

BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rob Sage

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Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th April 2016 in the Jubilee Hall, Batcombe, commencing at 6.45pm.

Present - Councillors: Chris Wildridge – Chairman, Lucinda Edgell, Iona FitzGerald, Ian Sage, John Sommer and Justin Witcombe.

Also Present: The Clerk – Rob Sage, Dick Skidmore – District Councillor, and four members of the public.

4080 – Apologies for Absence: Jayne Cox and Nigel Woollcombe-Adams – County Councillor.

4081 – Declarations of Interest: Justin Witcombe declared an interest in item 4092 – Authorisation of Payment regarding the sponsorship of the Village Hall Trust's pig race evening; and Ian Sage declared an interest in item 4092 – Authorisation of Payments regarding the payment of the Clerk's salary and expenses.

4082 – Public Participation: Mr Nick Sommer raised his concern at the state of the roads. Justin Witcombe reported that Somerset Highways had sent someone to look at the roads, but were waiting for further funding before undertaking any work. The Chairman promised that the Parish Council would pursue the issue.

4083 – Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd March 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman after the removal of a reference to the Royal British Legion organising a fundraiser to assist with the repair of the War Memorial wall in item 4078 – Other Business.

4084 – Matters Arising: It was noted that the playbark had been ordered for the Playing Field.

4085 – Footpaths and Highways: The Clerk reported that the footpath from Lower Eastcombe Farm had been closed for 21 days because of an unsafe bridge.

The state of the roads had been discussed under Public Participation. The Clerk reported that the County Council were undertaking a review of the precautionary salting network. While the problems of parked vehicles would not form part of the review, salting would be suspended where these caused a safety issue. Mary Comley noted that there was no route out of the village that did not involve a steep hill. The Clerk and the District Councillor reported that the County Councillor had informed the County Council of the difficulties faced in Batcombe.

4086 – Allotments: Gary Butler had cut the hedges and burnt the cuttings and as much rubbish from the compost heap as possible. Mendip District Council had not collected the rubbish from the allotments and when contacted by the Clerk stated that this was the responsibility of the Parish Council. Justin Witcombe volunteered to remove the rubbish and this was accepted. The water pipe to the allotments had been cut by a local farmer concerned at the loss of water pressure to his cattle troughs and repaired by one of the allotment holders.

4087 – Playing Field – Maintenance Report: The Clerk to obtain a quote for a “No Dogs” sign similar to the one at Wanstrow Playing Field. Vita Play had undertaken the repair of the zip wire in April after originally indicating the work would be done in February. It was agreed that any future repairs should have a definite time scale agreed.

4088 – Planning Applications: Planning Applications Nos: 2016/0475/FUL and 2016/0476/LBC - Change of use of single room within dwelling from A1 to dwelling; change of use of single dwelling back to two separate dwellings. South View, Kale Street, Batcombe – Full Application and Listed Building Consent. The Parish Council decided to recommend approval as any concern about the preservation of the shop front had been addressed in the application and it was felt that replacing a five-bedroom house with two two-bedroomed homes would not add to the parking problems on Kale Street.

Planning Application Updates: The District Council had had no objections to the tree works at Boords Farm (reduction of limb of oak tree close to service lines), The Forge (crown reduction or felling various Prunus sp [wild plum]) and The Parsonage (pollarding a Lime tree and removing deadwood from a Poplar). It was noted that the Parish Council had objected to the pollarding of the Lime tree.

4089 – War Memorial Wall: A revised estimate for the repair of the War Memorial wall by Christopher Cox was accepted. This would involve taking down the wall to the right of the steps, digging back the soil, putting up a concrete backing wall and facing with stone. The wall to the left of the steps would be repointed and repaired with the toppers reset. The estimate was for a total of £1,675. It was noted there would be a ceremony commemorating the Battle of the Somme on July 1st and the work should not be in progress at this time.

4090 – Notice Boards: It was agreed to purchase more expensive notice boards with anti-condensation vents, costing £376 + VAT each. The Clerk to seek the Parochial Church Council’s permission to replace the notice board on the churchyard wall.

4091 – The Queen’s 90th Birthday: Ian Sage and Justin Witcombe had volunteered to co-ordinate the lighting of the beacon with Colin Pool. Justin and the Clerk had prepared a risk assessment. It was noted that the national time for lighting the beacons was at 7.30pm.

4092 - Authorisation of payment: Councillors authorised the following payments:

- £40.00 The Community Council for Somerset – Annual subscription.
- £20.00 Batcombe Village Hall Trust – Sponsorship of Pig Racing Evening.

These two payments were made by resolution under the s.137 power.

- £160.00 Gary Butler – Work on allotments.
- £594.00 Vita Play Limited – Repair of zip wire.
- £100.00 Gardens of Avalon – Grass cutting in Playing Field in March.
- £957.96 The Clerk – Salary for 4th Quarter.
- £95.83 The Clerk – Expenses for 4th Quarter.

4093 - Other Business - Matters of Information: The Clerk reported that the precept and Council Tax Support Grant had been paid into the Parish Council’s bank account. Justin Witcombe reported that the (mechanical) pig racing evening put on by the Village Hall Trust had been a great success.

4094 – Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 4th May 2016 at 7.30pm in the Old School Rooms, Batcombe.

Chris Wildridge
11th May 2016