



Correspondence address: c/o Andrew Bramston, Chair
Orr Farm, Chantry BA11 3LJ

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of
Whatley Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 8th November at 7:00pm
at Holy Trinity Church, Chantry**

14 November 2023

Member Present:

Councillor Andrew Bramston (Chair)
Councillor Richard Evans
Councillor Will Palmer

Councillor Colin Boorer
Councillor Jon Scott

Officers Present: Liz Horne, stand in Clerk for Rachel Nash

Somerset County Officers present: Cllr Barry Clarke

112023.1 Current Chairs Welcome

112023.2 Apologies for absence:

Apologies received from Rachel Nash, Clerk & Cllr Philip Ham

112023.3 Declaration of Councillors' interests and requests for dispensation:

To declare any interests relating to the business of the meeting and receive any dispensation requests from the Clerk (Localism Act 2011 s29-34)

None received

112023.4 Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th September 2023.

Signed and dated by the Chair as a correct representation of the meeting.

ACTION - Cllr Bramston asked for the Clerk to arrange a meeting with Nunney/Whatley Chairs to support each other with attendance to the LCN. Can this be followed up.

112023.5 Somerset County Councillors' report

Cllr Clarke gave a verbal update to the Council.

ACTION – The clerk to request a Somerset Council assets list for the parish and costs. Write to the democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk and ask to be put in touch with a member of unitary authority dealing with the asset register.

- 112023.6 Public Participation relating to meeting agenda items**
None present
- 112023.7 Presentation from external organisations:**
None present
- 112023.8 Clerks Report**
The Clerk provided a report that was duly noted:
- Cllr Palmer advised that he has not yet actioned the request to find out about .gov website and emails.
- 112023.9 Finance: (Responsible Finance Officer)**
It was resolved that the Council approved
- Invoice approved – Tom Shephard invoice for cutting hedges £120.00
 - Cllr Bramston suggested the precept should stay the same for next year.
- 112023.10 Working Groups**
Update from working groups:
- Cllr Bramston suggested that an open discussion is needed within Whatley & Chantry groups to establish what they need to achieve/deliver, roles and responsibilities plus budgets to discuss/approve. Councillor Evans would like clarity of his individual role within the parish. Cllr Bramston listed 7 items from the agenda that are the parish's main responsibilities where value needs to be delivered.
- Cllr Boorer – Estates working group representing Whatley
Cllr Evans – Estates working group representing Chantry
Cllr Palmer – Communications working group for the Council
- Defibrillator- an electrician needs to be nominated to carry out the work.
- ACTION** – Cllr Bramston to email Vince and cc Dave Galvin /WP.
- 112023.11 Highways and Byways**
- ACTION-** Cllr Palmer has been contacting Sara about the Whatley village signage but getting nowhere. Cllr Barry Clarke suggested Cllr Palmer contact Charlie.higgins@mendip.gov.uk. Cllr Scott advised that for standard signs, costs are covered by the council. Cllr Bramston added that he thinks the Parish Council will be asked to contribute.
Cllr Scott to assume responsibility for Highways/drain repairs.
- ACTION** - Cllr Palmer to send email trail to Cllr Scott, who will assume responsibility to take this forward and liaise with council contacts. Should comms be sent to Whatley villagers to ask if they would be willing to contribute to village signs?
- 112023.12 Planning Applications**
The Council to discuss any planning applications received.

Cllr Barry Clarke advised that there is a re-submission and consultation for West Down Quarry with new information that is unknown at this time. A further meeting of the Parish Council will be needed to form a response.

112023.13 Parish Field (Standing Item)

Cllr Palmer gave a verbal update re the content of the Rospa Report. The report raised concerns regarding the playground and picnic area. Most points raised are low risk bar 2 that need to be actioned. Cllr Palmer also confirmed that the muddy pathway in the field is to be prepared with wood and gravel. Whatley Commons Trust are prepared to pay for it.

ACTION: Cllr Palmer to forward a copy of the Rospa Report to the Clerk for attaching to these minutes.

WCGT Update

No update received.

Update on Quarry Liaison Meeting

No update received.

112023.16 Update regarding Village Planning

Cllr Bramston has now received approval confirmation from Sarah Williams from the Register of the Church of England for the heating installation in the church. A notice has been posted outside the church.

Cllr Palmer asked if Whatley Church could benefit from the same process and Cllr Bramston suggested fund raising would be the first step. Cllr Scott confirmed contractors are already in place to install welfare facilities to Whatley Church in Feb 2024 with the aim of the community making better use of the church building.

112023.17 Agreement of Dates and Venues for 2024

The council is asked to confirm dates and venues for 2024, so that they can be published on the website.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm, location to alternate between Whatley and Chantry churches.

112023.18 Items for next Agenda / Items to Report

- 2024/2025 precept for signing off

112023.19 Date and venue of Next Meeting

Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7:00pm in Whatley Church.

112023.10 Exclusion of press and public

None required