

BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rob Sage

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You are Summoned to the Monthly Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council to be held on Wednesday 7th February 2018 at 7.30pm in the Old School, Batcombe

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

Agenda

1. Apologies and Acceptance of Reasons for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

It is the Councillors' responsibility to declare any interests they may have in any item on the Agenda. If you are uncertain please ask the Clerk before the meeting.

3. Public Participation – Open village meeting for fifteen minutes for any member of the public to raise any issue relevant to Batcombe Parish

The Chairman can invite members of the public to speak at this or at any other appropriate point in the meeting.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2018 to be agreed and signed. *Enclosed.*

5. Matters Arising – information updates only.

Shindig Weekender 2018 Premises Licence Application – The Chairman attended the hearing called in response to the Parish Council's representation. The premises licence was granted but the times to which recorded and live music could be played until was changed from 4.00am to 2.00am.

Precept for 2018/19 – The precept of £9,200 for 2018/19 has been submitted to Mendip District Council and acknowledged.

6. District and County Councillors' Reports

An opportunity for the District and County Councillors to report on matters relevant to the parish, either in person or in writing.

7. Footpaths and Highways

Following an incident with the school bus in January, the Chairman emailed the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Councillor Woodman, our County Councillor, Nigel Hewitt-Cooper, and copied our MP, David Warburton, advising them of the incident and asking that the pre-gritting be reinstated. Enclosed is a copy of the e-mail.

We have invited our MP to come to the parish for an open meeting, but the first date he has available is Friday 9th March. The Chairman would like him to come to the parish on a Saturday, but if this is not possible until later in the year, we could attend one of his planned surgeries or arrange a telephone call.

8. Allotments

Allotments rent were due on November 1st. Four allotment have been paid for and we now have four confirmed vacant allotments. The holders of the remaining two allotments have indicated that they wish to continue with their allotment but have not paid yet.

9. Affordable Housing

The Parish Council has decided to be more proactive in seeking land for affordable housing. Mendip District Council is holding a Rural Housing Seminar on Wednesday March 28th.

10. Playground - Maintenance Report.

It was agreed to suggest ideas for a larger project for the Tesco Bags of Help scheme (which involves shoppers at our local Tescos store voting for one of three projects). We need to ask for a particular amount (between £1,000 and £4,000) for a particular project. A new frame for the nest swing would cost around £1,200 and we have raised £572 from the Bingo Night.

The Chairman and Ian Sage have volunteered to organise specifications for the replacement of the legs of the multi-play apparatus. The seat around the tree stump is falling apart and the rotten wood needs to be replaced urgently. To discuss the application of wood preservative to the play apparatus in the Playing Field. The Clerk has purchased the wood treatment. Iona FitzGerald has offered to help. The mole continues to be extremely active in the Playing Field.

11. Planning Applications:

None at present.

Planning Updates.

The application for a two storey building incorporating a garage at ground floor at Holly Cottage, Westcombe has been approved.

Four Councillors have been booked into the training session on planning in the Assembly Rooms in Frome.

12. Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 4th April at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Hall. Suggestions for speakers for the evening are welcomed.

13. Bank Reconciliation and Budget Update

The bank reconciliation for the third quarter to 31st December to be verified by a Councillor before the meeting and reported to the Council.

An update on the budget as at the end of January for the current year is enclosed. The first column shows the actual accounts for last year. The second column is budget for this year as agreed last January. The third column is the receipts and payments to the end of January and the fourth column a projection of the position at the end of the year.

Receipts are projected to be approximately £450 more than the budgeted figure because of the £572 raised for new play equipment at the Bingo Evening less the uncollected rent on the four vacant allotments.

The projection for the Playing Field expenditure is £25 more than budgeted. Additional cuts of the Playing Field were undertaken, although not as many as budgeted for – but this saving is balanced by additional maintenance costs (including the anticipated repair of the seat around the tree stump) and the extra cost of attending the annual inspection.

The projection for the expenditure on Administration is £245 more than the budgeted figure because of the additional hours worked by the Clerk in 2016/17 that were paid for this year. In addition, two

years of the Clerk's membership of the SLCC were paid in the current year and the cost of internet protection for the Parish Council laptop had not been budgeted.

The projection for the expenditure on Other items is £600 more than budgeted because of the money received as the Health and Well-being grant in 2015/16 that was spent on a new notice board and the money to be spent repairing the gate to the allotments field.

Although the projected surplus is £855 compared to a budgeted surplus of £1,276, the healthier position at the start of the year means that the projected funds at the end of the year are around £6,800 – £1,000 better than expected when the budget was made. However, it should be noted that approximately £720 of this figure will be earmarked for the allotments and £572 for play equipment.

14. Authorisation of Payment

£84.00 Society of Local Council Clerks - *Clerk's Membership.*

£19.99 SSE – Electricity bill for the Playing Field (October – January).

15. Other Business – matters of information only.

A consultation is being undertaken on the proposals for the future of the Library Service in Somerset until April 22nd. There will be drop in consultation events at Shepton Mallet Library on Tuesday 27th February, 2.30pm – 5.30pm and Castle Cary Market House on 14th March, 2.30pm – 5.30pm. The proposals are that 15 of the County Council's 34 library buildings including Bruton and Castle Cary will seek community involvement to remain open and where this is not possible, services would instead be provided either through outreach in community venues or through additional mobile library stops. For 7 libraries, the County Council is consulting on two alternative options – either to seek community involvement to maintain library buildings or to keep existing library services as they currently are. There are no proposals to change Frome Library and services at Shepton Mallet will remain unchanged but it is likely the library will change premises, probably moving to the Shape Mendip hub (where the District Council Offices are). Members of the public can take part in the consultation online at <http://somersetlibraries.co.uk/consultation/>

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 7th March 2018 at 7.30pm in the Old School, Batcombe.

Rob Sage

Rob Sage – Clerk

31st January 2018