

BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rob Sage

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You are Summoned to the Monthly Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council to be held remotely via Zoom at 7.30pm on Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

Revised Agenda

1. Apologies and Acceptance of Reasons for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

It is the Councillors' responsibility to declare any interests they may have in any item on the Agenda. If you are uncertain please ask the Clerk before the meeting.

3. Public Participation – Open village meeting for fifteen minutes for any member of the public to raise any issue relevant to Batcombe Parish. *The Chairman can invite members of the public to speak at this or at any other appropriate point in the meeting.*

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd February 2021 to be agreed. *Attached. The Minutes will need to be signed later.*

5. Matters Arising – information updates only.
None that do not appear on the Agenda below.

6. Planning Applications:

Planning Application No: 2021/0222/FUL

Erection of a dwelling of exceptional quality design.

Valley View Farm, Hincombe Hill, Batcombe BA4 6AJ – Full Application.

This is the application for a Para 79 House at Valley View Farm that was discussed with the applicant's representatives at the last meeting. An extension of the consultation period to Monday March 8th has been obtained to allow the Parish Council to respond following this meeting. The application can be viewed on the District Council's planning website <https://publicaccess.mendip.gov.uk/online-applications/> Just enter the reference number into the search engine. Due to the coronavirus restrictions there will not be an opportunity to view paper copies of the application, plans and associated documents. Due to the level of interest in this application, members of the public will be asked to speak once only with a limit of three minutes for individual contributions.

Planning Application No: 2021/0210/HSE

Proposed single storey boot room to South Elevation.

Carrot Hill Farmhouse, Spargrove Lane, Batcombe – Householder Application.

This application is for a single storey extension to form a boot room along the south elevation (gable end) of the house. The application can be viewed on the District Council's planning website <https://publicaccess.mendip.gov.uk/online-applications/> Just enter the reference number into the search engine. Due to the coronavirus restrictions there will not be an opportunity to view paper copies of the application, plans and associated documents. Permission was granted in 2011 for the demolition of a modest house and outbuildings and replacement with the current large house. One of the conditions of this permission was that there should be no extensions to the house without planning permission.

Planning Application No: 2021/0296/TCA

Proposed works to trees in a Conservation Area: T1 and T2 (Cherry) - Fell.

Church View, Batcombe BA4 6HD – Works/Felling Trees in a CA.

This is an application for the felling of two cherry trees to the west of Church Farm House in the garden belonging to Church View (which is the northern half of the farmhouse). The reason given for felling the trees is that their roots are affecting the stability of the garden walls.

Planning Application No: 2021/0321/TPO

TPO M182: T1 (Hornbeam) - Remove epicormic growth and crown lift. T18 (Maple) - Raise canopy to 2.0m. T24 (Maple) – Remove epicormic growth. T26 (Horse Chestnut) - Remove broken branches. T46 (Ash) - Remove adjacent decayed Elder. T51 (Oak) - Fell. T58 (Maple) - Fell. Batch Orchard, Back Lane, Batcombe – Works/Felling of TPO Trees.

This is an application for works/felling of trees with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Further details of the trees listed above, including a location plan and an arboricultural survey of Batch Orchard can be found on Mendip District Council's planning website <https://publicaccess.mendip.gov.uk/online-applications/> Just enter the reference number into the search engine. Due to the coronavirus restrictions there will not be an opportunity to view paper copies of the application, plans and associated documents.

Planning Application Updates.

The District Council had no objection to the proposed tree works at Little Court. And as noted at last month's meeting planning permission for the garage at Greenacres on Baileys Lane in Westcombe has been granted.

7. Playing Field

Maintenance: *Thanks to Ian Sage for repairing one of the junior swing seats that was broken.*

New Play Equipment: *Sutcliffe Play have informed us that there has been an unavoidable delay of two weeks in the manufacture of the new play equipment but installation should now begin on April 6th (the Tuesday after the Easter bank holiday). This does mean that the deadline of May 6th for the first claim to be made from Viridor Credits is now quite tight. The Playing Field will need to be closed while the installation takes place and preparations made before April 6th.*

8. Allotments

Thanks to Ian Sage for removing the polytunnel frame from one of the vacant allotments. Both allotments have now been re-let at a reduced rent of £25 for this year. One of the previous allotment holders had paid for this year and I recommend the Parish Council reimburse her the £25 paid by the new allotment holder. The allotments field owners have confirmed that they are happy to renew the lease but ask that we ensure the general areas of the field are well maintained. This is the joint responsibility of the allotment holders, but has slipped in recent years.

9. Annual Parish Meeting

We need to make a decision on the Annual Parish Meeting. Given that we will just be emerging from lockdown it is difficult to justify a public meeting and the legislation that allows online meetings does not extend to the Annual Parish Meeting. While there is a requirement to hold an Annual Parish Meeting between March 1st and June 1st each year, it is not a duty of the Parish Council to hold the meeting and there is no sanction for not having called the meeting. It would seem prudent therefore to cancel the Annual Parish Meeting again this year. This would allow a full Parish Council meeting in April to cover an items not dealt with at this meeting.

10. A Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman is proposing that we discuss at a future meeting the possibility of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Batcombe. A Neighbourhood Plan establishes general planning policies for development within a community and there are grants of up to £10,000 to assist with the cost of developing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council has previously decided not to spend time and money on developing a Neighbourhood Plan because the Mendip Local Plan does not allow for any development in Batcombe, but it may be worth exploring whether there would be any benefits in a Neighbourhood Plan for our parish.

11. Authorisation of Payments

£25.00 Suzy Hawkins – reimbursement of allotment rent.

12. Other Business – matters of information only.

None at present.

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 7th April 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

Rob Sage

Rob Sage – Clerk

26th February 2021