**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 7th April, 2021 held virtually.**

**Present:** Paula Knott, Chair, Mike Palmer, Vice Chairman, Phil Bareham, Graham Withnell,

Adrian Jones, Nita Wyatt. Clerk: Janet Gobey

Also present: SCC Cllr. Mike Rigby and 5 members of the public.

The meeting started at 7.30pm with open discussion for the public – no matters raised.

**1.04.21 Apologies for absence**

Cllrs. Jamie Clutson and Jonathan Lalgee.

**2.04.21 Declarations of interest** – none declared at this time.

**3.04.21 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd March, 2021**

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

**4.04.21 Police matters**

The monthly newsletter from the PCSO’s has been circulated electronically

 Council’s opinion is that a lot has been lost since the PCSO’s used to attend

 meetings regularly in the past.

**05.04.21 Update regarding Kingdom Lane**

Cllr. Mike Rigby has met with residents and would support the extension of yellow

 lines to the corner of the old brewery junction but would not support a ‘left turn only’

restriction. The new mirror has a good view to the east but not so good from the west.

Council agreed to accept Mike Rigby’s proposal. Graham Withnell volunteered to

remove the mirror on Friday which will be stored at the village hall.

Council agreed to take item 9. Reports (SCC) next as Cllr. Rigby has to leave early.

**9.04.21 Reports (a) SCC**

A referendum is now available for residents to vote in the unitary bid for one or two

 Councils, Cllr. Rigby urged residents to vote.

 £60 million pounds has been awarded in grants for local businesses.

 A planning application should be received later this year for Ford Farm, a moratorium on

 planning applications has been in place for six months due to the phosphate

 contamination on the Somerset Levels but applications are now starting to be

 processed.

 Cllr. Rigby will chase the bridge works on footpath T18/9, the request for dropped kerbs

 and investigate grants available for the new playing field.

**6.04.21 Parish Council meetings going forward.**

The Government regulations allowing Parish Councils to hold public meetings remotely

 expire on from 7th May, 2021 and the Government have no plans to renew them at this

 time.

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 Council discussed the options, the Annual Parish meeting and the Annual Parish

 Council meeting (AGM) are due to be held on the 5th May and can be held remotely.

 It was agreed that the June and July meeting will be held outside at the village hall,

 weather permitting. The Council does not meet in August, the situation will be re-

 assessed following Government regulations for the September meeting.

**7.04.21 Communications with the public.**

Various options were discussed including setting up a Parish Council facebook page,

 It was agreed that as the existing Norton Community facebook page is very successful

 a request will be made to the moderator for a dedicated section, if that is possible.

 It was also agreed that posts on facebook will be strictly factual and should state that

 the information comes from the Parish Council.

**8.04.21 Proposed meeting for Ford Farm development.**

An virtual open public meeting has been held by Pegasus Consultants with the residents

 of Norton Fitzwarren. Pegasus Consultants are due to set up a virtual meeting with the

 Parish Council. When the planning application is received a public meeting will be held

 by the Parish Council for the residents. The planning application is expected by the end

 of the month.

**9.04.21 Reports Cont:**

 **(b) New playing field**

An inspection of the pavilion has been carried out by SWT building team, everything

 needs upgrading. It was agreed at the meeting to leave space for a new pavilion if

 funding can obtained from a S106 Agreement from the Ford Farm development.

 The field has been examined by the Sports and Turf Industry and the report will be

 forwarded by SWT Council, grading and draining will need to take place but the pitch

 could be in place by next winter. The pitch would run down the field to avoid having to

 move the low voltage cables further which would cause delay. There would be one

 adult pitch on the new field and the junior pitch would remain on the existing field.

 SWT Council suggested a gravel track which would save costs, remaining funds could

 be spent on a MUGA or tennis court.

 **(c) Footpaths and update regarding replacement bridges on T18/9**

The final sites for the bridges have been agreed. A soil survey may have to be

 undertaken and then the work will be put out to tender. ROW, SCC have been advised

 that the bridge into the allotments is a weak bridge. Cllr. Mike Rigby will continue to

 chase.

 **(d) Health and safety and environmental** – nothing to report.

 **(e) Allotments** – no report.

 **(f) Clerk**

 Three trees have been purchased, two to replace the ones removed due to ash dieback

 and the other to replace the tree removed at Burnshill, volunteers have undertaken to

 water the trees.

 Rebecca Staddon of SWT Council has been requested to find out when the playground

 will be installed on Great Western Way and what the equipment will be.

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**10.04.21 To consider purchase of 30mph stickers for the B3227 through village.**

Discussed where the stickers could go, possibly wheely bins or lamp posts.

 Deferred for further information.

**11.04.21 To consider quotes for fence at the rear of the allotment site.**

Two quotes were obtained, agreed to accept quote from Alex Forster for a 4’ fence.

**12.04.21 Planning: (a)**

25/21/0009 Roof light to rear and removal of wall, Harnham Farmhouse

 No comment required.

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

 **(c) Approvals and refusals**

25/21/0001 Demolition of garage plus single storey extension, 3 Glen Frome Villas

 Approved.

 25/21/0004/T Management to 6 Ash trees, south side of B3227 – approved.

 Cllr. Withnell left the meeting. 9.15pm.

**13.04.21 Response to unitary authority propositions**

Following discussion and a vote it was agreed to respond by opting for the two council

 Proposal.

**14.04.21 Finance:**

 **(a) SWT Council cost of dog and litter bin collections for 2021/22.**

The cost is increasing to £6.00 from £5.40 per collection from 1st April, 2021.

 Proposed Paula Knott to approve the increase, seconded Mike Palmer, carried.

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

 **received:**

Ashculme Ltd. Tree works at the allotment site £1500.00 (as quoted).

 Triscombe Nurseries Three trees to replace two removed and one dead tree £164.85

 (discount given for a Parish Council).

 SWT Council Dog bin collections, last quarter £207.36

 Grant for 2020/21 for Norton News £2000.00

 Flags for Somerset Day £150.00

 Proposed to approve the payments Paula Knott, seconded Phil Bareham.

**15.04.21 Correspondence for discussion –** no discussion.

**16.04.21 Date and time of next meetings which will be virtual:**

Annual Parish meeting 7pm Wednesday 5th May, 2021

 Annual Parish Council meeting (AGM) Wednesday 5th May 2021 immediately following

 the Annual Parish meeting.

 Meeting closed 9.35pm.

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