

# BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rob Sage

Tel: 01749 850934

e-mail: batcombepc@uwclub.net

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in the Jubilee Hall, Batcombe, commencing at 6.45pm.**

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

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

**4291 – Apologies for Absence:** None.

**4292 – Declarations of Interest:** Ian Sage and Jayne Cox declared an interest in item 4303 as relatives of the Clerk.

**4293 – Public Participation:** None.

**4294 – Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4295 – Matters Arising:** Co-option – the Clerk reported that no one had claimed a bye-election and so the vacancy on the Parish Council could be filled by co-option at the next meeting. He would advertise the fact that the co-option would be taking place at the May meeting.

The Clerk reported that the new notice board for the churchyard wall in Batcombe had been delivered and the Westcombe notice board had been taken down to be repaired.

**4296 – Footpaths and Highways:** The signs stating that there was no right of way for vehicles on the Honeycliffe bridleway were being prepared by the MBBA.

**4283 – Playing Field:** The Clerk reported that a “No Dogs” sign similar to the one on the Wanstrow Playing Field would cost £25. The Council agreed in principle to erect a new sign but wanted to consider different options and prices at the next meeting.

It was noted that the litter bin by the Playing Field was overflowing with rubbish. The Clerk to contact the District Council to see how often the bin should be emptied.

The Chairman reported that Jane Batchelor and Jo Addison had volunteered to prune and re-weave the willow structures in the Playing Field and this offer was gratefully accepted by the Council.

Iona FitzGerald noted that the mothers involved in Keep on the Grass wished to pass the baton onto a new group of mothers as their children were now older. They hoped that a new group would be willing to plan for the next stage and they would be willing to support them. Iona also stated that Mainstay Projects had promised to undertake the remedial work to the play equipment by the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Justin Witcombe reported that the Playing Field would be rolled the following day.

**4298 – Planning Applications:** There were no applications to consider.

**Planning Application Updates:** The District Council had approved the application for tree works on the Horse Chestnut protected by a TPO at Batch Orchard and had no objections to the tree works in the Conservation Area at Pastoral (felling a Willow) and Neatherlea (felling a Pine and reducing two Acers). An application to fell an Acer at The Weavers House (Ref: 2017/0434/TCA) was not considered by the Parish Council as the deadline had fallen before the meeting and it was not felt necessary to call an additional meeting. The District Council had no objection to the felling.

**4299 – Mendip Local Plan Part II – Local Green Spaces and Sports Provision:** There were two proposed Local Green Spaces in Batcombe in Part II of the Mendip Local Plan, one being the churchyard and the other the gardens of Batcombe House, Batcombe House Cottage, Batch Orchard, Stockley Cottage and The Old Rectory. The Clerk noted that these areas were identical to the Open Spaces of Visual Significance in the old Local Plan. The Council decided not to comment on the proposals.

The District Council were updating their audit of sports provision and had asked the Parish Council to update their list of sports pitches with any playing pitches not listed.

**4300 – Review of Risk Management Policy:** A copy of the Risk Assessment and Management document had been distributed with the Agendas. There were no changes from the previous year.

**4301 – Review of Insurance Policy:** The Parish Council was coming to the end of a three year agreement with Came & Co and it was agreed to consider alternative quotes. The level of insurance was considered to be adequate.

**4302 – Review of Schedule of Assets:** A copy of the Schedule of Assets had been distributed with the Agendas. The Schedule had been updated with the purchase of the Council laptop and would shortly be updated again with the purchased of the new notice board. It was noted that the old Playing Field equipment was shown as removed when the new equipment was installed and it was agreed to amend this to show that some items of the old equipment had been reused.

**4303 - Authorisation of payment:** Councillors authorised the following payments:

£40.00        The Community Council for Somerset – Annual subscription.

This payment was made by resolution under the s.137 power.

£318.00        Whitehill Direct Limited – New notice board.

£109.00        Gardens of Avalon – Grass cutting in Playing Field in March.

£967.51        The Clerk – Salary for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter.

£174.21        The Clerk – Expenses for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter. The Clerk's expenses included £78 for his membership of the SLCC authorised in February but paid for on his personal debit card.

**4304 Other Business - Matters of Information Only:** Field Trip Festival at Gilcombe Farm. The Clerk reported that another music event, similar in size to the Shindig Weekender, would be taking place at Gilcombe Farm over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The organisers state that they will accept similar conditions to those imposed on the Shindig event and have sent copies of their Licence Application and Event Management and Noise Management Plans.

Justin Witcombe reported that the Village Hall Trust had decided to buy the plot of land below the Jubilee Hall. He also noted that Hastoe Housing were offering a community grant

of £250 and that the Cricket Club would be opening its new pavilion at its first home game on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Clerk reported that the annual Kimber Classic Trial of mainly vintage MG cars would be passing through Batcombe on the afternoon of Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**4305 – Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 at 7.30pm in the Old School Rooms, Batcombe.

*Chris Wildridge*

*3rd May 2017*