

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 4th January 2023 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 7th December 2022 to be agreed and signed. *Enclosed/attached.*

5. Matters Arising – information updates only.

The King's Coronation – just to note that there will not be a national lighting of beacons for the Coronation – in order to distinguish the event from last year's Jubilee.

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. Footpaths and Highways

A car left the road on Hincombe Hill presumably after hitting black ice and ended up in the top corner of the allotments field. One of the occupants had to be cut out of the car but fortunately there do not appear to have been any serious injuries. The car had been removed from the field before Christmas leaving all five doors and the cut away roof.

8. Playground – Maintenance Report

Hedge Laying and Tree Works - A good job was made of laying the Playing Field hedge and of reducing the Oak tree. The invoice for the hedge laying has been delayed by the postal strikes but will hopefully have been received by the time of the meeting.

Willow Structure – Requests have been received for this item to be included on the Agenda so that the Parish Council can consider reducing the height and spread of the willow structure.

Notice of Parental Responsibility - Attached is a suggested notice to replace the temporary one welcoming people to the Playing Field and which now includes a note about parental responsibility.

Grass Cutting Quote - Kevin Gale has been asked for a quote for cutting the Playing Field grass in the next season, but nothing has been received yet – probably due to the postal strikes. If the quote is received by the time of the meeting, the Parish Council can consider accepting it.

9. Planning Applications:

Planning Application No: 2022/2437HSE –

Proposed single storey rear extension to dwelling and associated alterations.

Churchill Cottage, Crows Hill, Batcombe – Householder Application.

The proposal is for a single storey rear extension with a living green flat roof that will extend the living room and provide a dining area behind the kitchen. The rear elevation of the extension consists mainly of large glass patio doors and a large picture window. Full details of the application can be found on the Mendip planning website at <https://publicaccess.mendip.gov.uk/online-applications/> by entering the planning application number into the search engine.

Planning Application Updates.

Planning permission and Listed Building Consent has been granted for the alterations to Lodge Farm which included the conversion of a barn and dairy to ancillary accommodation, the demolition of a cottage and other works to outbuildings.

The application to fell a Cherry tree at Romsey Cottage on Kale Street has been approved.

10. Budget and Precept for Year Ending 31st March 2024

A budget for the year ending 31st March 2024 was enclosed with November's Agenda. See November's Agenda notes for details of the budget. An amended budget was enclosed with the December Agenda noting that the cost of the hedge laying in the Playing Field would be incurred this year instead of in next year's budget. The Council approved the budget in principle at the December meeting with an unchanged precept of £9,925.

A final decision on the precept was deferred in the hope that the tax base for 2023/24 would be known at this meeting so that the impact of the precept on Council Tax could be taken into account – and the precept adjusted so that there would be no increase to the Council Tax resulting from the precept. [The tax base is the number of Band D equivalent properties in Batcombe when taking into account the number of empty properties, various discounts (including 25% for single people) and the weighting of the different bands above and below Band D.]

Unfortunately, Mendip have not published the tax base for 2023/24, presumably because they will no longer exist in 2023/24 and so we will need to set a precept without knowing the impact on Council Tax.

11. Authorisation of Payments

£1,340.43 The Clerk – Salary for 3rd Quarter. *See enclosed sheet*
(includes backdated pay rise from April 2022).

£81.06 The Clerk – Expenses for 3rd Quarter. *See enclosed sheet.*

£1,400? Alex Bown – Hedge laying in Playing Field *(no invoice received yet).*

£660.00 Osborne Tree Services LTD – Reduction of Oak tree.

12. Other Business – matters of information only.

New Code of Conduct for Parish Councillors – A new Code of Conduct has been produced and SALC are recommending that all parish councils in Somerset adopt it. I suggest that we consider the Code at the next meeting.

Annual Parish Meeting – The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday April 5th 2023 at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Hall. In the past we have invited a guest speaker in the hopes of attracting

more residents to attend, although this didn't happen during Covid and we decided against having a speaker last year. If we wish to have a speaker we need to think about inviting someone as soon as possible.

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Hall.

Rob Sage

Rob Sage – Clerk

28th December 2022