

# BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rob Sage

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## Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 in the Jubilee Hall, Batcombe, commencing at 6.45pm.

**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 two members of the public.

**3476 – Apologies for Absence:** District Councillor David Stevens who was in London.

**3477 – Declarations of Interest and Granting of Dispensations:** Ian Sage and Jayne Cox declared an interest in the authorisation of the Clerk's salary and expenses as relatives of the Clerk. It was noted that Councillors' Register of Interests forms had now been published on the District Council website.

**3478 – Public Participation:** None.

**3479 – Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013** were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**3480 – Matters Arising:** The Clerk and the Chairman had decided to delay the process of filling the vacancy on the Parish Council until after the funeral of Yvonne Sommer. If no bye-election was claimed the vacancy would be filled by co-option, probably at the June meeting of the Parish Council.

**3481 – Footpaths and Highways:** Complaints had been received about the state of Linch Lane and the road from Westcombe to Stoney Stratton. It was also noted that the trough at the junction with the A359 had not been repaired.

The footpath at the bottom of Mill Lane was still boggy, probably due to the pipe under the footpath being blocked. Jayne Cox volunteered to talk to the gardener at Rockwells House.

**3467 – Playing Field – Maintenance Report:** The Clerk reported that there was evidence of another mole in the Playing Field. Geoff Sparkes had begun cutting the Playing Field grass again at the end of March.

The quotation for the new play equipment in the Playing Field had been received from Mainstay Projects and copies were enclosed with the Agendas. The project had received a grant of £2,500 from a Foundation that wished to remain anonymous, a donation of £500 from the Horticultural Society and smaller donations totalling £120 from individuals. The cost of the Willow Weaving Day, including the oak bench, came to £488.00 (excluding the VAT that will be reclaimed). As a result the project had funds of £7,256.68, with £200 to £500 to come from the District Councillor's funds and the money from the Auction of Promises at the end of April.

Iona Fitzgerald reported that Mainstay Projects had been booked to undertake the work on the new play equipment in the second two weeks of May. It was hoped that the Auction of Promises would raise sufficient funds to meet the full cost of the equipment of £9,450. The

Chairman stressed that the Parish Council could not commit to the full cost of the equipment if the money was not raised.

**3483 – Planning Applications:** No planning applications had been received in time to be included on the Agenda, but an application for Listed Building Consent for the installation of photovoltaic panels on the roof on Chandlers in Kale Street had since been received. As the Council had recommended approval for the previous application for photovoltaic panels on Chandlers, it was decided to delegate the decision to the Clerk in the light of this recommendations rather than arrange an additional meeting to consider the application.

**Planning Application Updates:** There were no updates to report.

**3484 – Appointment of Internal Auditor:** The Clerk reported that Griff Williams was willing to act as the Council's Internal Auditor but would be away for the whole of April, which would mean that the Parish Council could not approve its Annual Return at the meeting on Wednesday May 1<sup>st</sup>. However, the new External Auditor, Grant Thornton, did not require the Annual Return until July 1<sup>st</sup> which meant that it could be approved at the June meeting of the Council. It was agreed to appoint Griff Williams as the Internal Auditor and approve the Annual Return at the June meeting of the Council.

**3485 - Authorisation of payment:** Councillors authorised the following payments:

- £98.86 SALC – Affiliation Fee for 2013/14.
- £636.44 The Clerk – Salary for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter.
- £159.00 Post Office Limited – PAYE paid to HMRC for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter.
- £88.99 The Clerk – Expenses for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter.
- £30.00 Sasha Smith-Bingham – Tickets for Playing Field Fundraiser.

**3486 - Other Business - Matters of Information:** The Clerk noted that the Secretary of the Somerset Association of Local Councils, Peter Lacey, had died in his sleep the previous weekend.

Concern was raised at the obstruction caused by the car parked opposite the scaffolding on the Old Cider House at the Weavers in Kale Street.

Liz Hollis noted that another music festival was planned at Gilcombe Farm for September.

The Clerk reported that there would be a Rural Housing Seminar on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at Edington Village Hall.

**3487 – Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013 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*  
*1 May 2013*