grant of £2,500 should be received from a Foundation that wished to remain anonymous. It was also hoped to obtain a contribution from the funding available from the District Councillor. Iona also reported that an Auction of Promises would be taking place on April 27<sup>th</sup> in The Three Horseshoes. Iona had received the quotation for the new play equipment from Mainstay Projects and would pass it onto the Clerk.

**3468 – Planning Applications:** There were no planning applications to consider.

**Planning Application Updates:** The application for a single storey rear lean-to and single storey addition to the north elevation and removal of garage at Church Bridge Lodge had been approved.

**3469 – Review of Risk Management Policy:** An updated copy of the Risk Assessment and Management document had been enclosed with the Agendas. It was unchanged from previous years but was required to be reviewed annually.

**3470 – Review of Insurance Policy:** The Clerk reported that the insurance policy was due for renewal in June and this would be the final year of a three-year agreement with Came & Co. The insurance cover included Public Liability and Employers Liability of £10 million each and a Fidelity Guarantee of £100,000. The Playing Field equipment, the notice board opposite Church Farm and the Westcombe Telephone Kiosk were also insured. The insurance of the Playing Field equipment would need to be reviewed when the fort is replaced with a new piece of equipment. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote for insuring the new playground equipment and the gate.

**3471 – Review of Schedule of Assets:** An updated copy of the Schedule of Assets had been enclosed with the Agenda. It was agreed that the new gate and bench in the Playing Field should be added to the Schedule.

**3472 – Annual Parish Meeting:** The Chairman was seeking speakers to address the Annual Parish Meeting and one possibility was Tom Calver speaking about the cheesemaking and brewery at Westcombe Dairy. Councillors agreed to provide refreshments for the meeting.

**3473 - Authorisation of payment:** Councillors authorised the following payments:

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| £23.54  | Southern Electric – The electricity supply for the Playing Field from October to January. This was a retrospective authorisation as the bill had to be paid before the meeting. |
| £348.00 | Mainstay Projects – The supply and installation of an oak bench in the Playing Field.   |
| £193.40 | Miss F A Barrett-Howland – The willow and secateurs for the Willow Weaving Day in the Playing Field.  |
| £49.98  | Sasha Smith-Bingham – Paint to repaint the shelter in the Playing Field (£29.98) and food for the Willow Weaving Day.   |
| £10.00  | Iona FitzGerald – Bread for the Willow Weaving Day.   |

Iona noted that the Willow Weaving Day had been donated cheese and beer. She estimated the value as about £110.

**3474 - Other Business - Matters of Information:** It was noted that the footpath along the river at the bottom of Mill Lane was boggy and that a lorry had caused some damage to the road and walls at Millards Hill after attempting to drive through the village and having to reverse along Kale Street.

Liz Hollis reported that the next Quarry Liaison meeting would be taking place on March 20<sup>th</sup> but she would be unable to attend. She asked that anyone who would like to go in her place should contact her.

It was noted that Kicko Cox would be willing to give a quotation for the re-pointing of the War Memorial wall.

**3475 – Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 at 6.45pm in the Jubilee Hall, Batcombe to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm.

*Chris Wildridge*

*3/4/13*