

WITHYPOOL AND HAWKRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA

Tuesday 13th July 2021 7.30pm at Hawkridge Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: A Howard – AH (Chair), K Branfield - KB, A Collins - AC, T Lloyd - TL, P Soltau - PS, W Lock - WL; **SW&T Cllr** S Pugsley - SP; **Clerk** R Tomalin; **Public** – two

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-problem-on-the-road/>

57/21 Questions from the public. – Wall Outside Church Room – two members of the public attended the meeting to highlight that a large tractor had damaged the wall outside the Church Room on the evening of 8th July. Representatives of the Parochial Church Council and the Cllrs discussed their concerns over the ability of larger vehicles to pass through the village safely and agreed to investigate other possible parking sites and costs involved. Reminders to park considerately will be placed on the FB page and noticeboard and the Chair will raise with the local police.

The meeting started at 8pm.

58/21 Apologies of Absence - Cllr J Down - JD, Somerset County Council Cllr F Nicholson - FN

59/21 Declarations of notifiable interests None

60/21 Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting on 18/05/2021 - amend to correct spelling errors on **49/21** District and County Councillors and **53/21** Parish Gardens, amend **50/21** Highways to clarify the gate at Greystone Gate was broken. These were then proposed by KB and 2nd by TL and all Approved. Chair then signed the minutes.

61/21 Matters arising from the Minutes of 18/05/2021 – **50/21** – Overhanging hedges – AH reported he had been dealing with the owner and the hedge is due to be cut shortly. If this is not done soon Clerk will issue letters. **53/21** Tenancy Agreement for Plot D has been signed by the Russells, they have agreed to take the tenancy from August.

62/21 COVID 19 for the parish update Noted that masks will no longer be a legal requirement from Monday 19th July but it is up to businesses to decide how they wish to proceed

63/21 Report by the County & District Councillors: (i) SP noted that Mare Pool was back but it could do with some TLC from Jeremy Davies. (ii) Local Government Reform expecting an indication from the Secretary of State before the end of July. If One Somerset is successful Exmoor will become a local community network for devolving Highways powers. Exmoor will be a pilot project so we must take the lead and ensure we get what we require. (iii) Broadband/Fibre Voucher Scheme – SP has requested Matt Barrow from Connecting Devon & Somerset attends a public meeting in the next 3-4 weeks to explain the schemes available and which will be most effective for the village. WL suggested East Antsey PC is included as Hawkridge is reliant on the Antsey Mill line. SP explained that this will be looked at from a civil parish as a starting point but that other interested parties such as Exmoor Hill Farming Network/nearby PCs were welcome to attend to further their knowledge. Probably need 30-40 vouchers (£2500 residential or £3500 business including if a company director lives in a residential house) but the Community Fibre Network is likely to be 3-4 times faster than currently enjoyed in the centre of Withypool so it is worthwhile encouraging all local residents to sign up

64/21 Highways – (i) Sandyway cattle grid railing broken (ii) fire hydrant sticking out past the pub (iii) gate at Greystone Gate broken. **Action:** Clerk to report all on Highways website.

65/21 Finance report (i) Bank Reconciliation £11,396.16 (includes receipt of Plot D rent and VAT refund and expenses of Clerk's Pay and Exp Q1 21, share of laptop costs to Exmoor PC and Insurance paid to BHIB) (ii) Approval of Invoices: **SALC Yearly Association Fee £58.64 Chq 533; SALC Training for New Clerk £90 Chq 533 (total on cheque £148.64)** – all AGREED, Clerk will organise signing of cheques. (iii) Outgoing Clerks Pay and Exp – Apr May June 2021 – paid prior to meeting with all Cllrs approval **Mrs C Hornsby £253.68 Chq 531**; PAYE due to **HMRC £63.40 Chq 532** – all AGREED, cheque signed by AH & KB (iv) new Clerk's salary discussed after the May meeting, noted for the July minutes as £10.19/hr plus £0.89/hr working from home allowance (v) Bank authorisation – all Cllrs **AUTHORISE** the removal of Charlotte Hornsby (outgoing clerk) and addition of Rebecca Tomalin (incoming clerk) as an authorised signatory on the Natwest Current and Reserve accounts. Clerk to arrange completion of mandate and send to Natwest (vi) VAT Claim – £84.50 has been refunded for the 2020_21 tax year (vii) Clerk explained that the website renewal fee of £29.95 was due early September but the website could be upgraded to enhance security and look more modern, this would increase the yearly fee to £103. **Action:** Clerk to provide Cllrs with statistics of website usage, check whether website can be upgraded mid year and provide details of enhancements before decision is taken.

66/21 Planning 6/42/21/104 Land to East of Hawkridge Village, proposed erection of an agricultural building; resubmission of refused application 6/42/20/107. <https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/exmoor/application-details/22374> The Cllrs once again supported the above planning application and agreed that the new location was better. Clerk to inform ENPA planning dept using same wording as last time but noting the Cllrs agreed that the new location was better.

67/21 Parish Gardens (i) refund to previous tenants – Cllrs decided that the refund due was too small to justify further action (ii) Parish Flower Bed (near village shop) – the back wall of the flower bed has collapsed – **Action:** Cllrs to inspect and report back at September meeting. (iii) Pavement around the flower bed and bench is in a poor state of repair – **Action:** Clerk to report to Highways

68/21 Parish Maintenance: Grit Bins – review of the grit bins will be required by Highways in August – Clerk will circulate spreadsheet in next few weeks so that Cllrs can review the situation in their areas and report back. Need to find solution for securing the lids as cattle frequently open them.

69/21 Chairman's Notices - empty property Riverside been vacant for some months. Clerk has emailed Magna Housing and the property needs substantial work before it can be let and as yet there is no date for this. **Actions:** Clerk to continue to regularly contact Magna for updates. Post on FB page that a property in Withypool will be available shortly to encourage local people to sign upto the Homefinder service as there are currently delays registering.

70/21 Correspondence – Queens Jubilee – suggested a small committee is formed, poster to go on the noticeboard and FB page to drum up interest. PS is happy to be involved. WL mentioned that it had already been discussed in Hawkridge. SP noted that Withypool and Hawkridge generally hold their own individual celebrations.

71/21 Report from representatives of other groups:

- Withypool Village Hall – no meeting, planning to put up new shed and do remedial works to disabled access, followed by some work to the kitchen
- Hawkridge Village Hall – meeting held to discuss and prioritise projects, will be starting with the guttering. Seeking clarification on changes to business rate reliefs
- Henry Leigh Trust – next meeting due in September to review applications. Details will be shared on the FB page, in the Across Exford parish magazine and on the Exford FB page. Closing date for applications is 31 August <https://henryleightrust.chessck.co.uk/Howtoapply>
- Exmoor Panel – meeting held 8th June – discussed Exmoor being a pilot community network if One Somerset successful – see 63/21
- Consultative & Parish Forum – meeting held 10th June – topics of discussion included ticks, TB in deer, flower meadows, rural housing and potential affordable housing sites. Minutes can be read here https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0032/396563/ar-ecpf-10.06.2021-Item_2.pdf

72/21 Parish Community – including the social media page update, events by other groups not listed in 71/21 – (i) empty property Riverside discussed under 69/21

73/21 Items for September 2021 agenda – parking in village, parish flower bed wall

74/21 Date and time of next meeting: 14th September 2021 at 7.30pm at Withypool Village Hall

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9.25pm

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