

WINTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

**FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

22 May 2023

C Watkins (in the Chair)

P Bruce	(A)	P Sykes	(P)
P Kembery	(P)	D Marriott	(A)
N Beebee	(P)	L Fogg Rogers	(P)
C Watkins	(P)	N Labuschagne	(P)

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Also in attendance –

Cllr Kinsey who was nominated as a substitute to the Committee by Cllr Marriott who was unable to attend.

Cllrs Eldridge and Collins. Two members of the public.

Cllr Beebee arrived at 7.50pm due to traffic issues.

01.05/23 Election of Chair

Cllr Kembery proposed Cllr Watkins. Cllr Kinsey seconded.

Cllr Watkins was duly elected Chair of F&GP Committee.

02.05/23 Election of Vice Chair

Cllr Watkins proposed Cllr Labuschagne. Cllr Kinsey seconded.

Cllr Sykes nominated Cllr Bruce. Cllr Fogg Rogers seconded.

Following a majority vote Cllr Labuschagne was duly elected Vice Chair of the F&GP Committee.

03.05/23 – Evacuation procedure - Leave via the fire door and assemble outside in the play area – Noted

04.05/23 - Apologies for absence – Cllrs Marriott and Bruce.

05.05/23 - Declaration of Interest Under the Localism Act 2011: Cllr Labuschagne, South Gloucestershire Councillor.

06.05/23 – Minutes of the Meeting 17 April 2023

**Resolved** that the minutes were approved.

07.05.2023 – The Clerk's Report

We were unable to identify the culprits who smashed a great deal of glass at the Recreation ground. However, following a further incident where a robbery took place, CCTV footage was given to the police.

A reminder has been sent to the arboriculturist regarding arranging a tree survey for the trees on Hambrook Common backing onto the house where the wall was repaired.

It has been arranged with the Hospital Trust that they will employ MLS Walling to do the repair of the wall by the black gate on Beckspool Road and the Parish Council will then reimburse them. A letter has been sent to the Winterbourne Environmental Group in support of their application for a grant from WECA.

Following the Council's agreement to support local community travel, representatives from Green Community Travel are going to attend the next Council meeting.

There have been a lot of issues with the area around Malmaims Drive where the new houses are being built. South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) has visited the site and spoken to the contractors to emphasise they must work within health and safety guidelines. There is a team at SGC who monitor new builds and it has been referred on to them to monitor.

Some further investigation has been made regarding batteries for the solar panels. We would need to get a 3 phase inverter and batteries for storage. For a 3 phase inverter and 2 batteries it would be £9,900 or for 3 batteries £12,100. These batteries are 5.8KW. This would only supply electric for the evening. It would also mean we would be selling a lot less electricity back to the grid which would result in much lower FIT payments. It was discussed if at a later date, following completion of the new build of Elm Park school, it would be possible to share sustainable energy supplies with them. Options are to be kept open although it would appear at the current time, the outlay for the batteries may not be cost effective.

SGC has been prompted again about the uneven flagstones on Flaxpits Lane by the Post Office. They have advised to remove and replace the slabs would be a very big job. Streetcare are going to pass this on to other departments to see if they can help. I have asked them to ensure they have done a risk assessment as this area has a lot of footfall. Cllr Labuschagne will correspond with SGC to see if any action can be taken regarding this issue.

N  
Labuschagne

The electric box for the new electric charging points in Perry Close has been installed but the points themselves are not yet in place.

All councillors have been sent the invitation from Winterbourne Library to attend a briefing session on Monday 5 June 5.15 – 6.15. This is at Yate Library on the same day as the next Planning Meeting. Clerk will check beforehand if any planning members are attending and if so delay the start time of the meeting.

Clerk

08.05/23 - To consider the purchase of Siltex for the pond at Tuckett Field

The substance required is actually Sodium Bentonite Granules not Siltex. These granules when applied to water swell and act to shore up any possible holes in the pond lining. Due to the varying level of the water in the pond, it's thought possible that the lining was breached when a large tree fell into it. Four bags of the granules will be required at a cost of £80 per bag.

**Resolved** to wait for a month to see how the water level is after a dry spell of weather, and to add to next month's agenda for consideration.

Clerk

09.05/23 – To consider permission for the planting of a memorial tree on Frenchay Common

A discussion took place regarding whether or not plaques for memorial trees are a wise idea as over time these tend to get lost in the tree roots and growth of the tree. Instead of a plaque, it suggested an article could be put onto our website to highlight the tree being planted.

**Resolved** to agree to the planting of a tree. Clerk will pass on the telephone number of one of the Frenchay Councillors to the resident so a meeting can be arranged.

Clerk

10.05/23 – To consider reinvestment of funds from the maturing Nationwide fixed rate saver account

It was noted there are not many accounts which are open to Parish Councils.  
**Resolved** to reinvest the balance of £80,657.87 plus interest into a further 1 year fixed rate saver with an interest amount of 2.75%. Clerk

11.05/23 – To consider quotes for tree works in the Parish

Prior to the meeting councillors had been sent quotes for tree works at Monks Pool and some further work to be carried at Frenchay following the recent tree survey work.  
**Resolved** to agree that the works at Monks Pool be carried out by Josh Roper and the work at Frenchay by Redland Tree Services. Clerk

12.05/23 – To consider the Greenfield Centre as a hub for a charity collection Week

**Resolved** to agree to this. It will be advertised before the event and Clerk will feed back to the councillors how much impact it has on the day to day running of the office. Clerk

13.05/23 - Reports from members:

Frenchay

Envolve are currently carrying out the drainage works at Frenchay which is causing quite a bit of upheaval in the area around the White Lion pub. When the work is finished there, the Parish Council has some cycle hoops to be installed opposite the pub, and also the Coronation Bench to go in Tuckett Field.  
A 'No Parking Overnight' sign has been situated at Frenchay Hill in the hope it may deter some of the overnight parking there.

Frenchay Village Hall has received quotes for its refurbishment. These works are being paid for from S106 monies as a result of the Redrow development in Frenchay. Cllr Watkins will forward the plans to the Clerk to be circulated to the other councillors. C Watkins

Although SGC has paid a site visit to Malmains Drive regarding the chaos being caused in the adjacent road, the situation has not improved. Clerk will contact SGC Councillor, Liz Brennan. Clerk

There is a large limb which needs to be removed from a fir tree close to Frenchay Church. Clerk will request Redland Tree Services to remove this when they carry out the other works in Frenchay. Clerk

Following the election of new councillors it was discussed that going forward Cllr Beebee will report back regarding Winterbourne matters as they arise and Cllr Fogg Rogers on Winterbourne Down and Hambrook, to include the Dingle.

Winterbourne to include the Recreation Field, Duck Pond and Allotments

No items were raised.

The Dingle, Winterbourne Down and Hambrook

It was noted there is a section of the path at the Dingle where the wall has broken away and there is a sheer drop at the side. This was previously highlighted to SGC, but Clerk will remind again.

Due to flooding, the area by the iron bridge has worn away leaving the foundations more exposed. SGC carry out regular risk assessments of bridges, but any work to be done here is difficult due to its location which has to be accessed over private land. Clerk

Clerk will contact SGC.

There is a house in the Dingle which is tipping rubbish over its wall which ends up going into the river. Cllr Fogg Rogers will report to SGC. L Fogg Rogers

Greenfield Centre

Clerk advised quotes are being obtained for replacement blinds in the Council Clerk

room.

14.05/22 – A.O.B

None.

Meeting concluded 8.20pm