

WITHYPOOL AND HAWKRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL Draft Minutes
Tuesday 14th November 2023 6.30pm at Hawkridge Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: A Howard – AH (Chair), T Lloyd - TL, A Collins – AC, A Morrissey – AM, P Soltau - PS, J Soltau – JS, **SC Cllr** S Pugsley (for part of meeting) – SP; **Clerk** R Tomalin; **Public:** None

Abbreviations: ENPA – Exmoor National Park; SC – Somerset 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/>

117/23 Questions from the public: none

The meeting started at 6.35pm.

118/23 Apologies of Absence: Cllr W Lock, SC Cllr F Nicholson, SC Cllr S Pugsley will be late as attending other meetings

119/23 Declarations of notifiable interests: None

120/23 Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting on 12/09/2023: proposed by TL and 2nd by AC and all Approved. Chair then signed the minutes.

121/23 Matters arising from the Minutes of 12/09/2023: discussed under agenda items as appropriate.

The agenda was taken out of order while waiting for SP to arrive

123/23 Planning: None

124/23 Broadband Scheme: No updates, however the mobile phone mast at The Sportsmans Inn, Sandyway has been erected and the mast at Kitridge Lane has also been extended in height. These are due to be switched on by June 2024.

125/23 Highways: (i) Jetting - Clerk to follow up on progress with LCN jetting requests (ii) Portford Bridge – concern was raised that work has started but not been completed. Clerk to raise with Bridges team (iii) Hedge in Withypool Car Park – this is need of a maintenance. Cllrs to ask their respective hedge trimmers for quotes. Clerk to enquire with Magna about usage rights for their residents and maintenance obligations.

126/23 Finance Report: (i) Bank Reconciliation – £13,796.35 as at 2 November, this includes balance of rent received for Plot B, as well as cleared Chq 570 British Red Cross (internal audit donation) £50 and Chq 577 Spanglefish (website) £39.95. Chq 574 Life Saver Technology £35 and Chq 575 SALC Cllr Training £50 have not yet cleared (ii) Approval of Invoices: **A Howard £149.99 Chq 578** (reimbursement for purchase of defib battery & pads), **SALC £61.32 Chq 579** (yearly affiliation fee), **D Passmore £670 Chq 580** (grass cutting), **R Tomalin £883.10 Chq 581** (clerks salary June-Nov), **HMRC £535.20 Chq 582** (PAYE June- Nov) – all AGREED. For the minutes Clerk noted that **Chq 577** for **£39.95** in favour of **Spanglefish** (website) had been raised following the September meeting.

127/23 Budget/Precept 2023-24: The Cllrs discussed Somerset Council's recent announcement of its financial difficulties and desire to devolve some services down to the town and parish councils. Clerk to request details of those services provided to the PC by Somerset Council. The precept and budget will be discussed at the January meeting when further detailed information is available.

SP joined the meeting at 7.18pm.

122/23 Report by Somerset Council Councillors: The LCN may be able to facilitate or coordinate some devolved services which could be paid for out of parish precepts or ideally as an agency arrangement paid for by Somerset Council. The LCN already has experience from the Highways pilot but needs to know asap what services Somerset Council may no longer provide directly.

The salt bins will be filled soon and SP & FN are compiling a list of secondary routes for the gritting programme.

Following the recent consultation ENPA has decided to reduce the meetings to 4 per year and reduce the size of the planning committee. This is a cost saving initiative.

128/23 Parish Gardens: The tenancy for Plot B has been signed and payment received. The new tenants for Plot E are unfortunately unable to take the tenancy, however a bid has been received from another interested parishioner. The Cllrs voted on whether to accept this bid or go out to tender again. The majority voted to accept the bid.

SP left the meeting at 7.58pm.

129/23 Parish Maintenance: (i) Withypool Noticeboard – The Cllrs reviewed the various noticeboard options and agreed to purchase a Dual Door 1000 Wall Mounted External Noticeboard with additional magnets and keys at a cost of £897.08 excluding VAT. Clerk to order.

130/23 Chairman's Notices: Chair asked whether Cllrs would like to continue meeting at 6.30pm during the Winter months or stick with a 7.30pm start time all year round. Cllrs agreed to meet at 7.30pm regardless of the time of year.

131/23 Correspondence: all correspondence has been circulated

132/23 Report from representatives of other groups:

- Withypool Village Hall – no meeting
- Hawkridge Village Hall – no update available
- Henry Leigh Trust – next deadline is 31 December
- Exmoor LCN – a public meeting will be held on 29th November to discuss the planned remedial work on the land slippage at Exford. The Housing and Economic Regeneration sub-groups have held their first meetings. Jeremy Davies was thanked for his continued work on the signposts.
- Consultative & Parish Forum – the September meeting included a presentation on Biodiversity Net Gain, the November meeting has been cancelled

133/23 Parish Community including the social media page update, events by other groups not listed in **132/23:** PS reported she had attended the September Flood Group meeting and would start working on a Flood Group Plan for the parish.

134/23 Items for January 2024 agenda: Budget/Precept, Flood Group Plan

135/23 Date and time of next meeting: the meeting will take place on 9th January at 7.30pm at Withypool Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.28pm.

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