

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Withycombe Parish Council meeting held at the Memorial Hall on
Monday 8th July 2024 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors: Richard Barnham (Chairman), Claire Huish, Steve Crossman, Paul Wintermantle

In attendance: S Rawle (Clerk)

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

Cllr Kravis provided his Somerset Council report. A re-structuring exercise has started which could see a significant reduction in executive and service directors. A 45 day consultation exercise has commenced. Those being made redundant would be leaving the authority between November 2024 to March 2025. Deane House, Taunton has now been let to the NHS and staff have moved to County Hall. He said that they would have to wait and see if the new Government does anything about local council funding. No update on road at Buckhill but would endeavour to find out the latest. Cllr Crossman raised a question regarding the commercial investments taken by the previous Somerset & West Taunton District Council. Cllr Kravis responded that this was not the policy of the new Somerset Council and that Central Government had instructed the Council to dispose of these assets to help meet the budget gap. Cllr Crossman raised concerns about policing in the area, in particular the poor success rate in resolving reported crimes. Cllr Barnham suggested the Parish Council could write to the newly elected Police & Crime Commissioner and for this to be added to the next agenda.

As there were no further questions, the public forum was closed.

2322 APOLOGIES

Cllr Hall, Cllr Christine Lawrence (Somerset Council)

2323 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

None

2324 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD 22nd May 2024

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

2325 UPDATES/ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Bus Shelters – Ground Maintenance contractor is happy to keep undergrowth under control around bus shelters.

Flood Plan – no further updates

Parish Newsletter – no further updates

2326 REPORTS FROM SOMERSET COUNCIL

Report provided in the public forum section of the meeting.

2327 CURRENT HIGHWAY MATTERS

Higher Rodhuish Rd – No further update. Cllr Kravis will make some enquiries.
Car Park entrance – Cllr Barnham reported that a hedgecutter had cut through the electric supply outside Squirrels. National Grid had to dig up the road outside the entrance to the car park to reconnect the supply.

2328 FINANCES

2328.1 **Bank Reconciliation Statement** – The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation up to 30th June 2024.

The bank reconciliation agreed with bank statements and was signed by the Chairman, as an accurate record. Bank balances were:-

• Account 95304622	£8,505.48
• Account 44356501	£19,103.86
Total	£27,609.34

2328.2 **Budget Monitoring** – The budget monitoring report was noted.

2329 TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

2314.1 **The following payments were approved:-**

1. Clerks Salary (April-June)	£1444.29
2. HMRC (tax on Clerks salary)	£341.60
3. Rapid House Solutions	£57.00
4. Play Ground Annual Inspection	£125.00
5. Combe Lane Bench Plaque	£30.06
6. Bramble Clearance Combe Lane	£25.00

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

2330 PLAY AREA/COMMUNITY AREA

The play inspection report had been circulated. Cllr Wintermantle questioned why the issues highlighted had not been resolved at the time of the sign off report a year ago. Clerk to check back.

Still issues with gradient of slide and pooling of water at base.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Policing
Bank Signatories

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed _____
CHAIRMAN

Date _____