

Aims, Objectives and Business Continuity of Withypool and Hawkridge Parish Council

Aims

- To provide effective, efficient and accountable local government for the parish, enabling residents to be involved in the life of the community and its future development.
- To be a strong voice for residents and local businesses, working to improve the overall village area both built and natural, while preserving the uniqueness of heritage area.

Objectives

- To understand and communicate the views, needs and aspirations of residents and businesses to statutory and non-governmental bodies as required
- Increase public involvement in the community through ensuring the parish council and its activities are open, transparent and accountable to residents.
- Support local business and economic activity in the village
- Work with the Council to provide safe, healthy and timely opportunities for recreation, leisure and education, and to provide, improve and maintain public recreation spaces
- Respond to planning applications and other statutory consultations on time, ensuring that recommendations made to the Exmoor National Park Authority adhere to the village plan, any statutory regulations, and the interests of the community.
- Promote, within our community activities which support the principles of environment sustainability and an ethical society and keep public spaces clean and safe.
- Ensure that Councillors and Staff have access to high quality training and development opportunities.

Business Continuity

This council resolves that:

(a) Should the council be unable to meet for whatever reason, the Clerk be given delegated authority to progress all ongoing matters and projects and authorise all regular payments and incur expenditure in line with the council's agreed budget.

(b) Any decisions taken under resolution (a) above will be taken, whenever possible, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of council and the relevant Committee Chair (if appropriate). A record of all decisions and expenditure incurred under delegated authority will be kept and reported to members when the council next meets.

(c) The authority to decide the council's response to planning applications be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of council. Whenever possible, members of the council will be informed of applications out for consultation and will be invited to submit comments to the Clerk.

(d) The provisions outlined in resolutions (a-c) above will override any requirements to the contrary in the council's standing orders, financial regulations or terms of reference.

(e) Should the Clerk be unable to perform their duties, The Parish Council will elect a Councillor who will assume the role of Proper Officer and RFO in an unpaid capacity. At the present time the Chair is running the local shop and would be unable to fulfil this role.

(f) Should government allow councils to meet virtually (online), the council will take all reasonable steps to facilitate this.

Adopted May 2021, reviewed with minor amendments May 2023