

BURNHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Burnham Without Parish Council was held in Watchfield Village Hall, Watchfield on Monday, 11th January 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:- A. Gordon (Chairman), R. Bowring, M. Johnson, S. Lester and Mrs M. Phillips with the Clerk, R. Young.

Apology for absence received from M. Dimascio and District Councillor R.D. Filmer.

70. Disclosures of Interests

Members had no interests to disclose.

71. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd November 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

72. Planning Matters

There were no new planning applications to consider but it was noted that the District Council had granted planning permission in respect of 12/15/00015 – Erection of two wooden yurt buildings and associated facilities, Somerset Court, Harp Road, Brent Knoll – National Autistic Society.

73. Sedgemoor District Council Review of Core Strategy Local Plan

Members considered a draft response to the Consultation Stage 1 – Scope and Approach of the Local Plan Review, prepared by the Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council, which had been previously circulated to Members. It was agreed that the draft response be approved for forwarding to the District Council subject to the addition of the following paragraph:-

“It is also considered important for links to be promoted and created to strengthened links between people living in the Tier 5 settlements of Edithmead and Watchfield with the facilities in the nearest “sustainable settlement” to reduce the need to use cars e.g. creation of a footpath or cycle path from Watchfield to Highbridge and provision of a bus stop at Queens Drive, Edithmead.”

74. Vacancy of Parish Councillor (Brue Ward)

It was **AGREED** to defer consideration of the co-option of a person to fill the above vacancy as there were currently no volunteers.

75. Financial Matters

The following payments were authorised:-

100255 – GWB Services	removal of brambles A38	£64.00
100256 – In Touch CRM	web-site payments	£305.39

The Council considered the draft Estimates for 2016/17. It was agreed that the Estimates be approved and the precept for 2016/17 be £19,250 less any Council Tax Support Grant and the Clerk’s salary be fixed at £3,000.

76. Watchfield Village Hall

Mrs Phillips reported that the structural engineer had advised that the structure of the Hall was no longer safe. The Village Hall Management Committee had purchased scaffolding which had been erected internally to support the weight of the roof and reduce the load on the frame. This enabled the Hall to continue in use. It was now considered that the most viable option would be to demolish the existing structure and build a new hall on the site. This would entail multi grant applications over the next year. It was felt that an “open afternoon” should be held to keep local residents informed of the current situation and it was noted that a public meeting would be held to seek the support of local residents once the plans and estimated costs for a new hall were known. The District Council had previously approved a grant of £10,000 on condition that the Parish Council contributed matched funding of £1,500. It was **AGREED** that a sum of £1,500 allocated in the current year’s budget in respect of the matched funding required by the District Council be paid to the Village Hall Committee at the next Meeting and provision be made in the 2016/17 Estimates to provide third party or other financial support in respect of this project.

77. Highway Issues

It was noted that the County Council had not yet implemented the traffic order to introduce no waiting restrictions around the Worston Road junction. The handyman had cut back brambles over hanging the footpath along the A38. There was no update on other outstanding highway issues. It was **AGREED** to monitor possible crumbling of the recently installed speed humps in Worston Road.

78. Burnham & Highbridge Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman updated Members on the current position regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. He **AGREED** to continue to circulate minutes to all Members, when available, for information and comment.

79. Meetings

Members had not attended any recent Meetings. It was understood that a Meeting of the Coastal Cluster was scheduled to take place in February. It was **AGREED** to raise an issue relating to HGVs parking on and obstructing the pavement at the lay by on the A38, together with issues relating to highway danger caused by parked vehicles in the approach road to the Recycling Centre at Walrow and in the vicinity of the Medical Centre at Pepperall Road. (The latter two issues being within the Town Council area).

80. Parish Web-site/ New Notice Board

Intouchcrm of Weston-super-Mare were nearing completion of building the web-site which it was hoped would be available to populate within two weeks. A decision on the grant application towards the costs involved was expected later in the month.

Mrs Phillips had arranged for a sign for the new notice board at Wallace Wells Road, to make it clear that it was a Burnham Without Parish Council notice board and it was agreed that contact details for Members, a notice of the vacancy and a link to the web-site be added when the web-site was live.

81. Watchfield Inn

The Chairman reported that Enterprise Inns had recently made contact and had advised that they had not decided their long term strategy for the building but offered a glimmer of hope in temporary letting for anyone interested in reopening as a pub in its current condition. A further public meeting would be held in due course when Enterprise Inns had determined their future plans for the premises.

82. Local Energy Use Audit/Survey

It was noted that no further information had been received from Tessa Munt on the local energy use audit/survey that she was hoping to organise in the area.

83. Date of Next Meeting

It was **AGREED** that the next scheduled Council meeting be held on Monday 7th March 2016.

The Meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

signed Chairman