

**WITHYPOOL AND HAWKRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL Draft Minutes**  
**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 7.30pm at Withypool Village Hall**

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

**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/>

The meeting started at 7.33pm.

**86/24 Questions from the public:**

Two members of the public addressed the objections the PC raised about the recent planning application 6/42/24/001 at West Hollowcombe Farm, Hawkridge. They explained the concept of the planning application and Cllrs responded with feedback. Cllrs agreed to visit the site after the applicants have discussed further with ENPA.

Two members of the public and AH left the meeting at 7.54pm. TL temporarily took over as Chair.

A member of the public read a statement about parking outside the village shop. As this was not submitted in advance in accordance with agenda requirements Cllrs listened to the statement but did not discuss.

AH rejoined the meeting at 8pm and resumed Chair duties.

**87/24 Apologies of Absence:** Cllrs J Soltau and P Soltau, SC Cllr SP will be late as attending other meetings

**88/24 Declarations of notifiable interests:** None

Two members of the public left at 8.02pm

**89/24 Approval of the Minutes** of the previous meeting on 09/07/2024: proposed by TL and 2<sup>nd</sup> by AC and all Approved. Chair then signed the minutes.

**90/24 Matters arising from the Minutes** of 09/07/2024: discussed under agenda items as appropriate.

**91/24 Report by Somerset Council Councillors:** (i) Food Bank in Dulverton – FN explained the team which runs the food bank covering Southern Exmoor is retiring. The PCC holds the funds and the church cannot apply for grants; it will need a new structure with Trustees and new volunteers. It is also currently based in the old Dulverton school so will need a new home (ii) Enhanced Highways Maintenance Pilot – this was discussed at the LCN last week and parishes agreed it was not suitable or sensible for the small Exmoor parishes.

The agenda was taken out of order.

**94/24 Highways:** (i) Signage Tarr Steps – WL to organise meeting to discuss. New satnavs are picking up the new road closure notice at Tarr Steps (ii) Withypool Bridge – repairs are going well (iii) Rail

Replacement Outside Broadmead/Old Chapel – parishioners continue to complain about the replacement rail. FN advises to keep reporting it (iv) Hedges – Cllrs noted the social media post made by Exford PC about cutting hedges. Cllrs made a list of hedges which need attention in the parish & will follow up with landowners (v) Cattle Grid Greystone Gate – AC has cleaned this out as best he can but it needs to be lifted and cleared properly. This is now a safety and welfare issue as the sheep have been skinning their legs as they cross over (vi) Comers Gate Cattle Grid – waiting for the new Highways contractor to onboard a cattle grid subcontractor

SP arrived at 8.34pm

Cllrs noted the rails between Withypool Bridge & Kings Farm, as well as on the other side are rotten and need replacing. Clerk to report.

FN left at 8.43pm.

(vii) Salt Bins & Bags – AC attended the Highways Warden meeting. Cllrs agreed not to replace the bins which have gone missing/been stolen

**91/24 Report by Somerset Council Councillors:** SP noted the Boundary Commission review which will reduce the number of Cllr seats. It is likely Exmoor will lose Porlock or the Brendon Hills.

**92/24 Planning:** none

**93/24 Broadband Scheme:** Still waiting for Matt Barrow of Connecting Devon and Somerset to respond.

**95/24 Finance Report:** (i) Bank Reconciliation – £6,726.34 as at 10 September, this includes rent received for Plot D and partial early payment of rent for Plot B and cleared Chq 594 £145. The Liquidity Manager account has now earned £87.95 interest since opening (ii) Approval of Invoices: **SALC £64.49 Chq 596** (yearly affiliation fee), **R Tomalin £377.20 Chq 597** (clerks salary June-Aug), **HMRC £232.40 Chq 598** (PAYE June-Aug) – all AGREED (iii) Training – Clerk noted a list of SALC training courses had been circulated. Some Cllrs expressed interest in Planning training with ENPA and suggested it could be given via Zoom and recorded so that those unable to attend could watch later. SP to follow up with ENPA.

SP left the meeting at 8.54pm

**96/24 Parish Gardens:** (i) Plot D Update – rental agreement for the new tenancy on Plot D has been signed and rent received (ii) Plot C Update – tenant has advised they will not be accepting the refund as they would prefer the funds to be spent on the parish (iii) Inspection – due to the weather the inspection was cancelled, Cllrs will meet when the weather is better

**97/24 Parish Maintenance:** (i) Bench Repairs – AB will repair the bench for £160, Cllrs approved payment prior to the next meeting (ii) A parishioner has noted a lot of rubbish is accumulating at the Hawkridge side of Tarr Steps

**98/24 Flood Group Plan** – no update received

**99/24 Chairman's Notices:** none

**100/24 Correspondence:** all correspondence has been circulated. ENPA is looking for a marquee for a local event, possibly the opening of Great Bradley Bridge. Clerk to ask for more details.

**101/24 Report from representatives of other groups:**

- Withypool Village Hall – the fete made approx. £1800, the lights in the hall will soon be replaced and painting is planned. The Harvest Supper will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> October and the craft fair on 16/17<sup>th</sup> November.
- Hawkridge Village Hall – the Hawkridge Revel went very well
- Henry Leigh Trust – latest application round closed on 31<sup>st</sup> August
- Exmoor LCN – last meeting discussed the Winter maintenance programme with the Highways wardens
- Exmoor National Park Forum – no Cllrs attended as the Forum was fully booked. However, attendees noted it was not like the old consultative forum as there was no working dialogue.

**102/24 Parish Community** including the social media page update, events by other groups not listed in **101/24**: none.

**103/24 Items for November 2024 agenda**: none

**104/24 Date and time of next meeting**: 12<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm at Hawkridge Village Hall. TL apologises in advance

TL notes that this is AC's sixtieth year serving as a Cllr.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9.08pm.

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