

BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rob Sage

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Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council held on Wednesday 4th April 2018 in the Jubilee Hall, Batcombe, commencing at 6.45pm.

Present - Councillors: Chris Wildridge – Chairman, Mary Comley, Jayne Cox, Wiff Cox, Ian Sage, John Sommer and Justin Witcombe.

Also Present: The Clerk – Rob Sage and one member of the public.

4495 – Apologies for Absence: None.

4496 – Declarations of Interest: Justin Witcombe declared an interest in the planning application for The Three Horseshoes [Minute 4501] as his wife worked there. Ian Sage and Jayne Cox declared interests in the authorisation of the payment of the Clerk's salary and expenses [Minute 4504] as relatives of the Clerk.

4497 – Public Participation: None.

4498 – Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 7th March 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4499 – Matters Arising: Church Sign – The Clerk reported that a sign relating to a religious institution does not require planning permission provided that it does not exceed 1.2 square metres in area and the sign outside the Church appeared to be just below this limit.

Field Trip Festival – A representation had been made to South Somerset District Council regarding the premises licence application for this festival at the end of July which included the playing of recorded music until 4.00am. A copy of the representation had been distributed to Councillors with the Agendas. Jayne Cox noted that an article about the appeal against the decision to limit the hours that music could be played at the Shindig festival had appeared in the Western Gazette.

Affordable Housing – The Affordable Housing Seminar organised by the District Council had been cancelled due to lack of interest.

Annual Parish Meeting - Unfortunately the speaker, Justin Robinson from SALC, had had to cancel due to illness.

4500 – Footpaths and Highways: The MP, David Warburton, had accepted the invitation to come to Batcombe for an hour from 10.30am on Saturday April 21st to hear parishioners' concerns.

It was noted that an HGV had become stuck at Holly Hill. The possibility of a No HGV sign at the Hedgestocks crossroads was discussed and the Clerk was asked to contact Somerset Highways.

4501 – Planning Application:

Planning Application Number 2018/0450/FUL

Removal of caravan adjacent to outbuilding and conversion of outbuilding to create staff accommodation, single storey extension to outbuilding. The Three Horseshoes, Batcombe
The applicant spoken in favour of his application, which was to remove a caravan and convert and extend an existing outbuilding to provide staff accommodation, allowing more room for the provision of Bed and Breakfast in the pub. The Parish Council decided to recommend approval with a request for a condition that the accommodation should not be able to be sold separately from the pub.

Planning Application Updates: The application for a single storey rear extension at 1 Alshilla Cottages, Westcombe had been approved. The application for approval of details reserved by conditions 4 and 5 on the planning consent for works at The Cottage, Holly Hill had resulted in a split decision. The details submitted for condition 4 (external joinery) were considered acceptable but those for condition 5 (a sample panel) were considered unacceptable with regards to the mortar mix and joints of the sample panel.

4502 – Playing Field - Maintenance Report: The Chairman reported that he had two quotes for timber for the seat around the tree stump, one for £186 and one for £200. The Chairman to find out the additional cost of mitring the timber. It was agreed to get a piece of plywood to cover the rotten plank in the multi-play apparatus.

4503 – Premises Licence Application for Gilcombe Farm – One Love Productions: The Clerk reported that a premises licence application for a music festival at Gilcombe Farm had been made by One Love Productions and the Council had until April 17th to make a representation. There were no details of this festival yet but it was believed it would take place on the August bank holiday weekend. The Clerk was delegated to make a similar representation as to the Field Trip festival. It was noted that the Council were not against music festivals as such but wanted consideration of its residents, given this would be the 4th music festival at Gilcombe Farm this summer.

4504 - Authorisation of payment: Councillors authorised the following payment:

£40.00 Community Council – Annual Subscription for 2018/19.

Payment of this subscription was made by resolution under the s.137 power.

£22.44 The Parish News – Photocopying.

£977.25 The Clerk – Salary for 4th Quarter.

£97.72 The Clerk – Expenses for 4th Quarter.

4505 – Other Business - Matters of Information Only: A request to contribute to the appeal for a third MRI scanner at Musgrove Park Hospital was considered and declined.

Councillors were asked to consider representing the Council on the Torr Works Liaison Group which meets twice a year to consider issues arising from the operation of the quarry.

Jayne Cox announced that she would be giving up the role of Parish Paths Liaison Officer.

4506 – Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 9th May 2018 at 7.30pm in the Old School, Batcombe. This would be the Annual Parish Council Meeting at which the Parish Council Chairman is elected for the year.

J Witcombe
9/5/18