

BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council held on Wednesday 3rd April 2019 in the Jubilee Hall, Batcombe, commencing at 6.45pm.

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

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

4704 – Apologies for Absence: Wiff Cox. The Chairman noted that Chris Wildridge had resigned from the Council after the last meeting.

4705 – Declarations of Interest: Ian Sage and Jayne Cox declared an interest in the authorisation of the Clerk's salary and expenses as relatives of the Clerk.

4706 – Public Participation: Michael Gay introduced himself as the Green Party candidate for the District Council election and promised that if elected he would continue to attend meetings of the Parish Council. Dick Skidmore then introduced Linda Norris as the Conservative Party Candidate.

4707 – Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6th March 2019. These were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4708 – Matters Arising: Shindig Weekender Licence Application – The organisers of Shindig had been granted a Consent Order by the Magistrates Court allowing the festival to take place over the proposed dates in 2019 and at the proposed capacity of 9,999. The one amendment to the license applied for was that all music would cease at 3.00am on Saturday instead of 4.00am. Dick Skidmore noted that local residents had no input into the hearing that was held in private and that it was very difficult to refuse a licence.

Parish Council Elections – Completed nominations papers for anyone wishing to stand for election to the Parish Council had to be delivered to the Returning Officer at Mendip District Council by 4.00pm.

Conflict of Interest from Membership of other Bodies – At the last meeting Chris Wildridge expressed a concern about a possible conflict of interest and risk to the Parish Council from having representatives on the Village Hall Trust and the Heritage Room. The Clerk assured the Council that there were no issues that were not covered by the declaration of interests by members of other bodies.

4709 – Allotments: Justin Witcombe had arranged for the Parish Council to be invoiced for the cost of the plastic sheeting. Justin and Ian Sage would sheet down the vacant allotments. Michael Gay stated that Wanstrow Parish Council would be considering a request to provide allotments and it was noted that there were plenty of vacant allotments if anyone wanted one in Batcombe.

The new two-year lease had been signed by the owners of the allotment field, and the Chairman was authorised to sign the lease on behalf of the Parish Council.

4710 – Footpaths and Highways: There was nothing to report.

4711 – Playing Field - Maintenance Report: It was arranged to treat the wood on the multi-play on the evening of Wednesday April 10th at 7.00pm. Members of the working party to bring buckets and gloves and volunteers would be welcomed.

4712 – Planning Applications: There were no planning applications to consider. It was noted that an application for Church Farm had been submitted and might require an extraordinary meeting to consider it before the election.

Planning Application Updates: Listed Building Consent had been granted for the rear extension and alterations at Mole Cottage as had approval of various details on the planning permission for these alterations that were reserved by condition. The District Council had no objection to the proposed tree works on land opposite Paddock House at the bottom of Mill Lane. Approval had also been granted for various details on the planning permission for alterations to Chandlers that had been reserved by condition.

4713 - Authorisation of payment: Councillors authorised the following payments:

- £996.72 The Clerk – Salary for 4th Quarter.
- £99.07 The Clerk – Expenses for 4th Quarter.
- £72.62 Read Agriservices – plastic sheeting for allotments

4714 – Other Business - Matters of Information Only: War Memorial Garden – It was agreed that a letter should be sent to thank the volunteers who helped look after the War Memorial Garden.

Community Council – It was noted that the Community Council for Somerset was restructuring its membership and as a result was not charging Parish Councils a membership fee for 2019/20. In previous years the fee had been £40.

Kimber Classic Trial – This was a trial for a maximum of 60 mainly pre-war MG cars that will pass through Batcombe on Saturday April 13th.

Churchyard Wall – Justin Witcombe reported that there was a lot of movement in the churchyard wall and a danger that it could collapse into the road. The Parochial Church Council were aware of the problem.

4715 – Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 7.30pm in the Old School, Batcombe.

The Clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to Chris Wildridge for his years of service as Parish Council Chairman.

M Comley
8/5/19