

**WITHYPOOL AND HAWKRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL Draft Minutes**  
**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 6.30pm at Withypool 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 (for part of meeting); **Somerset County Council Cllr** F Nicholson (for part of meeting) – FN; **Clerk** R Tomalin; **Public** – none

**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/>

**1/22 Questions from the public** – none.

The meeting started at 6.35pm.

**2/22 Apologies of Absence** - The Chair notified the rest of the Cllrs that Cllr J Down had handed in her resignation as she was not able to attend the meeting and did not wish to cause any more inconvenience.

WL joined the meeting at 6.37pm.

**3/22 Declarations of notifiable interests:** None

**4/22 Approval of the Minutes** of the previous meeting on 09/11/2021 - proposed by AC and 2<sup>nd</sup> by TL and all Approved. Chair then signed the minutes.

**5/22 Matters arising from the Minutes** of 09/11/2021: (i) **97/21** Grit bins/salt bags – the missing bins cannot be replaced with salt bags as Highways have already done the salt bag run, however these locations can be added at refilling time. Cllrs noted that the bin above Knighton drive and the bag opposite Halsgrove are empty (ii) **100/21** Highways Issues – Clerk noted issues from the last meeting had been reported and as most were not a severe safety issue they would be dealt with under routine maintenance (iii) **101/21** Precept – Clerk reported the precept form had been submitted (iv) **107/21** Henry Leigh Trust Trustee Nomination – Clerk has informed Lyn Fisher of the PC's nomination

**6/22 Report by the County & District Councillors:** as neither Cllrs were in attendance this was discussed later in the meeting

**7/22 Highways:** (i) The Cllrs noted they had reported the following issues on the Highways website: tree in the river by the bridge in Withypool, Sandyway cattle grid gate unable to open, pot hole between Withypool Village Hall and Blackmorelands, Pennycombe Bridge. (ii) The Cllrs again raised blocked drains on Blakeway and Slade Bridge cattle grid, and damage to the parapet on the bridge by Westwater Farm which the Clerk will report.

**8/22 Finance report:** (i) Bank Reconciliation £9,638.66 includes cheques cleared for Clerk's Pay and Exp Sept-Nov 21, PAYE to HMRC Sept-Nov 21 & Dan Passmore Grass Cutting (ii) Approval of Invoices: one invoice was approved prior to the Jan meeting for Grass Cutting **Dan Passmore £620 Chq 539** (iii) Election Training – Clerk asked if she could attend Election Training which was being run

by SALC at a cost of £20 which could be shared with Exmoor Parish Council (as she had taken over the Clerk role there). The Cllrs all agreed it was OK; the invoice will be presented for formal approval at a future meeting once received.

**9/22 Planning:** None

**10/22 Parish Gardens:** KB reported the hedge by Withypool Village Hall car park was in hand and it would be tidied up when the hedge trimmer was next passing.

**11/22 Parish Maintenance:** (i) PS reported she had cleaned out the drains along Kitridge Lane but there was still the ongoing problem outside Olivers Cottage which the Clerk will report again. The Cllrs discussed whether extending the road sweeping route might alleviate some of the drainage issues. (ii) KB asked whether the finger post sign at Tarr Steps could be moved to Withypool Post as the Tarr Steps one currently has no finger points, although it did used to say no access to Tarr Steps. AC reported that a new post had been put in place at Greystone Gate but no Cattle Grid sign had been put on top of it. Clerk will report.

**12/22 Chairman's Notices:** none

**13/22 Correspondence:** (i) New Blue Recycling bags – the Cllrs discussed the new recycling scheme and decided the two trial bags should go to the Chair and PS (ii) Planning Training – Clerk reminded the Cllrs ENPA planning training was taking place on 20 Jan (iii) Clerk drew attention to an email recently circulated regarding Covid Grants for community buildings

**14/22 Report from representatives of other groups:**

- Withypool Village Hall – no meeting
- Hawkridge Village Hall – no meeting
- Henry Leigh Trust – meeting tomorrow to review a dozen or so applications.
- Exmoor Panel – meeting on Thurs at Moorland Hall
- Consultative & Parish Forum – next meeting will be March 22

**15/22 Parish Community** including the social media page update, events by other groups not listed in 89/21: (i) Queens Jubilee celebrations – PS has invited a few select members of the community (generally representatives of other local committees) for a chat over coffee to discuss possible ideas. It is likely to be something in the Jubilee Gardens on the Sunday. It was noted the Royal Oak has already published a list of events, but it was preferable to organise a village do. PS to discuss with the landlady. The Cllrs considered whether the PC should make a donation to the celebrations, depending on the exact event chosen. Lighting of the beacon will need to be discussed with J Down, ENPA & Natural England.

SCC Cllr FN arrived at 7.17pm during the Queens Jubilee celebration discussions under **15/22**.

TL left the meeting & SW&T Cllr SP arrived at 7.20pm.

**6/22 Report by the County & District Councillors:** (i) Road sweeping & Sign Posts – the PC Cllrs recapped the discussion under **11/22** for the benefit of FN & SP. Road sweeping is a district responsibility, SP explained that the route could be re-negotiated. The Sign Posts are a historic marker, SP will ask at the next Sign Post meeting (week on Friday) what is happening with the Withypool Post (ii) One Somerset – FN encouraged Cllrs to attend the Exmoor Panel Meeting on Thursday where the new ways of working will be discussed, particularly the local Highways Pilot project (iii) May Elections – elections are very likely to take place in May, these will be based on the

existing divisional boundaries but two people will be elected in each. With respect to PC elections any Cllr elected in May will serve for a 5 year term. SP noted there may be an issue with the ENPA parish representatives as these are appointed every four years, so we could have a scenario where a parish Cllr retires or is defeated in the May elections. (iii) Local Plan 5 Year Review Survey – ENPA is currently conducting a review to see if the current policies need to be reviewed. It is likely the background advice and guidance will be amended rather than have a full policy review. The PC is encouraged to respond to the survey (iv) Petition for Online Meetings – SP noted that face-to-face meetings were better but there is definitely a call for online meetings e.g in bad weather and to save excessive travelling (better for planet). A hybrid model could be a workable solution (v) Broadband Update – the application was submitted mid December to OpenReach. It had taken a considerable amount of time to input each householders details individually into the OpenReach database and around 8 households did not participate. A ballpark quote is expected in 2-3 months. If this is too expensive there is a Plan B for Hawkridge. SP thanked PS and her husband for their efforts in completing this onerous task.

**16/22 Items for March 2022 agenda:** PC acting as Guarantor for Broadband Scheme

**17/22 Date and time of next meeting:** 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 6.30pm at Hawkridge Village Hall

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.58pm

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