

**West Bagborough Parish Council.**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held at the Popham Hall on 16/09/2021**

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

**In Attendance:** Cllr Mike Rigby

**Apologies.** Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew, Cllrs Billy Waygood, Jenny Taylor

**Public Questions.** None Raised

**Declaration of Interest.** Cllr King said he would not speak on the planning application at Miltons Farm.

**Special Note.** Council wished most particularly to extend their condolences to their Parish Clerk (Peter) on the sad news of his wife's unexpected death.

**Minutes of Last Meeting**

Council accepted the minutes as true record of business.

**Police Report**

316. Council reviewed the report.

**District and County Councillors Report.**

317. Unitary authority. Cllr Mike Rigby updated the council on local government reorganisation: the unitary Somerset authority, plus local community networks (LCN). The LCN are designed to bridge the gap between parish councils and the unitary authority. Their size / boundaries have yet to be decided. The unitary is due to 'start' on in April 2023, but local elections (delayed by COVID) are due in May 2022. No information yet on whether those elections will be postponed again. There will be fewer Councillors on the unitary, but a greater workload. How to ensure the role attracts a mixed-age cohort, i.e. working-age people as well as the newly retired?

318. Phosphates. The new statutory duty to mitigate phosphate discharge from housing development has created a moratorium on house building in the Tone catchment. There are 2,500 homes waiting on a solution, which threatens SW&T's ability to meet its obligations, opening the door to development of other sites. The solution: Wessex Water needs to accelerate upgrades to its treatment plants. SW&T could potentially help fund this and recoup costs from developers.

**Matters Arising.**

319. Play park. The Clerk has instructed a contractor to resurface the area around the swings. Council noted that the black material around the climbing frames stains clothes because it wasn't sealed correctly. Council suggested re-sealing (an hour or two's work) once the park is less heavily used in the

winter. The basketball hoop is also nearing the end of its life. Should it be replaced like for like, or with something with else? Cllr Clothier to research options.

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

321. Proposed Parking Area. Council needs to follow up on the status of lease with the King Estate. Suggested contact: Stuart Thorne at Wilmott & Clark. Cllr Waygood to clear the site when council has clarity on legals.

322. Local Community Networks. SW&T to hold Town & Parish Council Conference on Oct 7th. Cllr Clothier to attend & report back.

323. Queens Jubilee. Proposal to put a new bench in the playpark. Cllr Taylor investigating. Plant a tree either side? e.g. apple and flowering cherry. Supplementary: should we be thinking about a larger village fete / fair during the Jubilee (Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June.) Tbd at next meeting?

324. Local housing Needs Survey. Councillors to distribute surveys around parish.

#### **Planning.**

325. Council made no comments on 45/21/0016 Milton Farm and 45/21/0015NMA The Birches

#### **Finances**

326. Payment approved to MJ King £1091 (playpark, Jubilee Walk, village pound)

#### **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.**

Cllr Rigby said he would look into degradation of bridleway above Rock Farm if Council provides him with digital location.

#### **Date of Next Meeting.**

The next full meeting will be held in the Popham Hall on Thursday 18th November 2021 at 1900