

# BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rob Sage

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## Minutes of a Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 in the Jubilee Hall, Batcombe, commencing at 8.00pm.

**Present - Councillors:** David Stevens – Chairman, Mary Comley, Jayne Cox, Janet Jones and Ian Sage.

**Also Present:** The Clerk – Rob Sage.

**5078 – Apologies for Absence and Acceptance of Reasons for Absence:** Peter Glaisher and Justin Witcombe.

**5079 – Declarations of Interest:** None.

**5080 – Public Participation:** None.

**5081 – Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May and Wednesday June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021** were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**5082 – Notes on the Consultative Meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021** were agreed as a correct record of this meeting and are attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

**5083 – Log of Decisions Taken by the Clerk under Delegated Authority** were noted and approved.

**5084 – Matters Arising:** Sewage Treatment Plant at Ash Tree Cottages – it was noted that the installation of the new treatment plant had been completed and was working.

Allotments – The Clerk reported that it had proved difficult to sign a new lease for the allotments field because of the Covid restrictions but that the owners were happy for the lease to continue.

Audit Requirements – The Clerk reported that the Certificate of Exemption had been sent to the external auditors and its receipt had been acknowledged. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return had been published on the Parish Council's website along with the notice of the public's rights to examine the Parish Council's accounts.

**5085 – District and County Councillors' Reports:** Written reports had been received from the District and County Councillors and distributed to Parish Councillors.

**5086 – Footpaths and Highways:** There were continuing issues with HGVs getting stuck at the junction at the top of Holly Hill. Our County Councillor had asked the relevant officer at the County Council to make contact regarding an application from the Parish Council for a weight limit. The Officer had spoken about the situation to the Chairman, who felt that it was likely that a weight limit could be imposed.

**5087 – Playing Field** – The Parish Council noted with sadness the sudden and unexpected death of Dominic Conway who had the contract to cut the Playing Field grass.

**New Play Equipment:** The Clerk reported that the final invoices have been received from Sutcliffe Play South West and that Viridor Credits had paid them the full amount of the

outstanding grant. The Parish Council had paid the additional cost of the equipment above the grant which was £3,357 and the VAT which would be reclaimed from HMRC.

Ian Sage reported that the roundabout installed was an updated version that did not need lubricating. As a result, all aspects of the equipment maintenance plan could be covered by regular visual inspection and checking that no bolts had come loose.

Ian Sage had obtained a quote of £772 + VAT for a Prosafe gate for the pedestrian entrance to the Playing Field. This was a metal self-closing anti-slam gate that was widely used in playgrounds and would fit inside the existing wooden posts. The Council agreed to the purchase of the gate. Ian Sage had also researched a new mat, nets and stumps for the cricket net and it was agreed to go ahead with this as well. **Action: Ian Sage and The Clerk.**

The reported wasps' nest had apparently been dealt with by persons unknown as there was no sign of wasps when inspected by the Clerk and by Ian Sage.

**Opening Celebration:** Arrangements for the Opening Celebration were discussed and it was agreed to hold a site meeting in the Playing Field after this meeting to confirm where each of the plaques would be placed. The Clerk reported that he had asked Gary Butler to cut the Playing Field grass in preparation for the Opening Celebration.

**5088 – Planning Applications:** None.

#### **Planning Application Updates.**

The applications that would have allowed quarrying to recommence at Bartlett's Quarry had been refused by Somerset County Council and AI UK Ltd have appealed against the refusal of permission. The appeal would be decided by an inquiry and the Parish Council had until August 12<sup>th</sup> to make additional representations – but decided that there was nothing to add to its original submission.

The application for extensions to and refurbishment of Greenacres on Baileys Lane had not yet been decided on. New elevations had been submitted which show small alterations to the windows on the front and rear elevations. An ecological survey had also been submitted which revealed that a single bat dropping had been found in the roof void and that two bats were seen emerging from the roof void.

The application for the installation of windows in the east elevation of Church Barn had been withdrawn after the Parish Council recommended refusal. The retrospective application for change of use from agricultural to domestic and erection of three outbuildings at Field House on Baileys Lane had been approved. Planning permission and Listed Building Consent had been granted for the alterations to Elm House on Kale Street and there were no objections to the proposed tree works at Batch Orchard, Netherlea and Provis.

No decisions had yet been made on the applications for a tennis court at Rockwells House, the erection of an agricultural barn and stables at Carrot Hill Farmhouse, and the erection of a dwelling at Valley View Farm. The information on the Mendip planning website regarding the application for Valley View Farm now included a phosphate calculator (for the impact on the Somerset Levels) and comments from Natural England (Ref: 2021/0222/FUL). Mary Comley stated that she had commented on the inconsistency in the phosphate calculator.

**5089 - Authorisation of Payments:** Councillors authorised the following payments:

Dominic Conway - £160.00 – Grass cutting in June.

(To reimburse the Clerk for a payment made by bank transfer)

Somerset Association of Local Councils Ltd - £114.96 – Affiliation fee.

**5090 – Other Business:** The Clerk reported that South Somerset District Council had passed on a telephone hotline number for local residents to report any noise concerns to the Farmfest music festival that was taking place at Gilcombe Farm on Friday July 30<sup>th</sup> and Saturday July 31<sup>st</sup>. It was agreed to publish the telephone number on the Parish Council website and on the Batcombe Facebook page in the week before the festival.

It was noted was someone would need to be found to cut the Playing Field grass and Janet Jones suggested the person who cut Wanstrow's Playing Field.

**5091 – Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 at 8.00pm in the Jubilee Hall. A meeting would only be held in August to consider planning applications.

*Janet Jones*

*1/9/21*