**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 6th March, 2017 in the village hall.**

**Present:** Paula Knott, Vice Chair, Nita Wyatt, Mike Palmer, Adrian Jones, Jean Adkins,

Trevor Battle, Graham Withnell. Clerk: Janet Gobey

Also present: County Cllr. Mike Rigby, Phil Bareham, Footpath Liaison and seven members of the public. Paula Knott, Vice Chair, chaired the meeting as Ken Hayward was absent.

The meeting started at 7.08pm with open discussion for the public, matters raised were:

1. A health and safety issue raised regarding children running from the exercise area into the

path of vehicles on the track. The Parish Council will address the issue urgently.

1. A request for the railings to be re-painted in Manor Park, the request will be passed onto

Somerset County Council.

1. A request for the ‘Skier’ exercise equipment to be reinstated at the playing field, the Clerk will investigate.

**1.03.17 Apologies for absence**

Paula Clinchant, Ken Hayward and District Cllr. Andy Sully

**2.03.17 Declaration of Interest**

Nita Wyatt and Graham Withnell declared a personal interest in items 6 and 7.

**3.03.17 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th February, 2017.**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

 Item 15 Reports (a) SCC was brought forward as Cllr. Rigby has to leave early.

**15.03.17 Reports (a) SCC**

Bus Gate

 The funding has been received by SCC from the developers, a Traffic Regulation

 Order will need to be obtained, which will be advertised in the Gazette soon. The

 contract for the cameras for the bus gate has been re-let but it will be several

 months before the gate is operational.

 Bishops Lydeard to Cotford and Taunton cycle route

 A feasibility study has been carried out and a community group has been set up.

 Land adjacent to the WSRA railway line could be used. The community Group will

 contact landowners to see if they are willing to donate a small strip of land for the

 cycle path. Some progress has been made.

 Jean Adkins raised the issue of children crossing the busy B3227 to catch the school

 bus. Cllr. Mike Rigby will investigate if the school bus can make an additional stop

 in Langford Mead. Cllr. Rigby left the meeting.

**4.03.17 Police report**

The Chair read the report – no matters raised.

**5.03.17 To consider extension of yellow lines from opposite Kingdom Lane to the junction**

 **of the old brewery.**

 Cllr. Rigby raised this issue prior to the meeting as a result of a request from a

resident, the resident was invited to put their case and after discussion it was agreed

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unanimously to support the extension. The Clerk will contact Cllr. Rigby to take this

forward.

**6.03.17 Governance regarding closure of Youth Club and distribution of assets and funds.**

Don Wyatt, gave details, the club closed in July, efforts have been made to attract

 more children and volunteers but they have not been successful. The equipment is

 being held by the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council agreed to hold the

 remaining funds. Two volunteers from the Parish Council were requested to attend

 meetings, Nita Wyatt and Jean Adkins came forward. Thanks were given to

Cindy Thomas for running the Youth Club.

**7.03.17 Update regarding removal of modular building and reinstatement of the**

 **recreation ground.**

Don Wyatt, Chairman, Village Hall Committee reported that the building will be

 removed on the 22nd March. Unfortunately the funding has not materialised for

 the café, therefore the recreation ground will be reinstated to as it was before the

building was installed.

**8.03.17 Update regarding nature reserve, to consider location of fencing and funding**

 **allowance for the project.**

The area has been strimmed, about 12 trees and bushes have been planted. The

Elm Tree has been planted and registered with the Conservation Foundation in

accordance with the Great British Elm project, reports will be sent back on how it is

progressing every six months.

 Quotes for a skip and dog bin were considered, proposed Adrian Jones, seconded

 Nita Wyatt to hire a skip for the rubbish and purchase a dog bin. Proposed Jean

 Adkins that a fund of £750 is allocated for the project, seconded Mike Palmer.

**9.03.17 Update regarding new playing field**

An update has not been received from Jonathan Walker, Surveyor for Taunton

 Deane despite efforts to obtain one. It was generally agreed that there has been no

 progress. Proposed Adrian Jones that a letter of complaint is sent to Penny James

Chief Executive of Taunton Deane, seconded Mike Palmer and agreed unanimously,

to be placed on the agenda for the April meeting.

**10.03.17 To consider quote for additional street light for the church path**

A quote was considered under the joint funding scheme with Somerset Highway

 Lighting but at £4,453.38 was considered too expensive. A more cost effective scheme will be sought.

**11.03.17 To consider quotes for parish maintenance for 2017/18**

The Clerk obtained three quotes, our present contractor, has not increased his rates

 for this year and was the most competitive. Proposed Jean Adkins to award the

contract for the 2017/18 maintenance to Martin King, seconded, Nita Wyatt,

carried.

**12.03.17 To consider a contribution towards changing the stile at the junction of T18/4**

 **and T3/30 (foot of main railway steps) for a gate.**

This is a very popular route used by walkers of all ages and abilities near to the

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 new housing estates, therefore Adrian Jones proposed that Council should

 contribute £100 towards the installation, seconded Jean Adkins, carried.

**13.03.17 Planning: (a)**

25/16/0024 Conversion of 4 agricultural barns into 1 dwelling with swimming pool,

 Fitzroy Barton, Fitzroy. No response required.

 25/17/0004 Erection of porch, 21 Dabinett Close.

 No response required.

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

 **(c) Approvals and refusals**

25/16/0017 Widening of access to ‘Loxley’, B3227 – application approved.

 26/16/0021 Footpath diversion at Monty’s Farm, Norton Fitzwarren – approved.

**14.03.17 Finance:**

 **(a) Approval of Parish Council’s accounts for 4 months from 1.10.16 to 31.1.17.**

The Clerk presented the accounts and took questions. No concerns were raised.

 Proposed Adrian Jones to accept the accounts, seconded Mike Palmer, carried.

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

Interest from Scottish Widows Account to closure £84.42

 Grant from Taunton Deane for 50% of the cost of repairing the hill fort bridge

 £1,770.00

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

Taunton Deane – printing costs £21.12

 All Saints Church yearly grant for electric for the church tower £176.41

 HMRC £111.24

 Clerk’s salary and expenses £773.22

 Proposed Paula Knott that these payments are approved, seconded

 Graham Withnell , carried.

**15.03.17 Reports:**

 **(b) TDBC -** Cllr. Jean Adkins reported that the budget has been set for 2017/18 and

 that the consultation for the proposed merger between Taunton Deane and West

 Somerset Council closed on the 28th February.

 **(c) Footpaths** – The footpaths are all in a very muddy state, otherwise nothing to

 report.

 **(d) Clerk**

The yellow lines for a section of Morse Road and the extension of the zig-zag lines at

 the school will be advertised by Highways in the summer.

 The repairs to the hill fort bridge should commence on the 27th March.

**16.03.17 Correspondence (not covered by the agenda).**

Discussed, but no action required.

**17.03.17 Date, time and place of next meetings.**

Monday, 3rd April, 2017 at 7pm, the Annual Parish meeting will be held on Monday,

 8th May, 2017 at 6.30pm in the village hall, the Annual Parish Council meeting will

 immediately follow. The May meetings will be held in the Reading Room.

 The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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