

# **The Annual Parish Meeting Of Withypool and Hawkridge Draft Minutes**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Withypool Village Hall 7.30pm**

**Attendees** A Howard (Chair), A Collins, T Lloyd, P. Soltau, J Soltau, A Morrissey, SCC Cllr F Nicholson; Clerk R Tomalin; Public: Two

The meeting started at 7.32pm

- 1. Welcome by the Chairman**
- 2. Minutes of the 2022 annual parish meeting** (Previously circulated)
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the last meeting** of May 2022 Prop by AC and 2<sup>nd</sup> by TL
- 4. Report about the last 12 months within the Parish** read by the Chair

## **Annual Report for Withypool and Hawkridge: 2022-23**

The Parish Council meetings were held every other month alternating between Hawkridge village hall and Withypool village hall. We welcomed two new Councillors following the May 22 elections and have appreciated their input. All agendas, minutes and other important documents continue to be available on the Parish Council website in order to comply with Transparency Legislation.

The Parish Council considered several planning applications over the past 12 months. These included an application to create a decking area, installation of bi-fold doors and external spiral staircase at Raymonds Cottage, proposed change of use of land for the siting of four holiday pods around the fishing pond at Great Bradley, erection of a dormer window to provide additional head height at East Hollowcombe and the proposed conversion of three redundant barns to form residential (C2) accommodation for educational field trips at East Hollowcombe, as well as the proposed mast at Sandyway.

The Parish council are again very grateful to Mrs Frances Nicholson and Mr Stephen Pugsley, Somerset Council Councillors for their continued passion for the area. Their support and advice at the meetings is always very much appreciated. We would also like to thank Mrs Lyn Fisher for once again completing the internal audit of the Parish Council's 2022-23 accounts.

The parish maintenance has continued to be carried out by a local contractor and the parish council are very happy with the work that Dan Passmore does in the village. We would also like to thank the parishioner who looked after the flower bed behind the bench by the village shop during the Spring & Summer last year. If anyone would like to take on this responsibility please let the Clerk or I know.

It has been good to see the village halls in Withypool and Hawkridge being used again; both committees have been working hard to improve the facilities on offer.

Over the last financial year, the Henry Leigh Trust awarded over 56 individual grants (including contributing towards laptops, school trips and swimming, music and driving lessons) and one grant to Exford School. Since the Trust was established in 2006, over 620 grants have been offered to individuals, and 16 grants made to Exford School. Trustees have their next meeting in September and the closing date for this round of applications is Wednesday 31 August.

The community came together several times in the last year to enjoy the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, the welcome return of the Withypool Flower Show & Fete, the Hawkridge Revel & Gymkhana, and most recently the Coronation celebrations. It is always an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones as we have welcomed a few new faces to the parish over the last couple of years. These events would not be possible without the organisation and dedication of a small group of parishioners, ably helped on the day by an army of volunteers.

As a parish we are very lucky that we can rely on the same faithful parishioners time and again to organise our community events and fundraisers, help out their neighbours and generally make our parish the well cared for and welcoming place it is. We are very grateful for all their time and effort. If anyone has spare time on their hands and wishes to become more involved in the parish you will be most warmly welcomed.

Finally I would like to thank our parishioners for being kind spirited and supportive to each other. In times of need we can rely on each other to lend a hand and that is very important in the current climate.

AC proposed and TL 2<sup>nd</sup> the adoption of the annual report and all agreed.

**5. Closure of meeting** – the Chair closed the meeting at 7.37pm

Signed by chairman..... Date      May 2024