

West Bagborough Parish Council.
Minutes of the Meeting held at the Popham Hall on 18/11/2021

Present: Cllrs: Stuart Parkman, Martin King, Martin Jones, Lorna Hending, Meg Clothier, Jenny Taylor

In Attendance: None.

Apologies. Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew, Cllr Billy Waygood.

Public Questions. None Raised

Declaration of Interest. Cllr Taylor said she would not speak on the planning application re her property.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Council accepted the minutes as true record of business.

Police Report

337. Council reviewed the report.

District and County Councillors Report.

338. Relevant correspondence from District Cllrs circulated between meetings. Nothing discussed.

Matters Arising.

339. Play park. The Clerk reported that the safety surface under the swings has been completed and all agreed it is a good improvement. The Contractor had also looked at the surfacing under the climbing frame and reported that the problem with black staining was because the sealant had failed and required recovering or relaying. Costs would be circa £8K or £5K to purchase the material for a self help project. Cllr Clothier had looked at alternatives to the basketball area. She suggested something like a table tennis table would be worth review and costing. After discussion it was agreed that the area beyond the new swing safety surface should be turfed out to the fence. Turf to be purchased and laid by volunteer party.

340. Broadband Update. Everything seems to be going according to plan.

341. Proposed Parking Area. Council needs to follow up on the status of lease with the Kings Estate.

342. Local Community Networks. Cllr Clothier updated Council on the October meeting. Chair agreed to update our District Councillor about wishes to be included in rural Community Groups and not subsumed into areas of Taunton/Bridgwater etc.

343. Queens Jubilee. Council agreed to the design of memorial bench to be purchased and placed in the Playpark area as part of the Jubilee Weekend in June 2022. The Popham Hall Committee are organising a fete/picnic event in co-operation with Bagborough House.

344. Local housing Needs Survey. Surveys all distributed; report awaited. Early signs are that a decent response has been received by SWAT.

345. There was some discussion about using some of the CIL money on buying new benches for Jubilee Walk. No clear decisions recorded.

Planning.

346. Council agreed with 45/21/0017 Bashford Stables and supported 45/21/0018T. Orchard House (See DOI for Cllr Taylor above)

Finances

347. Payments and receipts approved as listed on the agenda.

348. Council accepted the half yearly accounts and governance for April-Sep 2021.

348.1. *Council agreed a precept of £3500 for 2022-2023.*

349. The Clerk presented a review of the job description for the position of Parish Clerk. This included a full review of salary and expenses assessed and compared with the NALC and SALC guidance on job evaluation and salary scales. Council accepted the report and agreed that the new salary and home working expenses take effect from 6th April 2022. Updated job description to be posted on the website and the job evaluation report on file in the Operating Standards folder.

Correspondence for Information. Briefing/Library Documents.

Information from regular sources such as CPRE, SCC, Somerset Waste, SWAT, NHS etc are now circulated electronically between meetings for Councillors to review and to raise agenda items if required.

A.O.B.

The Clerk thanked Council for their understanding and support following the unexpected death of his wife in September. He advised Council that perhaps it was time to retire as he couldn't be sure he would be staying locally. Council reluctantly accepted his wish and would look to finding a replacement. The Clerk will mentor any replacement, at least until after the year end, audit and potential election in May 2022.

Date of Next Meeting.

The next full meeting will be held in the Popham Hall on Thursday 20th January 2022 at 1900