**Norton Fitzwarren Parish Council**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 3rd October, 2016 in the village hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs. Ken Hayward, Chairman, Jean Adkins, Nita Wyatt, Mike Palmer, Adrian Jones,

Paula Clinchant. Clerk: Janet Gobey.

Also present: County Cllr. Mike Rigby, District Cllr. Andy Sully, Don Wyatt, Chairman, Village

Hall Committee, Cindy Thomas, Youth Club, Phil Bareham, PPLO and 8 members of the public.

The meeting started at 7.05pm with open discussion for the public, matters raised were:

1. Hedges encroaching onto village footpaths.
2. Weed killing in the village.
3. Update from Cllr. Sully - the footpath which runs along the railway line will be closed

 for six months in order that the old lighting for the cider factory can be removed and

 new gravel laid on the path.

1. Highway maintenance at Pen Elm and on the footpath.

**1.10.16 Apologies for absence**

Cllrs. Trevor Battle is away and Paula Knott family responsibilities.

**2.10.16 Declaration of Interest**

 Ken Hayward and Nita Wyatt declared a personal interest in items 6 and 7 as

 members of the Village Hall Committee.

 Adrian Jones declared a personal interest in item 9.

**3.10.16 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th September, 2016.**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

 The Chairman thanked Joyce Parsons, who resigned last month for her

 contributions to the Parish Council.

**4.10.16 Police Matters**

The Chairman read out PCSO Emma Carter’s comprehensive report, no

 matters raised, thanks will be sent to PCSO Carter.

**5.10.16 To consider the purchase of two Vehicle Activated Signs for Pen Elm.**

The Chairman and the Clerk have had a meeting with Somerset Highways.

 Unfortunately the flashing speed indicator device did not win approval but

 Somerset Highways have recommended a flashing junction warning sign

 which can be set at 30mph.

The cost is higher at £7,310 as two would have to be purchased,

 one for each end of Pen Elm plus ongoing costs. Somerset Highways would

 cover the cost of installing posts. After consideration the Chairman proposed

that the two Junction Warning signs are purchased and that the Parish

Council cover ongoing future costs, seconded Nita Wyatt and agreed

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unanimously. The Clerk was requested to enquire where the signs would be

situated before Somerset Highways placed the order.

**6.10.16 To consider grant application from the village hall towards replacement**

 **of the central heating boiler.**

Ken Hayward, Chairman stood aside for this item and nominated Jean Adkins

 to chair, Cllr. Jean Adkins took the chair and invited Don Wyatt to give details

 of the grant application. The two boilers have been condemned and need

 replacing urgently with a suitably sized boiler.

 After consideration and discussion Jean Adkins proposed the Parish Council

contribute half of the cost of the boiler, which would be £5,000, seconded

Paula Clinchant, carried. Nita Wyatt abstained from the discussion and vote.

Ken Hayward re-took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

**7.10.16 Proposed conversion of the skittle alley into a café by the village hall.**

Don Wyatt was invited to give details of the proposal which would be run

 by a commercial company. The Youth Club would have to be consulted

 and various other locations were discussed for the youth club. Ken Hayward

 proposed that a representative from the Parish Council, the village hall and

 the youth club form a sub-committee to take this forward, seconded

 Jean Adkins, carried.

**8.10.16 To consider a response to the Government Consultation on the proposed**

 **capping of Parish Council funding.**

 The Chairman explained and read the guidance from the National Association

 of Local Councils who oppose these proposals. County Cllr. Mike Rigby also

 voiced his opposition. After consideration, the Chairman proposed Council

 follow NALC’s recommendation and oppose the proposals, seconded Nita

 Wyatt and agreed unanimously. The Chairman volunteered to draft a

 response to the consultation.

**9.10.16 Annual maintenance grant to Norton Fitzwarren Play Field Association**

The grant is a fund received from Taunton Deane which is passed onto the

 NFPFA. The Chairman proposed the grant is forwarded onto NFPFA,

seconded Nita Wyatt, carried.

 Council agreed to take item 15. Reports (a) SCC next.

**15.10.16 Reports (a) SCC**

Cllr. Rigby reported that further cuts to government funding are expected

 for the coming financial year 2017/18.

 The relief road is now open; Cllr. Rigby will enquire when the bridge is to

 be closed in the middle of the site.

 A new website ‘Travel Somerset’ has been set up which will prove very useful

 to travellers in Somerset.

 Some progress has been made with installing superfast broadband in the

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 village – to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

**10.10.16 To consider a donation to the Heartstart Charity.**

In consideration for the training which is to beprovided free of charge by the

 charity, following the installation of the defibrillator. The Chairman proposed

 £150, seconded Paula Clinchant, agreed unanimously.

**11.10.16 To consider designs for the new village name signs.**

The drafts for the new signs has been received from Somerset Highways

 for approval. The signs ‘Thank you for driving carefully through our village’

 were approved, but Council agreed to request the name sign with the

 ‘dragon’ emblem to be shaped at the top. SCC Highways will be contacted

 and a revised quote requested for that sign.

**12.10.16 To consider alterations to the base of the ‘Skier’ at the playing field to**

 **comply with new health and safety regulations.**

The Chairman has installed the replacement parts at the children’s play area

 and at the playing field and removed the gate as recommended by ROSPA.

 Following discussion and concerns raised it was agreed to replace

 the gate and obtain a quote for a ‘soft closing gate’ to comply with

 current guidelines. The comments regarding the signs on the Xerscape

 equipment are noted and will be considered in the future.

 Regarding the Skier, this will have to be altered or replaced, the Clerk will

 obtain advice from Wicksteeds the providers of the equipment and will be

 placed on a future agenda. Ken Hayward is a qualified Health and Safety

 expert.

**13.10.16 Planning:**

 **(a)** No applications received.

 **(b) Applications received since issue of agenda**  - none received.

 **(c) Approvals and refusals:**

25/16/0011 Erection of two classroom block, NF primary school

 Application approved.

**14.10.16 Finance:**

 **(a) Income received (for notification only):**

Refund from Taunton Deane for one dog bin collection £329.47

 Quarterly interest from deposit account £49.65

 Rent from SCC for the nursery in the recreation ground, six months £425.00

 Rent from allotment site for six months £270.00

 **(b) Presentation of six monthly accounts**

The Clerk presented the accounts and answered questions, proposed

 Jean Adkins that the accounts are accepted, seconded Mike Palmer,

 agreed unanimously.

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 **(c) Payments for approval and any subsequently received:**

TDBC for installation of dog bin by railway line £414.00

 Chairman’s expenses £75.00

 TDBC grant for playing field maintenance £760.00

 All Saints Church for churchyard maintenance TDBC grant £315.00

 Grant Thornton, external audit £240.00

 M. King parish maintenance £1494.00

 Clerk’s salary and expenses £742.68

 Proposed Nita Wyatt that the above are approved for payment, seconded

 Mike Palmer, carried.

**15.10.16 Reports:**

 **(b) TDBC** Cllr. Andy Sully reported Taunton Deane and West Somerset

 District Councils have agreed to merge.

 A new planning application for the firepool site will be submitted in the next

 few months.

 There will be a survey carried out on the possible use of the bridge at the

 hill fort, if it is reinstated.

 **(c) Clerk**

Unfortunately it has not been possible to upgrade the small field near

 to the playing field so that it is suitable for children to play on. The cost is

likely to be very expensive. An alternative use was suggested i.e. a nature

reserve involving the school.

**16.10.16 Correspondence**

As list provided by the Clerk and filed with the minutes – no discussion.

**17.10.16 Date, time and place of next meeting.**

Monday 7th November, 2016 at 7pm in the village hall.

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