**Draft**

**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 4th March, 2020 in the village hall.**

**Present:** Mike Palmer,Vice Chairman, Adrian Jones, Phil Bareham, Nita Wyatt, Maureen Palmer,

Jamie Clutson. Clerk: Janet Gobey.

Also Present: SCC & SWT Cllr. Mike Rigby, SWT Cllr. Edward Firmin plus seven members of the public.

Mike Palmer took the Chair and started the meeting at 7.30pm as Paula Knott, Chair is absent, with open discussion for the public, matters raised were:

1. Proposed installation of footpath to Pen Elm. The footpath will take one week to complete and

is due to be started on the 16th March. The request for the steps from the footpath to the cottages will be included in next year’s Small Improvement Scheme.

1. A query regarding S106 monies for the village hall. The Clerk will investigate and respond.
2. A request that the graffiti is removed from the metal bridge on Great Western Way.

Cllr. Rigby will organise its removal.

**1.03.20 Apologies for absence.** PaulaKnott and Jonathan Lalgee are unwell.

**2.03.20 Declarations of Interest.**

Nita Wyatt declared an personal interest in item 6 and Jamie Clutson declared a

 personal interest in item 11.

**3.03.20 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th February, 2020**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4.03.20 Police matters**

The Clerk read the report. PCSO Tony Wearmouth is leaving this area at the end of the

 month.

 It was agreed to take item 15.03.20 (a) next.

**15.03.20 Reports (a) SCC**

Cllr. Mike Rigby reported on the following:

 The Local Plan

The consultation is being extended to 2040 as the previous Local Plan overestimated

the amount of land required for housing development. There is an online consultation

which Cllr. Rigby urged the public to take part in.

SCC Council merger

Discussions took place about the SCC proposal for a unitary council, local councils are

opposed to the merger, although merger of some services e.g. waste collection could

take place. The proposal is being held up due to shortage of funds in Somerset CC.

A drain has been broken behind the empty McColl’s shop, it is the responsibility of the

developers who have been requested to repair it.

The cross keys roundabout is due to be converted into traffic lights within the next

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12 months, therefore only safety-related repairs will be carried out.

**5.03.20 Actions from last meeting**

 All covered by the current agenda.

**6.03.20 Norton News – options for the future**

Various options were considered, online banking would save a lot of time. The

 revenue from advertising has risen as a result of improved collection from

 advertisers. An online magazine was discussed . The Parish Council’s assistance was

 requested, the Clerk will meet with the Norton News volunteers to ascertain where help

could be given.

Cllr. Nita Wyatt left the meeting at 8.40pm.

**7.03.20 New playing field – update**

Council has been advised that the position of the boundary line of the new field

 is in the wrong place. This has resulted in some of the low voltage cables now being

 within the field boundary. SWT Council proposes to accept the field with the new

 boundary and not to request further undergrounding which would result in another

 long delay. A second planning application will have to be submitted for change of use

of the additional land.

**8.03.20 Proposed installation of play equipment in the recreation ground.**

Following an online survey and a survey taken at the school, it was agreed that

the Clerk will contact a play provider to obtain a quote for the next meeting.

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

No response as yet from Somerset Highways, the Clerk will chase.

 An award has been given to the Speedwatch team from the Police for service to the

 Community.

**10.03.20 Access to the Steam Fair from the village – update.**

A meeting has been held with WSR and it has been agreed that a bus will call at

 each bus stop in the village, once an hour. The Parish Council will help with

 advertising nearer to the date.

**11.03.20 To consider the re-opening of the Youth Club**

The project will be deferred for four months to the September agenda as

 Cllr. Jamie Clutson will be away.

**12.03.20 Update regarding new bridges for T18/9 and footpath report.**

SCC, Rights of Way have decided they will replace the bridges on the existing sites.

 This will save money as the cost of a path diversion will be avoided.

**13.03.20 Planning: (a)**

 07/20/0004 Variation of condition, land off Hele Road, Hele – no comment

 20/20/0005 Change of use of agricultural building to part equestrian, part storage,

 Lower Portman Farm , Fitzroy Road, Norton Fitzwarren – no objection.

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 25/19/0023 Pen Elm, Minehead Road, appeal lodged against refusal to convert stables

 into dwelling.

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

 **(c) Approvals and refusals:**

25/19/0026 lean to extension, The Linney, Harnham Court – approved.

**14.03.20 Finance:**

 **(a) Appointment of Internal Auditor.**

 Jill Larcombe, is trained for the role of Internal Auditor, proposed Phil Barham to

 appoint Jill Larcombe, seconded Jamie Clutson, carried.

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

Comber Security Systems Ltd., upgrade of CCTV for recreation ground £1197.60

 Proposed Jamie Clutson to approve payment, seconded Phil Bareham, carried.

 **Regular monthly payments**:

 HMRC £104.73

 Clerk’s salary and expenses £804.95

**15.03.20 Reports**

 **(b) Health and safety** – nothing to report.

 **(c) Environment**

The Parish Council has won a grant of 30 small saplings, some to be planted in the

 nature reserve and the rest at the end of the allotment site.

 **(d) Clerk**

A tenant of the allotment site has volunteered to move the gate and install a fence to

 secure the end of the allotment site in order that bees can be located there.

**16.03.20 Correspondence for discussion.**

Distributed electronically by the Clerk, prior to the meeting, nothing raised.

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

Monday, 1st April, 2020 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

 The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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