

BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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You are Summoned to the Monthly Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council to be held on Wednesday 6th March 2019 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 the Meeting held on Wednesday 6th February 2019 to be agreed and signed. *Enclosed.*

5. Matters Arising – information updates only.

Shindig Premises Application – 21 days have passed since the hearing and we have not been notified of an appeal.

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. The County Councillor is planning to send a monthly update. His update for February is attached. He has also forwarded press releases from the County Council. The latest two state that there will be an increase of 3.99% in the County Council's element of the 2019/20 Council Tax; and that the Ofsted inspection of Children's Services has found that vulnerable children in Somerset are receiving an improving service.

7. Parish Council Elections

*Parish Council and District Council elections will take place on Thursday May 2nd 2019. [The newly elected Councillors take office on Tuesday May 7th, which allows us to hold our May meeting on Wednesday May 8th (provided all candidates have copies of the Agenda and other papers).] The Notice of Election will be published on Monday March 18th and prospective candidates have from the following day (March 19th) to 4.00pm on Wednesday 3rd April to submit their nominations **by hand** to the Returning Officer. Candidates are advised to submit early in case an error is found in their nomination. Nomination packs can be downloaded from the District Council website along with guidance for candidates at www.mendip.gov.uk/article/6653/Parish-Independent-candidate*

I will print off some paper forms for anyone unable to download or print their own. There is a lot of paperwork in the nomination pack but most candidates need only complete the nomination form, home address form and consent to nomination form. You have to give your full name on the nomination form but can ask that a commonly used forename appear on the ballot paper. You need to be proposed and seconded by local electors. Ask the Clerk for their elector number. On the home address form you can ask that your address does not appear on the notice of candidates or ballot paper. Your signature on the Consent to nomination form must be witnessed. The original signed copies of these three forms must be delivered by hand to the Returning Officer, but you can ask someone else to do this for you.

8. Allotments

Allotment rents were due on November 1st. So far I have only received the rent for four allotments, and another one has been promised. The allotment holder who was concerned about the water supply has decided to give these up and will be removing his items from the allotments.

If we decided the allotments were no longer viable, we would need to give the existing allotment holders twelve months notice from November. I've spoken to the owners of the field who are flexible and would be willing to sign a two-year lease instead of the new five lease from May that we had agreed. They also suggest that if we decide to continue with a five-year lease that we include a get-out clause that would allow either party to end the agreement after three years. A decision on the lease needs to be taken at this meeting. [I estimate that with five vacant allotments there will be a deficit on the allotments of around £125 a year. While we have £900 earmarked for the allotments, a large part of this will be needed to restore the field to its original condition at the end of the lease.]

The Parish Council also needs to decide how to deal with the vacant allotments so that the field remains in good condition.

9. Footpaths and Highways

We have not yet received from Somerset Highways the promised details of the options available to the Parish Council regarding our paying for pre-salting of the roads. I have e-mailed David Peake, the project manager for winter maintenance, directly to request this information and copied in our County Councillor.

10. Playing Field

Maintenance Report – *Still no sign of molehills. The multi-play apparatus has fungus growing on it and should probably be treated sooner rather than later.*

Annual Fete – *The organisers of the Village Fete in aid of the Church have asked if the Fete can be held on the Sunday of the August Bank Holiday weekend this year. They hope this will mean that there are more people will be able to help clear up on the Monday. As a result they would like the Playing Field to be closed from the Saturday morning until the Monday to allow time for preparation. There is also the suggestion of a fundraiser for the new play equipment on the Sunday evening.*

New Play Equipment – *Members of the Working Party met in early February to consider the quotes provided for new play equipment. After consideration the Working Party recommends that the new play equipment be metal rather than wood and this would ensure ease of maintenance and it should last much longer. This means that the cost would be double that of wooden equipment at around £60,000. So far we have raised £2,248 for the new play equipment, which will be worth £22,480 if we obtain a grant from Viridor and we have put aside £4,000 of the Council's own funds. We would need to raise more funds to install metal equipment. An application for the Tesco Bags of Help scheme is in the process of being made, but one of their conditions is that the project is completed within 12 months of the award being made so we need want to wait before submitting the application.*

11. Planning Applications:

Planning Application 2019/0150/LBC – Demolition of existing single storey extension and first floor roof. Construction of new single storey extension and dormer roof to existing dwelling.

Mole Cottage, Kale Street, Batcombe – Listed Building Consent.

Planning permission and Listed Building Consent were granted in June 2018 for the extension and dormer roof described above, the Parish Council having recommended approval. The following alterations to the planning permission were granted as non-material amendments in December 2018: “alteration to the rear elevation to change a large picture window and separate external glazed door to an integrated steel framed glazed screen and double doors to the external courtyard”; and “proposed roof finishes including the green roof and standing seam zinc roofing is to be replaced with lead roofs”. The current application seeks Listed Building Consent for the amended proposals.

Planning Application 2019/0239/TCA – Proposed works to trees in a conservation area:-

T1 – Ash (A1) – reduce up 4m height. T2 – Ash (A2) – Fell. T3-T4 – Beech (B1 and B2) – Fell.

Land to the Rear of Paddock House, Mill Lane, Batcombe – Works/Felling Trees in a CA.

The trees are actually on the opposite side of the footpath that runs past Paddock House on land belonging to the owner of Brook House. The proposal is a height reduction of up to 4m of a mature Ash that is causing excessive shading of Paddock House and felling another mature Ash (considered of little value) and two young beech trees that are leaning over the footpath towards Paddock House.

Planning Application Updates.

None at present. The District Council are planning to offer training to parish councillors on planning applications and the planning system that will begin after the election. There will be three levels of training – level 1 for everyone, level 2 for Councillors who consider planning applications and level 3 specific training for Chairmen of Parish Councils.

12. Review of Schedule of Assets

The Schedule of Assets should be reviewed annually before the independent examination. Enclosed is a copy of the Schedule which is unchanged since the last review in March 2018.

13. Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday April 3rd at 7.30pm after a short Parish Council meeting. Concerns were raised last year that the reading of the previous year’s Minutes was not the most stimulating way of starting the meeting, especially as the Chairman’s report then covers much of the same material. When we first set up the Parish Council website, we tried to omit reading the Minutes by referring people to the copy on the website but this was rejected by the members of the public present. We could try this again – or perhaps read shortened Minutes which just state that the Chairman gave his report – a summary of which is available on the website.

14. Authorisation of Payment

£24.39 SSE – Playing Field Electricity (31/10/18 – 13/12/18)

This is the final bill for the period before the new contract (and payment by Direct Debit) came into effect.

15. Other Business – matters of information only.

Death of a Senior Figure – we have received a letter from Mendip District Council asking what arrangements we have in place for marking the death of a senior figure in a time of national mourning. We may wish to liaise with the Church as to what arrangements they have in place such as the flying of the flag at half-mast and having a book of condolence to sign.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 3rd April 2019 at 6.45pm in the Jubilee Hall, Batcombe to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm.

Rob Sage

Rob Sage – Clerk

28th February 2019