**DRAFT MINUTES**

**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 8th May, 2017 in the village hall.**

**Present:** Ken Hayward, Chairman, Paula Knott, Mike Palmer, Graham Withnell, Jean Adkins,

Adrian Jones, Paula Clinchant. Clerk: Janet Gobey.

Also present: County Cllr. Mike Rigby, Borough Cllr. Andy Sully and 7 members of the public.

The meeting started at 7pm.

**1.05.17 Apologies:** Nita Wyatt

**2.05.17 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May, 2016**

The minutes having been distributed to Councillors and the public present

at the meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**3.05.17 Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman gave a detailed report of the Parish Council’s achievements over

the year. The purchase of the defibrillator for the village, vehicle activated signs

for Pen Elm which will be installed in the coming months, reduction of speed limit

from 40mph to 30mph from the village through to Staplegrove, new name village

name signs and many repairs. A full report is available on the website and from

the Clerk.

**4.05.17 Reports from Village Groups**

Brock House Day Nursery

The nursery has now moved back into the re-built building on its original site.

The nursery is expanding to take 60 children per session and is already at full

capacity on Tuesday and Wednesday. With the 15 hours Early Years Entitlement

being increased to 30 this year it is anticipated the intake will continue.

Village Hall

The village hall continues to be well used, the bingo, Burns’ night, quiz nights etc.

are well supported. Many overdue maintenance projects have been carried out

this year, new boiler, external drainage, extension of stairs to upper lounge, new

flooring, decorations, lighting, and railings for the steps at the front of the building.

Volunteers are now running a café in the skittle alley three days a week which is

also proving very popular.

Playing Fields Association

Five football teams have used the pitch this year, Brian James, who has done a

wonderful job is retiring from his role as groundsman. There will be a programme to

gradually tidy up and replace some of the barriers and hopefully maintenance to the

pitch itself. Unfortunately the mowers have been breaking down and will need to

be replaced or repaired. Some vandalism has taken place, goal nets have been

damaged and dog mess on the pitch is a constant problem.

All Saints Church

Attendance at regular church services has increased, as has the request for

Christenings. The Christmas and Remembrance services were also well attended.

A request for volunteers for churchyard maintenance was made. Links with 40

Commando are still good. The church roof will need replacing or repairing, funds

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are being sought for this. New bell ropes are also needed but a ‘striking’

competition has been won. The clock has been repaired, the next project is to

re-guild the clock.

Youth Club

Unfortunately due to lack of members the Youth Club has had to close, the Parish

Council has been requested to hold the remaining funds until such time as they are

needed in the future.

The above is a summary of the reports from local groups, the full report from each

group is available from the Clerk on request.

**5.05.17 Open discussion on matters affecting the parish of Norton Fitzwarren**

(An opportunity to raise local concerns by any resident of the parish).

Report from County Cllr. Mike Rigby:

There is an online consultation regarding the new junction of the M5. The new

roundabout at Bishops Lydeard should be finished in the near future.

The new leader of Somerset County Council is David Fothergill.

Matters raised by the public:

A query when Great Western Way will be adopted by Somerset Highways, as

speeding along the road is a constant problem. The speeding concerns will be

passed to PCSO Emma Carter for action. In the meantime it was recommended

a request for speed reduction measures should be made to the Site Managers.

Concerns raised about maintenance to Church Lane hedge, and the verge along the

B3227 by Langford Mead – to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

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