**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**A virtual meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 13th January, 2021**

**at 7.30pm.**

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

Nita Wyatt, Phil Bareham, Jonathan Lalgee, Jamie Clutson, Simon Drury. Clerk: Janet Gobey.

Also present: District Cllr. Ed Firmin, SCC Cllr. Mike Rigby. No public present.

The meeting started at 7.30pm with public questions, no questions raised.

**1.1.21 Apologies:** None, all present.

**2.1.21 Declarations of interest** – none declared.

**3.1.21 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th December 2020.**

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

**4.1.21 Police matters**

An email update has been received, concerns were raised about the lack of detail

 and resolutions to the incidents listed. Enquiries will be made.

**5.1.21 Request for a grant to cover mobile tariffs from the Norton Fitzwarren**

 **Covid Support Group.**

The Covid support group has applied for a grant to cover mobile phone tariffs

 for two phones. Proposed Adrian Jones that the £20 per month is granted, to be

paid quarterly for as long as required, seconded Mike Palmer, carried.

**6.1.21 To consider purchase of a new visibility mirror for exit from Kingdom Lane.**

The existing mirror is worn and does not provide good visibility, Council agreed

 to purchase a new mirror which will give visibility in both directions subject to

 the agreement of the landowner and Somerset Highways at an estimated cost of

 £300 + VAT. Cllr. Graham Withnell will contact Somerset Highways and

 Cllr. Simon Drury will contact the landowner for permission to install,

 Proposed Paula Knott, seconded Jonathan Lalgee, carried.

 Council agreed to take item 10(a) next as Cllr. Mike Rigby has to leave early.

**10.1.21 Reports (a) SCC**

Cllr. Mike Rigby reported that the Covid support groups have been re-started

and there are grants from SCC available for businesses.

The unitary bid for one Somerset is still proceeding and the local elections will

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 probably be deferred.

 Planning

 SCC have hired consultants to find a prevention strategy regarding the

 phosphate issue and its effect on the Somerset Levels. A possible solution

 may have been found.

 The proposed changes to the planning regulations by the Government have

 been withdrawn and a new ‘zoning’ system is proposed. SWT have raised

 objections to the proposed zoning system.

 Replacement of foot bridges on footpath T18/9

Cllr. Rigby has requested Rights of Way, SCC to raise the urgency and

 replacement has been brought forward, both are now second in line and are due

to be replaced in spring or early summer. Cllr. Rigby will continue to chase so

 that they are replaced as soon as possible.

**7.1.21 CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) – to consider additional dropped**

 **kerbs in the village to aid access to cycle and footpaths.**

Several sites have been put forward; Yarlington Close and Northcott Close which

 are at the end of footpaths from the main road and opposite Rectory Road.

 The Clerk will liaise with Somerset Highways for permission and advice.

**8.1.21 To consider site for replacement or additional notice board.**

Several sites were suggested, by the driveway into the school or near to the

 footpath through the church. An additional notice board could be installed by

 the railway bridge in Great Western Way. Permission from the school will be

 sought and estimates obtained. To be placed on a future agenda.

**9.1.21 Ash dieback tree survey on land belonging to the parish council.**

A survey is being carried out by a qualified inspector for trees in danger of falling

 onto the public footpath at the allotment site. The report is due to be submitted

 next week. Quotes to be sought for any affected trees.

**10.1.21 Reports Cont:**

 **(b) SWT Council**

Cllr. Ed Firmin gave the report, a grant of £14,000 has been received for

 improvements to Taunton high street and also grants for businesses.

 Thanks were given to Cllr. Firmin for setting up the meeting with Steve Hughes,

SWT Council to discuss progress of the new playing field.

 **(c) New playing field**

The Chair gave an update from the meeting with Steve Hughes. Council were

 disappointed to learn that the conditions in the S106 Agreement for the

 new field were very restrictive and funding could only be used in a limited

 way. The Chair Paula Knott requested Steve Hughes to clarify what was allowed

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 before the next meeting so that this could be put to the public in a survey.

A follow up meeting has been requested in two weeks.

 **(d) Footpaths**

A meeting has been held with Ewan Tweedie, Rights of Way, SCC, regarding the

replacement of the bridges on footpath T18/9. The public are continuing to find

ways to cross the blocked off bridges. Concerns were raised that the vegetation

and trees would not be taken down before the bird nesting season starts in mid-

February, which will hold up progress. The Parish Council offered help with

the vegetation clearance but Rights of Way will use SCC contractors which will be

covered by their insurance. The bridges have been raised up the schedule and

are now second in line. There is some work required to be carried out by the

Environment Agency and Cllr. Rigby will also speak to them.

 **(e) Health and safety**

Slide, Vilberie play park – Cllr. Graham Withnell will chase Western Fabrications

 for an estimate .

 **(f) Environmental** – the allotments were flooded in the recent heavy rains.

 **(g) Clerk**

 The Clerk has been contacted by the Pegasus Group regarding consultations

 in connection with the Ford Farm housing development.

 Council agreed to pursue a replacement of some of the older street name signs

 which are becoming very worn and difficult to read. The Clerk will investigate

 which need replacing and obtain an estimate.

**11.1.21 Planning: (a)**

25/21/0001 Demolition of garage and erection of single storey extension to

 rear of 3 Glen Frome Villas, B3227. No objections, but agreed to request a traffic

 survey due to its position on the main road.

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

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

**12.1.21 Finance:**

Payments (via cheque or bank transfer) for approval and any subsequently

 received. (No payments due).

**13.1.21 Correspondence for discussion** – Circulated electronically before the meeting,

 no discussion.

**14.1.21 Date and time of next meeting which will be virtual.**

Wednesday, 3rd February, 2021 at 7.30pm.

 The meeting closed at 9.08pm.

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