

BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rob Sage

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You are Invited to a Consultative Meeting of Batcombe Parish Councillors to be held remotely via Zoom at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26th May 2021

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. A Note on the Meeting

The legislation allowing Parish Councils to meet online expired on May 7th and was not renewed by the Government, who also advised that Parish Councils should not meet in person until after June 21st as the Council has no control on the number of members of the public attending. Following advice from the Somerset Association of Local Councils the Parish Council has delegated the authority to make decisions to the Clerk in consultation with Parish Councillors, which is the purpose of this meeting.

The meeting will be run as a normal Parish Council meeting with members of the public being allowed to comment on the planning applications listed below (at the discretion of the Chairman) and then Councillors discussing each application and coming to a decision on how to advise the Clerk. The only difference is that legally the decision will be made by the Clerk.

As in previous meetings members of the public will be asked to speak once and for a maximum of three minutes (at the discretion of the Chairman).

2. Declarations of Interest

Although this is not a formal Parish Council meeting, Councillors would be advised to declare any interests they may have in any item on the Agenda.

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. Planning Applications

Planning Application No: 2021/0950/FUL

Construction of tennis court with associated fencing and landscaping.

Rockwells House, Batcombe – Full Application.

The details of this application and those listed below can be viewed on the District Council's planning website <https://publicaccess.mendip.gov.uk/online-applications/> Just enter the reference number into the search engine. Due to the coronavirus restrictions, there will not be an opportunity to view paper copies of the applications, plans and associated documents.

Planning Application No: 2021/0782/HSE – Reconfigure the ground floor plan with minor demolition work and new internal partition walls to improve internal rooms and circulation. Enlarge

the opening in the facade of the single-storey extension to allow better circulation and connections to the garden, while providing an improved dining/family space that respects the existing building. Raise parapet of single-storey extension to create appropriate fall to improve existing rainwater drainage conditions. Add 2 bedrooms and bathrooms into the upper storey of the barn/workshop. On the north elevation, reinstate the historically infilled opening and replace like for like the existing neglected shop front window. Reconfigure and replace existing PVC SVP with a cast iron version on the south elevation. On the south elevation of the barn, reinstate the historically infilled opening and install a metal-framed window to match the existing metal window above. In general, replace all rotten windows of the main house with like for like timber framed windows to match existing. Elm House, Kale Street, Batcombe – Householder Application.

Planning Application No: 2021/0783/LBC – *Description of proposal as 2021/0782/HSE above.*
Elm House, Kale Street, Batcombe – Listed Building Consent.

Planning Application No: 2021/1085/TCA
T1 – Ash – Fell. T2 – Willow – reduce by 25%.
Provis, Batcombe – Works/Felling Trees in a CA.

5. Playground – Opening Celebration Arrangements and Exercise Classes.

Details of the competition to design signs for the Playing Field have gone in the magazine with a closing date of June 21st. Final details of the wording on the plaque can be deferred to the meeting on June 23rd if necessary. A decision on the size of the plaque and signs should be made so that an order with Mendip Signs can be booked. A check on what needs to be arranged for the July 17th celebration would be good.

I have asked Sutcliffe Play for an invoice for the remaining amount due for the play equipment but have not yet received it.

Lucy Rutherford, a qualified instructor, has advertised exercise classes in the Playing Field, charging £20 for 5 half hour sessions. Concerns have been raised as to whether the Parish Council should allow commercial exercise classes in the Playing Field and whether this would obstruct the use of the play equipment by children. Last summer Lucy took similar classes in the Playing Field after we checked that she was insured to do so. The Council needs to decide if it wishes to allow such exercise classes to take place and if so what conditions to impose. We do need to ensure that she has valid current insurance. The classes are small, only last for a short period each week, and are attended by one of our Councillors.

6. Insurance Renewal

Insuring the new play equipment has resulted in an increase of £102.44 in our annual insurance premium. The good news is that our insurers have waived the additional premium for the remainder of this year until our renewal date of June 1st. The not so good news is that our insurance premium for next year is £463.71 compared to £349.22 this year. Our current long-term agreement expires on 31st May 2022 so we could look at alternative insurance arrangements next year. The insurance premium needs to be paid before the renewal date of June 1st so I get a cheque signed as soon as possible.

7. Authorisation of Payment

Came & Co - £463.71 – Insurance premium due June 1st 2021.

8. Other Business – matters of information only.

I am pleased to note that Griff Williams has completed and signed off the internal audit for the year ending 31st March 2021. The Parish Council will need to approve the Certificate of Exemption from External Audit, the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements for the year 2020/21 at its next meeting. This has to be done by June 30th and cannot be delegated to the Clerk, so our meeting on June 23rd will have to be in person, even if lockdown restrictions are not lifted on

June 21st. We will need to complete a risk assessment and meet in the Jubilee Hall which will allow adequate ventilation and social distancing.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 23rd June 2021 at 8.00pm in the Jubilee Hall.

Rob Sage

Rob Sage – Clerk

19th May 2021