

WITHYPOOL AND HAWKRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA
Tuesday 9th March 2021 7.00pm via Zoom

Present: Parish Councillors: A Howard – AH (Chair), K Branfield -KB, A Collins -AC, T Lloyd - TL, P. Soltau -PS, W Lock - WL, **SCC Cllr** F Nicholson – FN; **SW&T Cllr** S Pugsley -SP; **Clerk** C Hornsby; **Public** – one

Abbreviations: ENPA – Exmoor National Park; SW&T - Somerset West and Taunton District Council; SCC – Somerset County Council;

For any Road defects – please go to the SCC Road Defect Website -

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-pothole-or-road-defect/>

19/21 Questions from the public. - None

20/21 Apologies of Absence -Cllr J Down -JD,

21/21 Declarations of notifiable interests None

22/21 Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting on 19/01/2021 amend Jan Mins Waste partnership – to Spring 2022. These were then proposed by AC and 2nd by KB and all Approved. Chair then signed the minutes.

23/21 Matters arising from the Minutes of 19/01/2021 – 8/21 – Slade Lane cattle grid – WL not aware if the problem is still there as he had not seen it during wet weather.

24/21 COVID 19 for the parish update None – FN reported: Vaccinations in Somerset have gone swiftly with Somerset being the first area in the country to reach the target of offering a vaccine to all over 70s. Rates of infection are going down rapidly. But we must always remember that they can go up again, so we need to continue with wearing masks, keeping a distance, washing our hands, and carefully following the rules as lockdown, we hope, starts to be relaxed.

25/21 Report by the County & District Councillors: questions to Cllrs: (i) cost of reproducing posters – SP advised that this was probably a Parish Council cost to be taken from the precept. (ii) Central Government has now recognised that West Somerset faces a severe challenge of housing affordability – as it has for some time for North Devon. This means that there will be some extra funding available for affordable housing.; (iii) Last month the County Council set its budget and council tax rates for the year. The County Council’s council tax has gone up by 1.99%, plus 3% specifically for adults’ social care. As a result, the County Council precept for a Band D council tax charge is £1,353.53 for 2021/22. This adds £64.33 per annum (£1.23 per week) to a Band D property. This remains one of the lowest council tax charges in England. (iv) Exmoor Panel on 11th March will have talks from Dean Kinsella of ENPA about the emergency masts & Matt Barrow from Connecting Devon & Somerset about Broadband and fibre voucher scheme – this is something the parish can get involved with to improve the areas connection. PS and AH are aware of the situation. (v) Last month the Secretary of State Robert Jenrick announced that a consultation was starting and will run till mid-April on both the One Somerset proposal for a unitary authority in Somerset, and the Stronger Somerset proposal for two unitaries to split the county between them. He is also deferring the county council elections for the year.

26/21 Highways – (i) A car that has been left by the owners who have said they will not be collecting it is to be reported to RNPA and SCC Highways – Clerk to Action (ii) PS reported two pot holes on the SCC Road Defect Website - <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-pothole-or-road-defect/>

27/21 Finance report (i) Bank Reconciliation £7896.08 (this includes Defib service and Jan Zoom invoice which have not shown on Bank Statement yet (ii) Invoices: Clerks Pay and Exp - Jan Feb Mar 2021 - Pay 5th April **Mrs C Hornsby £374.73 Chq 526**; Zoom invoice payable to **Village Shop £14.39 Chq 527** Clerk to arrange signatures with KB and AH

28/21 Planning 6/42/21/103 Old School House, Sparrows Lane, Lawful development certificate for the proposed conversion of workshop over garage to bed and breakfast accommodation. <https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/exmoor/application-details/22076> The Cllrs supported the above planning but were concerned over increased parking issues. Clerk to inform ENPA planning dept with the following: *The Withypool & Hawkridge Parish Council (W&HPC) understand this is a lawful development certificate, rather than a straightforward planning application, and therefore a matter for legal determination, nevertheless the W&HPC is in favour of this development, and were it to have been a new application, the W&HPC would have supported it as in their view it accords with policy RTD1 services to accommodation. They do want it noted about possible increased parking in the area.*

29/21 Parish Gardens (i) land available – Clerk to notify those on the waiting list and to add an advert to FB, Website and Parish Magazine. (ii) Tenant renewal of contract questions were raised and clerk to respond to the tenant with answers (iii) It was agreed to add to the contract the following point – if a tenant ends their contract before the end of their term, they will be entitled to a refund of those months only if the plot has been let to a new tenant. If the plot remains vacant, no refund will be given. (iv) Subletting of Plot ...was discussed, this is ok if written permission is sent to the councillors with a start and end date of sublet and that no money can be taken for the sub-let.

30/21 Parish Maintenance: Grit Bin lid replacement not possible – council agreed to wait until September meeting to replace the whole bin, when there may be others that need replacing or adding to.

31/21 Chairman's Notices - Mr Jeremy Davies has put the new bench in place and is asking if he should put the Diamond 2012 Jubilee plaque on the new bench. It was agreed that he should. All wanted to send their thanks to Mr Davies and clerk will arrange a thank you letter. (AH showed photos of the bench in situ)

32/21 Correspondence - None

33/21 Report from representatives of other groups:

- Withypool Village Hall – no meeting but have claimed Gov CV19 money for the hall
- Hawkridge Village Hall – no meeting but have claimed Gov CV19 money for the hall
- Henry Leigh Trust – At last meeting 18 grants were approved – Details about HLT will be on FB page
- Exmoor Panel – 11th March & Consultative & Parish Forum – 18th March

34/21 Parish Community – including the social media page update, events by other groups not listed in 15/21 – (i) Clerk stated that as yet she has not upgraded the website but plans to do that in the summer before the renewal is due. (ii) a warning was raised about red spray paint marks on gates to fields being a possible marker for robbery – all to be aware – this will be added to the FB page.

35/21 Items for March 2021 agenda - Audit

36/21 Date and time of next meeting: 11th May 2021 to be confirmed – Subject to Gov CV19 restrictions this may include the Annual Parish Meeting as well as the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.50pm

Signed.....Date.....