

# BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rob Sage

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## Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020 via Zoom, commencing at 8.00pm.

**Present - Councillors:** Jayne Cox, Peter Glaisher, Janet Jones and Ian Sage.

**Also Present:** The Clerk – Rob Sage, Michael Gay – District Councillor and four members of the public (one a small child).

**4907 – Apologies for Absence:** Apologies had been received from Mary Comley – the Chairman, from David Stevens and Justin Witcombe, and from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper, the County Councillor. In the absence of the Chairman, Janet Jones chaired the meeting.

**4908 – Declarations of Interest:** None.

### **4909 – Planning Applications:**

Planning Application No: 2020/1089/HSE Erection of a two-storey and one-storey extension. 2 Wickham Cottages, Batcombe – Householder Application. The applicants noted that the extension would use stone that was already in the garden and would replace the current uPVC windows with more traditional windows. The Clerk noted that the Parish Council Chairman had expressed concern at the round window and whether that was in keeping with the listed cottage. Concerns were expressed at parking while work was being done and the applicants noted that there would only be one builder who would probably park in Boxbush Farm. The extensions were felt to fit in well with the listed buildings and so the Parish Council decided to recommend approval.

Planning Application No: 2020/1090/LBC Erection of a two-storey and one-storey extension. 2 Wickham Cottages, Batcombe – Listed Building Consent. The Parish Council felt that the extensions were in keeping with the listed cottages and so decided to recommend approval.

Planning Application No: 2020/1437/TCA T1-T3 – Beech Trees - Fell. 6 Kale Street, Batcombe – Felling Trees in a Conservation Area. There were no objections to the felling of the trees and so the Parish Council decided to recommend approval.

**4910 – Coney Wood – Himalayan Balsam Working Party:** A group of volunteers had been organised to clear the Himalayan Balsam from Coney Wood, but the Woodland Trust would only allow them access if they had public liability insurance. The organiser had requested that they become a Parish Council Working Party so they are covered by the Council's public liability insurance. The Clerk had checked with the Council's insurers and the working party would be covered by the Council's public liability and personal accident insurance provided a risk assessment was undertaken and the volunteers wore appropriate clothing and footwear. It was agreed to allow this to be an official Parish Council working party provided the organiser provided a risk assessment and kept a list of the volunteers working in the wood.

**4911 - Authorisation of payment:** Councillors authorised the following payments:

£20.36 Water2business – Water supply to the Playing Field.

£240.00 Dominic Conway – Grass cutting in the Playing Field. Three cuts in July.

£110.00 Gary Butler – Hedge cutting in the Playing Field.

**4912 – Other Business - Matters of Information Only:** The Clerk reported that the owners of Beech Cottage in Westcombe who worked at a boarding school were planning to rent their home as a holiday cottage during term time and wanted to know if Parish Councillors felt this would be acceptable to people in the parish. The Clerk to reply suggesting that they inform their immediate neighbours but that there were no concerns about the cottage being a holiday let.

The Clerk also reported that someone was considering buying the land by the telephone exchange and using it for a forest school and for camping. They also wanted to build a three-bedroom house and wondered if this would be acceptable to the parish. It was noted that it was very unlikely that planning permission would be granted for a house in open countryside.

The District Councillor reported that Hastoes solicitors were still negotiating with the landowners' solicitors and that nothing was likely to happen with regard to the sewage treatment plant at Ash Tree Cottages until the negotiations were concluded. A neighbour of Ash Tree Cottages reported that the smell from the plant was appalling and asked for details of the latest plans. The Clerk noted that the Parish Council did not have access to these.

A question was asked about progress on the new play equipment and the Clerk reported that a grant application had been made and the Council was waiting to see if the application had been scored high enough to be considered for a grant in September.

**4913 – Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Hall, Batcombe or remotely - depending on advice nearer the date.

M Comley

2/9/20