**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 5th March, 2018 in the village hall.**

**Present:** Paula Knott, Chair, Mike Palmer, Vice Chair, Ken Hayward, Nita Wyatt, Adrian Jones,

Paula Clinchant. Clerk Janet Gobey.

Also present: County Cllr. Mike Rigby, District Cllr. Andy Sully, Don Wyatt, Chairman, Village Hall Committee and 8 members of the public.

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

1. Ford Farm, its role as a functioning flood plain and the relief road which is dependent on the development of Ford Farm going ahead. Ken Hayward explained the role of the Environment Agency and the current planning application for flood alleviation works. The

Environment Agency needs to be satisfied that the flooding issue has been addressed.

The relief road would not be built unless funded by the developer of Ford Farm.

1. Complaints from the NF Playing Field Association that rubbish is being thrown over fences

from adjoining properties. The Chair requested photographs.

1. A request for a sign “Pedestrians crossing” at Pen Elm, Cllr. Rigby offered to take this forward.

**1.03.18 Apologies for absence:** Cllrs.Phil Bareham, Graham Withnell and Cllr. Jean Adkins.

**2.03.18 Declarations of Interest**

Ken Hayward and Mike Palmer declared a personal interest in items 5 and 6.

as members of the Village Hall Committee and Friends of the Village Hall.

Nita Wyatt will abstain from items 5 and 6.

Paula Knott and Adrian Jones declared a personal interest in item 9 as members

of the NF Playing Field Association.

**3.03.18 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th February, 2018**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**4.03.18 Police Matters**

Paula Knott read the report from PCSO Graham Phimister – no matters raised.

**5.03.18 To consider drawings for the patio in the recreation ground, village hall.**

Don Wyatt, Chairman, VHC handed out drawings of the proposed patio’s layout

which will be for the general use of the community. Chair, Paula Knott proposed

that Council approve the design subject to costings. Under the terms of the 1948

Lease any alterations to the recreation ground, if it benefits the community can be

allowed but will be at the expense of the Parish Council. Seconded Adrian Jones,

carried.

**6.03.18 To consider grant application towards the renewal of the floor of the Marshall**

**Room, village hall.**

Don Wyatt explained the issue, the floor is becoming dangerous and it could give

way at any time. The floor is in constant use and was last replaced in 1999. The

flooring proposed is oak laminate and is a better quality than that previously used,

it has a proposed lifespan of 20 years. The work would take approximately one

week. The grant application is for £6,410.00, 50% of the funds, the village hall would

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pay the remaining 50%.

Paula Knott proposed Council agree to fund the £6,410.00 requested, seconded

Adrian Jones, carried.

Council agreed to take item 14. Reports (a) SCC next.

**14.03.18 Reports**

**(a) SCC** Cllr. Rigby requested that any drainage issues following the recent heavy

snowfall are reported to him. Waste collections were delayed.

There has been no decision regarding the remaining Children’s Centres or the bid

for footpath improvements for Pen Elm hill under the Small Improvements

Scheme. It was reported weeds were starting to break up the wall at the bottom

of Blackdown Road. Cllr. Rigby will take this forward.

**7.03.18 Update regarding the replacement of two bridges on footpath T18/9.**

Following an onsite meeting between the Bridge Officer at Somerset County Council,

and representatives from the Parish Council, a site for the new bridge was chosen.

This will be approximately 30m upstream from the existing wooden bridge. The

footpath to the bridge will be separated from the allotments by a fence. The weir

structures, on which the bridges sit have been declared unsafe. A picture of the

new bridge was circulated. It was hoped the new bridge would be installed in the

Autumn.

**8.03.18 Update regarding purchase of Speed Indicator Device.**

Somerset County Council have offered a scheme to provide the device for a

contribution of £100 for each installation of the device. It was agreed that this was

the most cost effective way of continuing with the service. The Chair proposed that

the present three locations are continued, twice a year, seconded Ken Hayward,

carried.

**9.03.18 New Playing Field**

Chair, Paula Knott reported on the meeting held this morning at Deane House with

Tim Burton, and Cllr. Roger Habgood. Taunton Deane are still pursuing the

Compulsory Purchase Order for access to the new playing field but stated that both

options are not without risk and need to be costed. Tim Burton will prepare a

risk register of both options and meet with Andy Lehner of West of England

developments to establish exactly what is being offered without taking into account

the S106 monies. To be placed on future agendas.

**10.03.18 Actions from last meeting.**

None at present but to continue on future meeting.

**11.03.18 To consider purchasing a mobile phone for the Clerk for Parish Council use.**

A mobile phone for the Clerk ‘s use has been recommended over the last few years

by SALC. It will be able to be passed to another Councillor when the Clerk is away in

order to monitor emails and calls.

Paula Knott proposed the Clerk is authorised to spend up to £350 and to use a

‘pay-as-you-go’ network, seconded Mike Palmer, carried.

**12.03.18 Planning:**

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**(a) Applications received since issue of agenda** – none received but Council has

been notified of planning enforcement action for an unlawful extension at

3 Prowses Meadow.

**(b) Approvals and refusals**

25/17/0025 Demolition of outbuildings and erection of 3 bedrooms for disabled

use, “Meadow Court”, Minehead Road. Approved

25/17/0031 Construction of first floor and 2-storey extension, “Brookside”,

Wiveliscombe Road. Approved.

**13.03.18 Finance:**

**Payments for approval ay any subsequently received:**

Thorne Segar, Solicitors – legal advice £600.00

SALC – Chairmanship training - £60.00

M. King – litter picking in the village Sept. to March and strimming £1086.00

Westcotec for VAS signs at Pen Elm £9372.00

Norton News grant £466.00

Blake Training (Strimmer course) £78.00

Clerk’s salary and expenses £775.33

HMRC £107.51

Proposed Paula Knott that the above payments are approved, seconded

Paula Clinchant, carried.

**14.03.18 Reports:**

**(b) TDBC** Cllr. Andy Sully reported that the current phase of the Langford Mead

development will be divided into two so as to avoid a ‘rat run’ through the site.

The application is recommended for approval if the whole site has 20%

affordable housing.

The Firepool planning application is due to be decided on the 14th March. The

housing will be built first, then the shops and boulevard. There will be 25%

affordable housing.

A 25 year transport strategy is being prepared for Taunton.

**(c) Footpaths –** no report.

**(d) Health and safety –** No report for this month but potholes in the roads can be reported to the Clerk who will forward the location to Somerset Highways.

**(e) Clerk** An application has been made to Awards 4 All, the Big Lottery Fund for

a grant for an additional item of exercise equipment for the playing field.

**15.03.18 Nature reserve at the playing field.**

The elm tree is doing well, the site needs strimming for this year. Ideas for the

future were requested, to be on the agenda for next month.

**16.03.18 Correspondence**

Aslist circulated by the Clerk, the upcoming Data Protection legislation was

discussed. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) have issued a ‘toolkit’

and SALC will be offering training courses in the coming months.

**17.03.18 Date of next meeting.**

Monday, 9th April, 2018 at 7pm in the Reading Room of the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9am.

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