

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Withycombe Parish Council meeting held at the Memorial Hall on
Monday 9th September 2024 at 7.00pm

These minutes are DRAFT until approved at the next Council meeting on 4th November

PRESENT

Councillors: Richard Barnham (Chairman), Steve Crossman, Robert Hall
In attendance: S Rawle (Clerk), Cllr M Kravis (Somerset Council)

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

The Chairman declared the meeting open.

2331 APOLOGIES

Cllr Huish, Cllr Wintermantle. Cllr Christine Lawrence (Somerset Council)

2332 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

None

2333 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD 8th July 2024

The minutes previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2334 UPDATES/ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Updates covered in the agenda items for this meeting.

2335 REPORTS FROM SOMERSET COUNCIL

Cllr Kravis gave his report. Re-structure on-going, number of service directors have reduced. Staff will find out their new roles in October. Concerns that heading towards next years budget setting there will be further savings to find despite services being cut back. Continued pressures from Children Services and Adult Social Care to maintain these statutory services. Kier have taken over the highways contract.

Cllr Crossman raised concerns over the continual re-structuring exercises that have taken place over recent years and the impact on local service delivery. Cllr Barnham asked about the newly launched enhanced highways maintenance pilot project. He did not see how parishes could afford it without an increase in the precept. Cllr Kravis agreed that the cost would be an issue for many of the smaller parishes unless they bought in the service as a group with other parishes.

Cllr Kravis was asked about the situation at Higher Rodhuish Rd. The Clerk had received an update from Magna in which they had been told by Somerset Highways that road movement was being monitored and should carriageway work be deemed necessary it would be re-charged to Magna. Cllr Kravis would make further enquiries.

2336 POLICING MATTERS

Cllrs discussed at length the local policing resources and response to incidents. Concerns were raised over the low number of convictions compared to the number of crimes

reported. It was felt that the parish council as a single body had little influence over the resources targeted at detection rates. No further action was taken.

2337 PLANNING

It was noted that the application (3/41/24/001) for Charem, West Street was still awaiting approval.

2338 HIGHWAY UPDATES

Higher Rodhuish Rd – Update discussed under Somerset Council report.

Enhanced Highways Maintenance Pilot – Councillors felt that the parish was not in the position to be involved given the cost. There was an option to collectively buy into the scheme with other neighbouring parishes. There were concerns that the sub-division of labour would not be easy and that Somerset Council was expecting towns and parishes to pick up non statutory highway maintenance services which may not be provided in the future because of financial constraints.

2339 FINANCES

2336.1 **Bank Reconciliation Statement** – The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation up to 31st August 2024. Cllr Barnham has carried out the reconciliation of the cash book against the bank statements up to 30th June 2024.

The bank reconciliation agreed with bank balances up to 31st August 2024 and was signed by the Chairman, as an accurate record. Bank balances were:-

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| • Account 95304622 | £6,581.55 |
| • Account 44356501 | £19,151.70 |
| Total | £25,733.25 |

2313.2 **Budget Monitoring** – The income and expenditure against budget report was noted. The Clerk will bring a draft budget for consideration to the November meeting. The budget for 2025-26 will be approved at the January meeting.

2340 TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

2340.1 **The following payments were approved:-**

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Clerks Salary (April-June) | £1444.29 |
| 2. SALC (subscription) | £82.92 |
| 3. Rapid House Solutions (payroll) | £24.00 |

2340.2 **Urgent payments already made:**

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| MHPF (Annual charge for Titholes) | £1.00 |
|-----------------------------------|-------|

Proposed by Cllr Barnham, seconded by Cllr Hall and unanimously agreed that the accounts for payment including the urgent payment be approved.

Bramble Clearance Combe Lane – The invoice received had been for £25.00. A sum of £20.00 had been quoted and agreed at the July meeting. Cllrs agreed the additional £5.00.

2340.3 **Income Received**

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| CAF (July & August) | £100.00 |
|---------------------|---------|

The Clerk had contacted the benefice secretary for the second time to request that the treasurer consider whether the regular payment should continue.

2341 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

A new model template produced by National Association of Local Councils had been received. Cllr Barnham volunteered to go through the document with a view of presenting to the November meeting for adoption by the parish council.

2342 BANK SIGNATORIES

The bank mandate has been updated and former Cllrs Chris Thomas and Stephen Hansford have been removed as signatories.

2343 RISK ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT POLICY

It was agreed to adopt the revised risk management policy.

2344 PLAY AREA & COMMUNITY AREA

Clerk reported that she was still following up the issue of the pooling at base of the slide. Two untaxed cars still parked in car park, continue to monitor.

2345 UPDATE FROM JULY LCN

Meeting notes from the July meeting had been previously circulated. Next meeting of the LCN would be Thursday 17th October at 6.30pm, venue to be confirmed.

2346 UPDATE FROM WEST SOMERSET FLOOD GROUP

Minutes of last meeting of the group previously circulated. Next meeting 11th September at Minehead Community Centre.

There will be a Somerset Prepared Flood Warden & Community Resilience workshop on Monday 7th October at Monksilver EMN, starting at 10.30am.

2347 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Draft budget

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed _____
CHAIRMAN

Date _____