

# BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rob Sage

Tel: 01749 850934

e-mail: [clerk@batcombe-parish-council-somerset.org.uk](mailto:clerk@batcombe-parish-council-somerset.org.uk)

## You are Summoned to the Monthly Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council to be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 at 8.00pm 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 Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019** to be agreed and signed. *Enclosed.*

*The Chairman has proposed that future Minutes should include actions points and that these should be brought forward to the next Agenda.*

**5. Matters Arising** – information updates only.

*Annual Governance and Accountability Return – The Certificate of Exemption has been sent to the External Auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP and acknowledged. The Internal Auditor's Report, Annual Governance Statement, Annual Accounting Statements 2018/19 and the other documents that the Parish Council are required to publish under the Transparency Code for Smaller Councils have all been published on the Parish Council website before the deadline of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Also published on the website and on the parish notice boards is the Notice of the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights. This is the period when members of the public can examine the Parish Council's accounting records and runs until Friday July 26<sup>th</sup>. All these documents can be downloaded from the Audit and Transparency Code Requirements page on the website <http://www.batcombe-parish-council-somerset.org.uk/parish-council-documents/audit-and-transparency-code/>*

*Allotments – All the allotments are now rented out with the vacant allotments having been leased at the reduced rent of £20 for the remainder of the year (until November 1<sup>st</sup>). If all or most the allotment holders continue next year the Parish Council will need to consider extending the lease on the allotments field which currently runs until May 2021.*

*Sewage Treatment Plant at Ash Tree Cottages – Hastoes have informed the residents that they are making arrangements for the repair of the plant and in the meantime the cesspit is being regularly*

*emptied. The Chairman has been in contact with Repairs Operations Manager at Hastoes who states that a contractor visited in May to provide quotes for replacing the outflow pipe and the whole system if necessary. Because of the high cost Hastoes have engaging a consultant to report on whether replacing the outfall pipe will provide a suitable solution or whether it will be necessary to replace the whole system. The consultant was expected to visit at the end of June.*

*A former Parish Councillor has suggested that the Section 106 agreement on the houses means that the Parish Council should be more involved in this issue. The Section 106 agreement is the legal agreement by which priority in the occupation of the houses is given to those with a local connection. The Parish Council has been consulted on the localness of those wishing to live there and has also recommended local people with a housing need to Hastoes. The Section 106 agreement does not give the Parish Council any other role in the management of the houses.*

*Councillor Training – Four Councillors attended the training for new Councillors at Nunney Village Hall in June.*

#### **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. Broadband Provision – Connecting Devon and Somerset**

*Mendip District Council's Scrutiny Committee will be examining the provision of high-speed broadband in the Mendip area by Connecting Devon and Somerset at its meeting in August. This is an opportunity for the Parish Council to ask questions of CDS via our District Councillor. Enclosed are some questions prepared by Janet Jones.*

#### **8. Footpaths and Highways**

*Somerset Highways have informed the Parish Council that Quaperlake Street in Bruton will be closed for 3 days from 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to enable Wessex Water to carry out new connection works. In the past the closure of Quaperlake Street has meant increased traffic through Batcombe.*

*A reminder has been sent to Somerset Highways of the conditions in Batcombe in icy weather and the request for the options the Parish Council has with regard to salting the roads and this has been copied to the County Councillor.*

#### **9. Playground - Maintenance Report.**

*The annual inspection of the Playing Field by RoSPA should have taken place in June, although it is sometimes delayed until July depending on the workload of the inspectors. The inspection report is usually received in July or August and, unless there are any urgent matters to attend to, will be discussed at the September meeting.*

*Justin Witcombe has some concrete slabs left over from the installation of the bench in the area below the Jubilee Hall and has offered to place them under the picnic bench in the Playing Field. This would help preserve the picnic bench as its legs would no longer be in direct contact with the ground.*

*The Working Party (Ian Sage, Jayne Cox, Justin Witcombe, Clare Kingston and the Clerk) met on June 11<sup>th</sup> to consider fundraising proposals for the new play equipment. It was noted that the play equipment would receive a share of the profits on the teas during the Open Garden at Batcombe House and that members of the Parish Council had offered to approach local firms for sponsorship. A suggestion had been made for a musical event in the evening after the Village Fete on the Sunday of the August Bank Holiday weekend, but it was felt that it was too late to organise anything this year and having an event immediately after the Fete was not felt to be ideal.*

*Instead it was proposed to have an event in the Playing Field next spring with music, teas, a bar and other attractions (possibly a human slot machine). The main issue was to find someone to organise*

*the event and Justin offered to approach possible organisers. It was also suggested that a letter should be sent to residents and local businesses asking for donations/sponsorship. The Clerk to draft a letter. Another proposal was to ask if the play equipment could have a share in the proceeds of the Christmas Draw in The Three Horseshoes. Justin offered to approach the Cricket Club who run the Draw. The Working Party can only make proposals, so the agreement of the Parish Council is needed for these proposals to go ahead.*

*The Parish Council agreed in March (Minute 4697) that the annual Village Fete could take place on the Sunday of the August Bank Holiday weekend instead of the Monday. This means that the Playing Field will be closed on the Saturday to allow the safe preparation of the Fete. The clear up after the Fete will take place on the Monday. The zip wire will be padlocked during this period to prevent accidents and an inspection of the Playing Field take place after the clear up. The inside of the Playing Field hedge will need to be cut back before the Fete. Gary Butler has done this in previous years.*

#### **10. Planning Applications:**

No applications at present.

##### **Planning Application Updates.**

*The application to convert and extend the outbuilding at The Three Horseshoes to provide staff accommodation has been approved with the condition that the occupation of the building is limited to “a person solely or mainly working as an employee at The Three Horseshoes, Back Lane, Batcombe to include spouse and any residential dependants”.*

*The Tree Preservation Order on the tree on land on Westcombe Stables Lane opposite Westcombe Stables has been confirmed. A non-material amendment has been granted for an alteration to the roof design of the proposed snug area at Giles Cottages.*

#### **11. Tree Plaque at Batcombe House**

*The Head Gardener at Batcombe House has informed the Parish Council that the plaque on the roadside wall at Batcombe House (looking towards Kale Street) is in a bad state of repair with a rotten frame and cracked Perspex. The plaque commemorates the planting of a Cedar tree in Batcombe House - the 100<sup>th</sup> tree planted in Batcombe to celebrate the Queen’s Silver Jubilee. (Batcombe won a trophy in the “Special Projects” category of the Best Kept Village competition for the tree planting scheme.) The plaque was specially made by carpenters aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia as the captain, Rear Admiral Hugh Jannion, was living in Batcombe at the time. Although installed by the Jubilee committee it probably falls to the Parish Council to restore the plaque.*

#### **12. Authorisation of Payment**

Dominic Conway - £???.00 – Grass cutting in June. (Invoice not yet received.)

The Clerk - £1,021.02 – Salary for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter. *See enclosed sheet.*

The Clerk - £98.65 – Expenses for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter. *See enclosed sheet.*

SALC - £75.00 – Training for four new Councillors.

*The following grants were approved at the last meeting:*

Batcombe Village Hall Trust - £300.00 – includes the hire of rooms for Parish Council meetings.

Batcombe PCC - £200.00 – the Burial Grant for the maintenance of the churchyard.

Mendip Citizen’s Advice Bureau - £100.00 – grant provided under the power to support the CAB.

Mendip Community Transport - £100.00 – grant under the section 137 power.

*There are continuing technical issues with amending the bank mandate and so the special arrangements made at the last meeting will need to continue.*

**13. Other Business** – matters of information only.

*Please note that the Parish Council cannot make decisions on items that do not appear on the Agenda – so matters raised under this item are for information only.*

*Nick Sommer had volunteered to look after the telephone kiosk in Westcombe for the Parish Council while he was living there. John Sommer has let us know that there are two tins of paint for repainting the kiosk stored in his barn amongst some of his father's possessions and wonders if the Parish Council wishes to store them elsewhere.*

**14. Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 8.00pm in the Old School, Batcombe if required to consider planning applications. Otherwise Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

*Rob Sage*

Rob Sage – Clerk

27<sup>th</sup> June 2019