**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday, 3rd March 2021.**

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

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

Also present: County Cllr. Mike Rigby, District Cllr. Andy Sully and 3 members of the public.

The meeting started at 7.30pm with open discussion for the public.

No matters raised.

**1.03.21 Apologies for absence:** District Cllrs. Ed Firmin and Dixie Darch.

**2.03.21 Declarations of interest.** None declared.

**3.03.21 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd February, 2021.**

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

**4.03.21 Police matters.**

Council has been notified that individual updates will no longer be issued for

 Parish Councils, a newsletter relating to this area will be issued once a month.

 Cllr. Adrian Jones drew attention to the deterioration of contact between the police

 and the Parish Council over recent years. District Cllr. Andy Sully will request

Frederica Smith, Head of SWT Council to raise this with the police. Enquiries will

be made to see if the Beat Surgeries will still be held in the village hall.

Item 11(a) will be taken next as Cllr. Rigby has to leave the meeting early.

**11.03.21 (a) Report from SCC**

Somerset will either have one unitary council or will be divided into two councils, the

 decision is likely to be made in the summer. Council elections will be held in May 2022.

 Deposits of phosphate onto the somerset levels are likely to cause a delay in new

 housing developments. Developers now have a mechanism to calculate the impact of

 housing developments on the phosphate levels.

 The new local plan will not be finalised until after a unitary decision has been made by

 the Secretary of State.

 Cllr. Mike Rigby will try to expedite the Parish Council request for permission to install

 dropped kerbs. Cllr. Rigby left the meeting.

**6.3.21 Kingdom Lane visibility issues.**

Cllr. Simon Drury declared a personal interest in this item.

Cllr. Graham Withnell will respond to residents’ concerns, the new mirror will be

 installed by Friday 5th March and Council will await the result of the new mirror being

installed.

**7.03.21 Update regarding new footbridges on footpath T18/9.**

An update has been received from Rights of Way, SCC which has been circulated,

 Cllr. Mike Rigby has been updated and will continue to chase progress.

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**8.03.21 Notice boards for Blackdown View and Great Western Way.**

 It was agreed to conduct a survey to see if the public wished to see new notice

 boards in the village and whether they would find them useful.

**9.03.21 Additional dropped kerbs in the village.**

A response is still awaited from Highways regarding the sites chosen for the dropped

 kerbs. Cllr. Rigby will chase.

**10.03.21 Somerset Day commemorations**

The village hall will be decorated by the Village Hall Committee. Ideas were requested.

 Agreed that up to £500 could be spent, proposed Mike Palmer, seconded Jamie Clutson.

 Enquiries will be made if a flag could be purchased to fly on the church.

**11.03.21 Reports:**

 **a) SWT -** Cllr. Andy Sully gave the report.

 The Coal Orchard development will be finished in May, one major tenant has been

 found. It will consist of 48 apartments plus shops. The national census will take place

 this year on 21st March, 2021.

 **(b) New playing field**

 Consultants will undertake a feasibility study this week for the new pitch, soil

 samples will be taken and a topographic study undertaken. A good quality

full size pitch with good drainage has been agreed. SW & T Council Building

Section will inspect the pavilion at the beginning of April to advise how it can be

extended and improved. Improved parking and track to the allotments is also

planned. Local Councillor Andy Sully has contacted West of England

Developments to establish what funding would be available from the Ford Farm

development. The intention is for SWT Council to transfer the land in a long

lease to the Parish Council with a commuted sum for maintenance.

**(c) Footpaths**

Footpath are still very muddy and part of Langford Lane is under water.

Bridges on footpath T18/9

The trees and vegetation has been cut down, discussions with SCC structural

engineers are taking place before tendering can commence. An update will be

requested for the next meeting.

**(e) Clerk**

Trees will be planted to replace the trees cut down through ash die back disease.

It was agreed to continue with the current maintenance contractors as their

work is excellent and good value for money.

**(e) Health and safety and environmental**

The dog bin in Station Road has been moved by the contractors building the

bridge, the new site will be advertised. The door of the litter bin in Church Lane

is not closing. Cllr. Nita Wyatt and Don Wyatt will investigate.

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**12.03.21 Planning: (a)**

25/21/0005 Erection of a single storey extension 105 Dragon Rise,

 No issues to be raised.

 **(b) Applications received since issue of agenda**

25/21/0006/LB Replacement porch and windows, Laburnham Cottage, B3227

 **(c) Approvals and refusals:**

25/20/0029 ‘The Manse’, B3227 double garage and internal alterations –

 approved.

25/20/0018 ‘Pen Elm’, Conversion of outbuilding – refused.

**13.03.21 Finance:**

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

 SWT Council quarterly charge for emptying dog bins £362.88

 Clerk’s salary and expenses £812.57

 HMRC £115.30

 Proposed Paula Knott to approve payments, seconded Graham Withnell, carried.

**14.03.21 Correspondence for discussion**

The inauguration of the new vicar will be at the end of March.

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

Wednesday, 7th April, 2021 at 7.30pm.

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