**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on 4th September, 2019 in the village hall.**

**Present:** Paula Knott, Chair, Mike Palmer, Vice Chairman, Nita Wyatt, Adrian Jones, Maureen Palmer,

Jonathan Lalgee, Clerk: Janet Gobey

Also present: SW & T Councillor Edward Firmin, and nine members of the public.

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

1. A complaint of overgrown path and litter, Pen Elm. The Clerk will request SW & T to clear the path.
2. Concerns raised regarding the proposed development of Ford Farm, which is a flood plain.

Paula Knott advised that the Parish Council supported any proposals made by the

Environment Agency and that when plans are received for development there will be a public

consultation.

1. Thanks received from a resident of Fitzroy regarding the refurbishment of the fingerpost to

Fitzroy.

**1.09.19 Apologies for absence -**  Phil Bareham is away.

**2.09.19 Declarations of interest** – None declared.

**3.09.19 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd July, 2019**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**4.09.19 Police matters**

The Chair read the report, issues were raised regarding items found in the recreation

ground. The police have been notified and will carry out more patrols. Security of the

recreation ground to be placed on the next agenda.

The Speedwatch team are due to re-start tomorrow.

**5.09.19 Parish Council vacancy**

Following the sad death of Jean Adkins, the vacancy will be advertised. An election has

not been requested by residents so the Parish Council can co-opt a candidate onto the

Council at a future meeting.

**6.09.19 Planning:**

**(a) Applications received since issue of agenda:**

25/19/0031/T Management works to 3 oak trees, east of junction with Blackdown View

– no response required.

**(b) Approvals and refusals:**

25/19/0002 Beauford Park, change of use from garden to extension of mobile home

park.

25/19/0010/LB Castle Cottage, Langford Lane, internal alternations.

25/18/0028 Montys Court, B3227, Repositioning of entrance gates, driveway etc.

-1-

**7.09.19 To consider purchase of a hedge trimmer for use at the playing field.**

The purchase was considered, Cllr. Graham Withnell will look into it. The hedge

is too tall for a volunteer to cut at present, therefore the Parish Council will

request Council’s contractors cut it this year with a view to volunteers keeping

it trimmed next year. To be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

**8.09.19 Update from Archaeological day and tour of the hill fort.**

There was a good attendance; items were brought by Somerset Heritage.

It was a very interesting day. A further event is being planned.

**9.09.19 To consider annual reports from ROSPA re playground inspections.**

The reports were discussed and recommendations noted. Spare bolt covers have

been ordered from Kompan. The welding of the slide has been inspected and

Cllr. Graham Withnell is investigating its maintenance. The Parish Council’s contractors

to be requested to re-lay the rubber matting.

**10.09.19 To consider access to West Somerset Steam Rally for 2020 for residents’ of**

**Norton Fitzwarren.**

West Somerset Railway Association has been contacted and they are keen to help.

Various ideas were put forward. Council will continue to liaise with WSR.

**11.09.19 Update regarding additional bridge on footpath T18/9.**

No update regarding the bridge. The officer is on holiday until the 17th September.

Cllr. Ed Firmin will contact Cllr. Mike Rigby to chase. The Maintenance Team for the

allotments will continue to cut the footpath.

**12.09.19 To consider wording for the plaque for the bench at the nature reserve.**

The wording was chosen and the Clerk given authority to purchase the plaque for the

bench. Proposed Paula Knott, seconded Mike Palmer.

**13.09.19 Update regarding new playing field.**

Cllr.Ed Firmin was requested to contact Assets, SW & T Council for an update.

**14.09.19 Reports:**

**(a) SCC –** No report

**SW & T** Cllr. Firmin reported that an objection has been made by the Council to the

proposed closure of Fire Stations.

The vision of the ‘Garden Towns’ has been approved.

Concerns have been raised regarding the 5G mobile phone network as many more

masts would be needed, more information is required.

**(b) Footpaths**

Phil Bareham has sent a report; our new Rights of Way contact at SCC is

Sam Jackson. Phil has been strimming paths in the parish when he has time, but he

has told the Parish Council that SCC are calling on him to do long sections of

routine strimming which should have been carried out by SCC. The Clerk will raise

this with ROW SCC.

-2-

**(c) Health and Safety**

ROSPA reports for play areas (discussed under item 9.)

**(d) Clerk**

The Clerk advised that the second half of the precept £16,250.00 had been received.

**15.09.19 Finance:**

**(a) Closure of audit.**

The Clerk advised that the external auditor had found no cause for concern and had

therefore notified Council that the closure of the audit could be announced.

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

West Country Blacksmiths for refurbishing fingerposts (as quote) £720.00

M. King, parish maintenance, grass cutting, litter picking and weed spraying £1961.28

PKF Littlejohn, external audit £240.00

Somerset Playing Fields Association, ROSPA play inspections £225.00

HMRC £104.93

Clerk’s salary and expenses £796.19

**16.09.19 Correspondence for discussion** – none.

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

Wednesday, 2nd October, 2019 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Meeting closed 9.25pm

-3-