

# 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> August 2016 in the Old School, Batcombe, commencing at 8.00pm.**

**Present - Councillors:** Chris Wildridge – Chairman, Jayne Cox, Lucinda Edgell, Ian Sage, John Sommer and Justin Witcombe.

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

**4156 – Apologies for Absence:** Iona FitzGerald.

**4157 – Declarations of Interest:** None.

**4158 – Public Participation:** None.

**4159 – Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesdays 6<sup>th</sup> July and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4160 – Matters Arising:** None.

**4161 – Planning Applications:** Planning Application No: 2016/1704/HSE – Construction of a shed/greenhouse. Turret House, Church Farm, Batcombe – Householder Application. The Council decided to recommend approval as there were no objections to the proposed shed/greenhouse.

Planning Application No: 2016/1657/FUL – Convert and extend stable building for use as holiday accommodation. The Stables, Crows Hill, Batcombe – Full Application. The Clerk noted the extensive planning history for this site and the policy in the District Council’s Local Plan for the Re-use and Conversion of Rural Buildings.

The Parish Council decided to recommend Refusal of Permission on the grounds that the design of the building and associated development would harm the wider landscape character of the area; noting that the plans for the conversion and extension of the stable building to holiday accommodation were identical to those for the application for the conversion and extension of the stable building to a residential dwelling in 2014 which was refused permission and the subsequent appeal dismissed, with the planning inspector concluding “that the appeal proposal would unacceptably harm the character and appearance of the countryside”. The Parish Council also noted that the applicant’s request that there be no restriction on the length of holidays to be allowed in the accommodation minimised any difference between the applications for holiday accommodation and a residential dwelling.

In addition, the Parish Council noted that the conversion involved a substantial extension; questioned whether the stables should be considered to be redundant, given the local demand for stables and land for horses; and felt, in the light of previous applications for a residential dwelling on this site, that it was likely that the granting of this application would result in the residential use of this dwelling circumventing the national planning policy against the creation of new isolated homes in the open countryside.

**4162 - Authorisation of payment:** Councillors authorised the following payments:

£109.00 Gardens of Avalon – Grass cutting in July.  
£19.76 SSE – Electricity supply to the Playing Field.

**4163 - Other Business - Matters of Information or Items for the Next Agenda:** Housing Needs Survey – Matt Day from the Community Council reported that they had received 65 responses to date.

It was agreed to discuss the equipment in the Playing Field and provision of a defibrillator for the parish at the September meeting.

**4164 – Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 8.00pm in the Old School Rooms, Batcombe.

*Chris Willdridge*  
*7th September 2016*