**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 29th July, 2020 in the village hall. This meeting was held to enable the Council to undertake urgent business, all regulations regarding masks and**

**social distancing were observed.**

**Present:** Paula Knott, Chairperson, Mike Palmer, Vice Chairman Nita Wyatt, Graham Withnell, Phil Bareham, Jonathan Lalgee, Maureen Palmer. Clerk: Janet Gobey

Also present: SW& T Cllrs. Ed Firmin and Andy Sully and Rebecca Randall of White Young Green

Planning, representing Ford Farm flood alleviation scheme and subsequent development, Andrew Ritchie, All Saints PCC and 2 members of the public. Clerk: Janet Gobey.

The meeting started at 7pm with open discussion for the public (including questions raised via email prior to the meeting):

1. Two concerns were raised regarding speeding through the village. A request for the faded ‘speed warning’ signs to be repainted will be made to Somerset Highways.
2. The willow saplings planted where the repairs to the bank of Halse Water were made are growing well, a query was raised whether maintenance is required to the saplings. An inspection will be carried out.
3. Pen Elm Hill, a request from residents for a safe crossing place. The request will be made to

Cllr. Mike Rigby to see what can be done.

7.15pm Mike and Maureen Palmer joined the meeting.

**1.07.20 Apologies for absence:**

Adrian Jones is away on holiday.

 Jamie Clutson – work commitments.

**2.07.20 Declarations of interest**

Nita Wyatt declared a personal interest in items 5 a,b & c and item 8.

 Graham Withnell declared a personal interest in item 5 a, b, c, & d.

**3.07.20 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th March, 2020**

The March minutes are the only minutes to approve as due to the Covid-19 pandemic

 a meeting has not been held since March. The minutes were approved and signed by

 the Chair Paula Knott.

**4.07.20 Police Matters**

The Clerk read the report which was longer than usual. The Clerk will query this.

**5.07.20 To consider the following grant applications:**

a)£400 towards a function to show appreciation to the Norton Coronavirus Support

 Group Volunteers. The event to be held in 2021. Proposed to award £400 Paula Knott,

 Seconded Graham Withnell and agreed unanimously.

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 The Parish Council offered to help village groups with the purchase of PPE to enable

 them to re-open following the shutdown and received the following applications:

b) Purchase of PPE for the village hall volunteers to aid with the cost of re-opening

 the village hall £400.00 Proposed Mike Palmer, seconded Phil Bareham, agreed

 unanimously to grant £400.00

 d) Purchase of PPE to enable All Saints Church and the parochial office to open safely

 and follow recommended guidelines £1451.26 Proposed Paula Knott to award £1451.26

 and agreed after a majority vote.

 c) A grant application to install a gate to enable the car park of the village hall to be

 secured at night. Proposed Jonathan Lalgee, seconded Paula Knott to grant £2521.00,

 carried.

 Council agreed to take item 7. ‘ Planning’ next.

**7.07.20 Planning:**

 **(a) 25/20/0016 Amendments to flood alleviation application 25/17/0018**

 Rebecca Randall from White Young Green Planning explained the proposed

 amendments. The flood water storage ponds are to be removed from the plan and

 instead the ditch will be widened on the southern boundary. The land previously

 allocated for the western bund cannot be built on due to a pylon, the intention is to

hand over the land to the West Somerset Railway to use as a car park. The local

Flood Alleviation officers will deal with the surface water drainage. Council to respond

stating that it supports the recommendations from the Environment Agency. Agreed

unanimously.

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

**(c) Approvals and refusals –** none.

**6.07.20 Presentation of Parish Council accounts and audit for 2019/20 and reports from**

 **the internal auditor and the Clerk.**

1. **To consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement.**

 Council agreed to adopt the recommendations set out in the internal auditor’s

 report and agreed that the Internal Controls as set out in the Annual Governance

 Statement are being met. Proposed Nita Wyatt, seconded Mike Palmer, carried.

1. **To approve and sign the accounts for 2019/20**

Following the Clerk’s report,the accounts and the Accounting Statement were approved and signed by the Chair and the Clerk. Proposed to accept the accounts Graham Withnell, seconded Jonathan Lalgee, carried.

**8.07.20 To consider items of play equipment for the recreation ground at the village hall.**

 **(Use of CIL funds currently held of £6657.22)**

The Clerk had obtained two quotes for a basket swing, see-saw and a roundabout.

 It was agreed to obtain a plan of the layout for the basket swing and see-saw from

 Wicksteed’s to be discussed at the next meeting.

**9.07.20 Purchase of Speed Indicator Device and signature of form from Somerset County**

 **Council.**

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Agreed to look at other options to prevent speeding through the village and not to

 purchase the device due to the unfavourable conditions contained in the SCC

 agreement which the Parish Council is not willing to agree to.Agreed unanimously**.**

**10.07.20 Sale of the Kingstanley pond, Allerford Lane.**

It was agreed the Parish Council would declare an interest but not to commit to

 a purchase. The land would make an excellent nature reserve for the parish.

 Cllr. Graham Withnell volunteered make enquiries about a second independent report.

**11.07.20 Update regarding unleashed dogs in residential areas.**

30 signs have been purchased and displayed around the village. It was agreed to

 purchase a further 25 to display in areas not yet covered. Proposed Paula Knott,

 seconded Mike Palmer, carried.

**12.07.20 Finance:**

(a) Payments made during the 4 month pandemic lockdown (as separate sheet

 attached).

 (b) Payments for approval and any subsequently received:

 Jill Larcombe for internal audit £150.00

 SALC affiliation fee £846.97

 Alex Forster for cutting parish paths £225.00

 R. Chiplin, grass cutting in parish £230.00

 Proposed to formally approve payments made in (a) and (b) Paula Knott, seconded

 Nita Wyatt, carried.

**13.07.20 Reports:**

 **(a) SWT & SCC Councils**

Grants are available for community groups from SWT Council. Taunton is to install its

 first public electricity car charging point.

 Half a million pounds has been awarded for town centre improvement.

1. **Health and safety plus environmental**

The bin in the recreation ground has not been emptied. This will be reported to SWT

Council.

1. **Footpaths**

Public footpaths are much tidier now the Parish Council has employed a new contractor.

Phil Bareham has strimmed some of the shorter paths, T18/6 is now clear.

The rubbish behind Hilly Park on footpath T18/2 will be reported.

A tree has come down on T18/7, Phil Bareham has reported it.

**14.07.20 Correspondence for discussion.**

All correspondence has been circulated by the Clerk nothing raised at the meeting.

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

Wednesday, 2nd September, 2020 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

 The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

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