

WITHYPOOL AND HAWKRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL Draft Minutes
Tuesday 27th September 2022 6.30pm at Withypool Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: A Howard – AH (Chair), T Lloyd - TL, A Collins – AC, W Lock – WL, P Soltau - PS, J Soltau – JS, A Morrissey – AM; **SCC Cllr** F Nicholson (for part of meeting) – FN; **SCC & SW&T Cllr** S Pugsley (for part of meeting) – SP; **Clerk** R Tomalin; **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-problem-on-the-road/>

82/22 Questions from the public: None.

The meeting started at 6.32pm

83/22 Apologies of Absence: None

84/22 Declarations of notifiable interests: None

85/22 Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting on 05/07/2022 - proposed by JS and 2nd by AM and all Approved. Chair then signed the minutes.

WL arrived at 6.34pm. TL & SP arrived at 6.35pm

86/22 Matters arising from the Minutes of 05/07/2022: None

87/22 Report by the County & District Councillors: (i) LCN Consultation – SP explained the three different options put forward by the new unitary Somerset Council. LCNs need to be more community led than based on electoral votes. SP & FN are trying to organise a meeting for the Exmoor Panel, Dunster Panel and parishes to see if a suitable alternative could be proposed which would work better for the area. FN also encouraged Cllrs to attend the City, Town & Parish Conference in Yeovil on Tuesday next week. PS asked if it would be available on Zoom. (ii) Highways Grant – the application form is now available for parishes to submit requests. These could include more jetting of drains, better signage etc. the funds need to be spent by the end of the financial year. Cllrs suggested the following: solution for salt bin lids which are frequently opened by the wind and cattle, jetting of drains on Blakeway, gullies and drains from Colland Cross to West Hollowcombe. Clerk to complete application form.

FN reported that the village parking area in Hawkridge was shown on the Highways map, so the repairs needed could be reported to Highways. The road between the Royal Oak pub and car parking area was not shown as belonging to Highways even though it may have been (incorrectly) maintained in the past. SP reported that Withypool Post was being repaired but a solution needed to be found to deal with drainage around the post before it was reinstated. The mast at Winsford is now in progress and SP is trying to find out a date when all the masts will be switched on.

88/22 Broadband Scheme: JS reported that OpenReach has sent a second quote out of the blue which was £200K less than the original quote, although this included ten additional properties and some information about householders and house names was incorrect. FN & SP to chase Matt Barrow again. Fibre cabling is due to be installed between Exford and Wheddon Cross in October.

89/22 Highways: (i) Tasks for Highways Steward – FN reported positive feedback from those parishes that had used the Highways Steward’s services, although many parishes had not yet made contact. Clerk to report the following issues on the new online form & give AC as contact: repairs to grit bin lids, drains by Pennycombe Bridge, Hamiltons & Bigmoor, gullies along Kitridge Lane & Blakeway and between Colland House & West Hollowcombe, hedges by the turning to Sandyway in Withypool, standing water by Olivers Cottage (ii) Road between pub & car park – discussed under **87/22** (iii) Letter for residents of Sparrow & Kitridge Lanes re. HGVs – Clerk noted that at the previous meeting she had suggested all residents were written to remind them to be mindful of the narrow access when arranging deliveries. On reflection and noting previous reactions to gentle reminder letters, this may cause more harm than good, there being in excess of 20 properties on these two lanes. Cllrs agreed it was best left as, despite using best efforts, delivery companies often ignore instructions. Clerk to request the parishioner who raised the issue keeps a log so that Cllrs can understand the magnitude of the problem – log to include the type of vehicle and whether it was a delivery driver/parishioner accessing property/land, or a local using Sparrow Lane as a cut through. Bollards similar to those in Wheddon Cross & Lady Street Dulverton were discussed as an option, FN explained these properties were hit on a very frequent basis before the bollards were installed (iv) Grit bins – Clerk has completed the salt bin review and will submit to County Highways (v) Sandyway Cattle Grid – this was recently hit by a car, Clerk to report.

As SP & FN had other meetings to attend the agenda was taken out of order

91/22 Planning: (i) 6/42/22/106 RAYMOND COTTAGE, WITHYPOOL, MINEHEAD, TA24 7QP Proposed creation of decking area and associated balustrading, together with, installation of bi-folding doors and external spiral staircase and reinstatement of entrance gates. The Cllrs discussed the application and agreed to support it as they believe the proposed alterations will add to the viability of the property without affecting any other property or providing visual harm.

SP, FN and member of the public left the meeting at 7.53pm

90/22 Finance Report: (i) Bank Reconciliation £12,216.19 at 26 September, this includes parish garden rents received for Plots B, D & E and cleared Chq 554 British Red Cross (internal auditor donation) £30 and HMRC PAYE Chq 556 £79.40 (ii) Approval of Invoices: Clerks Pay and Exp June-Aug 22 **R Tomalin £346.36 Chq 559**; PAYE due to **HMRC £79.40 Chq 556** (approved via email prior to the meeting); SALC yearly affiliation fee **SALC £62.70 Chq 557**; website renewal fee **Spanglefish £29.95 Chq 558** - all AGREED. (iii) SAAA external auditor – Clerk explained that the external auditor is appointed centrally unless the PC wish to source and appoint their own auditor – all agreed there would be no advantage to appointing directly, and would probably be more hassle and expense.

92/22 Parish Gardens: as per **90/22** annual rents received for Plots B, D & E.

93/22 Parish Maintenance: (i) Withypool Noticeboard – Clerk reported she had looked into purchasing a new noticeboard made of recycled material of similar size & style to the existing but these were very expensive approx. £800-£1400. Cllrs suggested local craftsmen are approached (ii) Flower bed by shop – Clerk noted the parishioner who had been looking after the flower bed no longer had the time. Clerk has sent a thank you email. It was suggested a note is put on the noticeboard and community FB page to see if another parishioner would be interested in looking after it.

94/22 Fraud & Cyber Crime Prevention Presentation: AM noted the email from Avon & Somerset Police and offered to organise the meeting. Clerk will email Exford & Winsford clerks and ask at the

Exmoor PC meeting later in the week to see if the neighbouring parishes would be interested in joining and sharing costs of hall hire and refreshments.

95/22 Climate Change Communication: PS raised the issue of the recent dry weather which had created a drought for both humans and livestock in the parish and surrounding area. PS asked whether there was anything the PC could do in the future to help out these parishioners. Cllrs agreed that bowsering water was expensive, and if a parishioner had a private water supply they generally had a back-up plan. Cllrs were reminded that PC funds must be used for the benefit of all parishioners, however a list of contacts could be provided on the FB page & noticeboard.

96/22 Chairman's Notices: None

97/22 Correspondence: previously circulated by Clerk.

98/22 Report from representatives of other groups:

- Withypool Village Hall – no meeting
- Hawkridge Village Hall – no meeting
- Henry Leigh Trust – the Trust held its second meeting of the financial year in September, and to date has awarded over 35 individual grants including swimming lessons, driving lessons and laptops, as well as one grant to Exford School. Keith Branfield's 4 year term as Trustee has come to an end – all Cllrs nominated KB to serve as Trustee again – Clerk to inform Lyn Fisher & post on FB when the next application round opens.
- Exmoor Panel – the meeting held at the beginning of the month included an update on the Highways LCN pilot and work of the newly appointed Highways Steward, a presentation from the Avon & Somerset Police and an update on the landslip on the B3224 between Exford and Luckwell Bridge.
- Consultative & Parish Forum – the most recent meeting was held at Parracombe and was not well attended. Speakers included representatives from Western Power and the Rural Housing Enabler.

99/22 Parish Community including the social media page update, events by other groups not listed in **98/22:** None

100/22 Items for November 2022 agenda: Budget/Precept

101/22 Date and time of next meeting: the meeting will take place on 8th November at 6.30pm at Hawkridge Village Hall.

Future Meeting dates - tbc

Tuesday 10th January 2023 – Withypool Village Hall

Tuesday 14th March 2023 – Hawkridge Village Hall

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

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