

BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rob Sage

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You are Summoned to the Monthly Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council to be held on Wednesday 6th October 2021 at 8.00pm in the Jubilee Hall, Batcombe

*Please note that the Jubilee Hall will be well ventilated and seating will be well spaced.
The wearing of face masks will be optional.*

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 1st September 2021 to be agreed. *Enclosed/attached.*

5. Matters Arising – information updates only.

Allotments – the signed lease has not yet been returned by the owners of the field. There will be at least one, probably two vacant allotments when the rents are due on November 1st.

Annual Grants – Thanks for the grants from the Parish Council have been received from the Village Hall Trust, the PCC and Mendip Community Transport.

Next Parish Council Election – A survey of parish councils in Somerset has resulted in 97 councils saying that they would like the next Parish Council Elections brought forward to May 2022 to coincide with the new unitary authority elections - and 16 councils wanting them to remain in May 2023. A decision on the date will be made in early October but it looks likely that it will be brought forward.

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.

7. Integrated Care System

Integrated Care Systems are new partnerships between the organisations that meet health and care needs across an area and are intended to remove the traditional divisions between hospitals and GPs,

between physical and mental health and between local authorities and the NHS. Virginia Membrey has asked the Parish Council to consider organising a public meeting to discuss this and will be attending the meeting to explain why she feels this is important. Virginia states that the Somerset Partnership Trust and Musgrove Park have merged to form the Somerset Foundation Trust and Yeovil Hospital is in the process of joining them. Virginia also foresees significant changes in the way we receive care in the future. More information about Somerset's Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for the provision of health and care services can be found at:

[Somerset's Sustainability and Transformation Plan](#)

8. Footpaths and Highways

An apology has been received from the person responsible for the painted marks on the road in front of the Church. The paint was water soluble and the person responsible had hoped that rain would wash it away. They have promised not to do this again.

9. Playground – Maintenance Report

The moles are active again.

The current electricity supply contract with SSE will come to an end on November 31st and we have until November 1st to agree a new contract with SSE or find a new supplier. SSE are offering a new two-year contract with the quarterly charge increasing from £21.35 to £55.49 and the unit price increasing from 15.068 to 21.048 p/kWh.

I tried Compare the Market to see what alternative suppliers might offer and the best quote was a three-year contract from Valda Energy with a unit price of 26.38 p/kWh and a Standing Charge of 20p per day (which is the equivalent of £18.25 a quarter). As there is almost no electricity used in the Playing Field (typically 15 kWh a year before the pandemic) it is the Standing Charge that is important and this would have been a significant saving on SSE's offer (about £150 a year) and slightly cheaper than our current contract.

If the Parish Council wish me to switch supplier, I need to be authorised to do so at this meeting. The quote from Valda Energy was only valid for that day and given the volatile energy market a new quote is likely to be higher – but hopefully not by too much.

10. Planning Applications:

None.

Planning Application Updates.

None at present. If the District and County Councillors are present, Parish Councillors may wish to discuss the process that led to the approval of the planning application for Carrot Hill Farmhouse.

11. Westdown Quarry Reopening

In May of this year Hanson Aggregates UK applied to reopen and extend Westdown Quarry. Westdown Quarry lies to the north-east of the Torr Works Quarry and south of Whatley Quarry (north of the A361 to the east of the Leighton junction). The Parish Council were not consulted about this application (although Wanstrow Parish Council were) and only learnt about it when letters were received from campaigners against the re-opening urging us to join in objecting to the proposal. The Chairman has circulated correspondence from one of these campaigners. If the Parish Council decides to support the objections it may be helpful to base its response on the objection to the re-opening of Bartlett's Quarry on that was made by Mary on behalf of the Parish Council.

12. Batcombe Village Hall Trust – Application to Vary the Premises Licence

The Village Hall Trust have made an application to vary their Premises Licence which will allow alcohol to be sold in the Old School. It will also allow live and recorded music to be played in the Old School which is not currently allowed. The times for these activities appear to be similar to those currently allowed in the Jubilee Hall. If the Parish Council wishes to make a representation to the Licensing Authority (Mendip DC) we have until October 25th to do so.

13. Authorisation of Payments

£160.00 Kevin Gale – Grass cutting in Playing Field in September.

£1,049.23 The Clerk – Salary for 2nd Quarter. *See enclosed sheet.*

£109.84 The Clerk – Expenses for 2nd Quarter. *See enclosed sheet.*

14. Other Business – matters of information only. *None as yet.*

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at **7.30pm** in the Jubilee Hall.

Rob Sage

Rob Sage – Clerk

29th September 2021