

WITHYPOOL AND HAWKRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL Draft Minutes
Tuesday 12th September 2023 7.30pm at Withypool Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: A Howard – AH (Chair), T Lloyd - TL, A Collins – AC, A Morrissey – AM, P Soltau - PS, J Soltau – JS, W Lock – WL, **SC Cllr** F Nicholson – FN, **SC Cllr** S Pugsley (for part of meeting) – SP; **Clerk** R Tomalin; **Public:** One

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/>

98/23 Questions from the public: none

The meeting started at 7.34pm.

99/23 Apologies of Absence: Cllr S Pugsley will be late as attending other meetings

100/23 Declarations of notifiable interests: None

101/23 Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting on 11/07/2023: proposed by TL and 2nd by AC and all Approved. Chair then signed the minutes.

102/23 Matters arising from the Minutes of 11/07/2023: discussed under agenda items as appropriate.

WL joined the meeting at 7.42pm

103/23 Report by County Councillors: There will soon be an option on the Highways website to report an empty grit bin/bag. The plan is for a Highways rep to come out and update the map of where all the grit bins are located, he should make contact with the PC first so we can assist.

ENPA is reviewing its proposed plans to start charging at the Exford and Haddon Hill car parks.

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

105/23 Planning: None

106/23 Broadband Scheme: Open Reach has been out to look at properties so that they can provide a formal quote. The plan for Hawkridge is to route via Withypool/Exford, rather than the current set up of via Anstey. Work is also ongoing to get fibre to the emergency mast at the top of Kittridge Lane. This is being managed by a different team to the village broadband scheme.

107/23 Highways: (i) Update on Tarr Steps traffic – no further update (ii) Drainage in Hawkridge – this was raised at the LCN meeting. No feedback, remedial action, or an indication of a likely date has been given (iii) Winter gritting/salt bins – Highways will contact the Clerk or AC (Highways Warden) about putting out the new bins (iv) Portford Bridge Repairs – concern was raised about whether this will be damaged again and what can be done to protect it. It is a scheduled ancient monument so cannot be easily replaced/reinforced.

108/23 Finance Report: (i) Bank Reconciliation – £13,526.30 as at 2 September, this includes rent received for Plot D and rent received for Plot B (paid in error), as well as cleared Chq 576 (raised at the July meeting). Chq 570 British Red Cross (internal audit donation) £50, Chq 574 Life Saver Technology £35 and Chq 575 SALC Cllr Training £50 have not yet cleared (ii) Approval of Invoices: no invoices were presented for payment (iii) Councillor Training: Clerk noted a list of SALC training courses had been circulated. Cllrs expressed an interest in planning training which is due to be arranged by ENPA.

SP joined the meeting at 8.18pm.

(iv) The Parish Online subscription which was free with the insurance has now expired. FN will find out at the Highways sub-group meeting if there are plans to renew their subscription (v) Website upgrade – Clerk reported that the website was being upgraded as previously agreed. The Cllrs discussed and decided that green would be an appropriate colour scheme and that the web address should be withypoolandhawkridgepc.org.uk. As the yearly invoice was expected soon the Cllrs approved £108 expenditure to cover the domain name and upgraded website.

104/23 ENPA Consultation on Proposed Committee Changes: ENPA needs to reduce costs and has proposed various changes. The Cllrs discussed the consultation questions. Clerk to respond.

The member of the public left the meeting at 8.55pm.

109/23 Parish Gardens: (i) Tenders for Plots B & E – the Cllrs reviewed, discussed and voted on the tenders received for Plots B & E. As there was interest in both plots the Cllrs decided to let the plots individually so that more parishioners may benefit from the parish land.

110/23 Parish Maintenance: (i) Withypool Noticeboard – Clerk presented some options for the noticeboard. WL requested the original tender be sent to him so that he could make enquiries with his contacts.

111/23 Chairman’s Notices: (i) Memorial Trees in Jubilee Garden – the Flower Show Committee will make a plan of where the tents go for the fete to ensure the trees are planted in an appropriate place. The garden of the Church Room was also suggested as a possible site.

112/23 Correspondence: all correspondence has been circulated

113/23 Report from representatives of other groups:

- Withypool Village Hall – the flower show and fete was very successful, raising approx. £1400
- Hawkridge Village Hall – the Old Hawkridge Exhibition held in the village hall in August was well attended and everyone enjoyed seeing all the old memorabilia. The Revel was held as usual on Bank Holiday Monday and was as always well supported.
- Henry Leigh Trust – 17 applications have been received, these will be reviewed later this month
- Exmoor LCN – the remedial work on the land slippage at Exford has gone out to tender, it is unlikely to start until January but some preparation to the vegetation and telegraph poles will be done by the end of October. Two sub-groups have been formed to look at Affordable Housing and Economic Regeneration.
- Consultative & Parish Forum – next meeting 21st September

114/23 Parish Community including the social media page update, events by other groups not listed in **94/23**: recent local events noted under **113/23**

115/23 Items for November 2023 agenda: Budget/Precept, Noticeboard

116/23 Date and time of next meeting: the meeting will take place on 14th November at 6.30pm at Hawkridge Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9.34pm.

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