**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**A virtual meeting of the parish council was held on Wednesday 16th December, 2020 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Paula Knott, Chair, Mike Palmer, Vice Chairman, Adrian Jones, Graham Withnell,

Nita Wyatt, Phil Bareham, Simon Drury. Clerk: Janet Gobey

Also present: Bob Croft and Joanne O’Hara, Somerset Heritage Centre, District Cllrs. Ed Firmin and

Dixie Darch and 3 members of the public.

The meeting started at 7.30pm with 15 minutes open discussion for the public:

1. Concerns were raised regarding the proposed closure of the two bridges on T18/9, obtaining a

second opinion of their safety was requested. Council will try and expedite the replacement

of the bridges.

1. The B3227 road outside the Ring of Bells is breaking up, the Clerk will request Somerset

Highways repair make repairs.

**1.12.20 Apologies**

Cllrs. Jamie Clutson and Jonathan Lalgee, District Cllr. Andy Sully.

**2.12.20 Declarations of Interest**

Paula Knott declared a personal interest in item 10(a) as a relative lives nearby,

**3.12.20 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th November, 2020**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chairman.

**4.12.20 Actions from last meeting (not covered by the agenda).**

Nothing raised.

**5.12.20 Police matters** – no report received. The Clerk will make enquiries.

**6.12.20 Kingdom Lane and request for extension of yellow lines.**

Graham Withnell will investigate alternative solutions and discuss with the resident

and Somerset Highways. To be placed on the next agenda.

**7.12.20 Hill Fort update from Somerset Heritage Centre.**

Joanne O’Hara and Bob Croft from Somerset Heritage Centre attended. A

grant from Historic England and the Green Recovery Fund has been obtained.

Wild flowers will be sown at the top of the hill fort in spring. The trees will be made

safe, ash trees checked for ash die back disease, rubbish removed, scrub and foliage

cleared around the middle of January. The National Lottery Heritage Fund has been

applied to for funding for a new access way and ramp from the car park. A volunteering

group will be set up for future maintenance.

**8.12.20 Somerset Climate Emergency Fund, to consider application for grant and possible site**

**for e-scooters.**

-1-

E-scooters were discussed, many concerns were raised it was agreed that the main

B3227 was too busy for e-scooters. The Somerset Heritage Centre was suggested as

Great Western Way has a cycle path. Bob Croft will check with the landlord if it would

be possible. No decision made.

Two proposals were put forward to apply for a grant to the Somerset Climate

Emergency Fund, an alternative heating source for a building in the parish was

preferred and would provide the biggest result. Council agreed to investigate this

proposal, the Clerk will check the guidance for applicants and seek advice from SALC

regarding personal or prejudicial interests. The deadline for the application is the 11th

January, which may be too close to obtain the necessary quotes.

**9.12.20 New playing field – update.**

Steve Hughes is the contact at SWT Council for planning the new playing field.

The Parish Council has requested a meeting in January to discuss proposals.

Cllr. Ed Firmin will contact Steve Hughes for meeting dates.

**10.12.20 Planning: (a)**

25/20/0031 Single storey extension to garage with roof replacement, ‘Southfields’,

41 Rectory Road – No concerns raised.

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

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

**10.12.20(a) Reports:**

**a) Norton Fitzwarren Youth provision**

The group now has 50 members and is also working with the parish council to arrange

a meeting with SWT Council regarding the planning of the new playing field.

**(b) SCC** – no report.

**SWT** **Council :**

Cllr. Ed Firmin gave the update, two unitary Councils have been put forward as an

alternative to the one suggested by Somerset County Council.

The implications to new developments as a result of the levels of phosphate on the

Somerset levels has meant all new developments are on hold until a solution to reduce

phosphate levels can be found.

SWT Council has approved the re-building of the Woolaway houses in Taunton.

**(c) Footpaths** Phil Bareham, PPLO reported that footpath T19/1 is flooded and T18/6

is blocked again by the Ford Farm gate. The new gate installed at Manor Gardens on

footpath T18/9 has been vandalised and thrown into the stream, thanks were given to

Phil Bareham and Graham Withnell for retrieving the gate from the stream.

**(d) Clerk** Some trees at the allotment site have ash dieback disease, a survey of the

trees along Halse Water on Council land has been arranged for January.

Council has been notified that the bridges on footpath T18/9 which have been

declared unsafe are to be closed with pallet fencing next week.

**(e) Health and safety**

Paula Knott reported that the wall in Church Lane is in need of repair. The Clerk will

request the Heritage Officer in SWT Council to contact the owner and request repairs.

-2-

**11.12.20 To consider precept request for 2021/22**

A draft precept calculation was submitted to Councillors by the Clerk who advised

setting a precept which will not increase the cost to parish ratepayers. Following

discussion, proposed Mike Palmer that the Clerk’s recommended figure of £33,350 is

accepted, seconded Nita Wyatt and agreed unanimously.

**12.12.20 Finance – payments for approval and any subsequently received:**

Furniture @ work Ltd. For 2-drawer filing cabinet £110.40

PKF Littlejohn, external audit £240.00

Somerset Playing Fields Association affiliation fee £15.00

Clerk’s salary and expenses £813.27

HMRC £115.30

Proposed Paula Knott to approve and pay the above, seconded Nita Wyatt, carried.

**13.12.20 Correspondence for discussion** – circulated by the Clerk, nothing raised.

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

Wednesday, 13th January, 2021 at 7.30pm (virtual meeting).

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

-3-