**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 2nd June, 2021 in the village hall.**

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

Jonathan Lalgee, Jamie Clutson. Clerk: Janet Gobey

Also present: SCC Cllr. Mike Rigby, SWT Cllr. Dixie Darch, Andrew Ritchie, PCC All Saints’ and St. John’s churches, Lotta Von der Heyde from the Conquest Centre and 4 members of the public.

The meeting started with open discussion for the public on matters affecting the parish, matters raised were:

1. Weed killing on parish pavements, has this commenced and who is responsible for the weeds

on pavements in Great Western Way. The Clerk will investigate.

No further questions.

**1.06.21 Apologies for absence -** Cllr. Adrian Jones is away.

**2.06.21 Declaration of Interest**

Cllrs. Graham Withnell and Nita Wyatt declared a personal interest in item no. 6 as

 members of the Village Hall Committee.

 Cllr. Phil Bareham declared a personal interest in item no. 12(a) Planning application

no: 25/21/0012 as he is a neighbour.

**3.06.21 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting on 5th May, 2021.**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**4.06.21 Police matters**

Await the next bulletin and circulate – no new issues raised.

**5.06.21 Actions from last meeting**

All required actions covered under this agenda.

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

**10.06.21 Reports (a) SCC**

Cllr. Rigby updated members regarding the Covid-19 numbers in Somerset.

 The poll organised by SWT Council regarding the two options for Council reorganisation

 has come out in favour of the two Council option. The Secretary of State is due to make

 a decision in July.

 The A358 is due to close for two weeks for improvements. Cllr. Rigby is pressing for an

 improved service from Somerset Highways. SWT Council is extending the cycle paths in

 Bishops Lydeard, Cotford St. Luke and Norton Fitzwarren so that they form a link.

**6.06.21 To consider grant application for All Saints’ and St. John’s Benefice Office**

The grant application has been circulated and the Chair invited Andrew Ritchie to

 speak, he answered question from Cllrs. Following discussion the Chair proposed

 to grant £1,260.00 being 50% of the rent for the Benefice Office for a year, seconded

-1-

 Mike Palmer, all in favour apart from Cllrs. Wyatt and Withnell who abstained due to

 their declaration of personal interest.

 It was also agreed to discuss the inclusion in the precept of 50% of the rent for the

 Benefice Office going forward.

**7.06.21 Vacancy for Parish Councillor**

Council should hear from SWT Council this week whether they are permitted to co-opt

onto the Council. A candidate has come forward, to be included in the agenda for

July.

**8.06.21 To update Council’s Risk Assessment**

Council agreed to adopt the draft submitted by the Clerk. Proposed Graham Withnell

 seconded Nita Wyatt, carried.

**9.06.21 To consider grant application from the Conquest Centre to upgrade the play park**

 **equipment.**

 The grant application has been received and circulated, a representative from the

 Conquest Centre was present and explained and answered Councillors’ questions.

 Council agreed to grant the full amount requested £6096.00 for the installation of a

 specialised disabled swing. Proposed Mike Palmer, seconded Jamie Clutson, carried.

**10.06.21 Reports (continued)**

 **a) SWT** Dixie Darch, now Climate Change Portfolio holder gave the report. An

 emphasis on litter collection is currently taking place. More electric car charging

 points are being installed, Open Spaces are trimming trees where more light is needed.

 The Re-start grants are being distributed.

 **b) Footpaths and update for the replacement bridges on T18/9**

Footpath T18/3 is blocked with garden waste, SWT Council is due to clear the footpath

 soon.

 T18/5 & T3/30 this path is shared with Bishops Hull, it is their turn to clear it Cllr. Phil

 Bareham will remind them.

 No update regarding the replacement bridges.

 **c) Speedwatch –** Five volunteers have now come forward and they hope to be out next

 week.

 **d) Allotments**

The site is now full, the barbed wire on the new gate should be removed.

 **e) Clerk**

The Clerk advised that the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, minutes and the annual return (AGAR) for the external auditor have now been signed by the Chair Paula Knott.

 Cllr. Nita Wyatt signed the outstanding monthly accounts. This is the first face to face

 meeting which has taken place since September 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

 SWT Council has confirmed that the CIL funding held by Council can be spent on

 installing dropped kerbs in the older part of the village to improve disabled access on

 pavements.

-2-

 **f) Health and safety**

Reported thathedges from private properties are overgrowing paths in some locations.

 Cllr. Lalgee will post a request on facebook requesting owners to trim back their hedges.

 **g) Environmental**

A complaint has been received from a resident regarding the weeds in the stream at the

 playing field in the section adjacent to their property. The Clerk and Chair will

 investigate.

**11.06.21 To agree a ‘set aside’ policy for Parish Council funds.**

Agreed to set up a reserve policy, the Clerk will draft a policy for consideration at the

 next meeting.

**12.06.21 Planning: (a)**

25/21/0012 Demolition of garage and erection of 2-storey extension, 49 Rectory Road

 25/21/0013 Activity/games hall, Meadow Court, Minehead Road

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

 25/21/0016/T Management works to 7 ash trees, south side of B3227.

 No objections raised for the three applications listed above.

 **(c) Approvals and refusals**

25/21/0011 Non-material amendments to landscape plans, Langford Mead, approved.

 25/21/005 Single storey extension, 105 Dragon Rise – approved.

**13.06.21 Finance:**

 **(a) Income received (for notification only):**

 Refund of VAT for 2020/21 £910.82

 50% of precept for 2021/22 £16,675.00

 **(b) Payments via bank transfer and cheque and any subsequently received:**

Alex Forster for public footpath clearance £376.50 (as quoted).

 Payments via debit card £18.33 (printing ink), £24.67 (Ink, paper and postage),

 HMRC £124.59

 Clerks salary and expenses including 2 hours for meeting with developers (agreed at an

 earlier meeting) £734.12

 R. Chiplin parish maintenance for 3 months £325.00

 All Saints and St. John’s PCC – grant for 50% of rent for Benefice Office £1260.00

 Conquest Centre grant for play area equipment installation £6096.00

 Proposed to approve payments Mike Palmer, seconded Phil Bareham, carried.

**14.06.21 Correspondence**

The letter from West Monkton Parish Council regarding joint working was discussed,

 agreed to reply Council are not opposed and to request more information.

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

Wednesday 7th July, 2021 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

 The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

-3-