**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday, 1st September, 2021 in the village hall.**

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

Adrian Jones. Clerk: Janet Gobey.

Also present: SWT Cllrs. Ed Firmin and Dixie Darch, Andrew Ritchie, Church Warden, All Saints Church,

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

1. A query regarding the new parliamentary boundaries. The Chair explained that the Parish

Council has objected to the proposal in which the parish of Norton Fitzwarren is included with the Tiverton and Minehead Constituency.

1. A query as to when the new bridge in Station Road will be finished. It is understood the bridge

should be finished at the end of November.

**1.09.21 Apologies**  - Cllr. D. Trussler

**2.09.21 Declarations of Interest** – Cllrs. Nita Wyatt and Graham Withnell declared a personal

 interest in items 6, 7 as members of the Village Hall Committee and item 12 as nearby

 residents.

**3.09.21 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1st September, 2021.**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**4.09.21 Police matters**

The Clerk updated members regarding investigations in to the vandalism at the

Sports pavilion. PCSO Bernhardt is liaising with the Parish Council.

**5.09.21 Actions from last meeting**

The purchase of additional defibrillators to be deferred until the new football field is

 In place.

**6.09.21 To consider contribution to function for Covid Support Group.**

Discussed , Mike Palmer proposed a contribution of £1,000 for the function which is to

 be held for the Support Group, seconded Phil Bareham, agreed. This will be held on

 Saturday 25th September at 2.30pm. The Parish Council were invited.

**7.09.21 Application to the Community Council for Air purifiers for the village hall.**

It was agreed to apply for this grant under the Government’s ‘Opening up Safely’

 scheme. Somerset Association of Local Council are organising the applications.

**8.09.21 New bridges for footpath T18/9 – response from SCC**

 A reply has been received from Patrick Flaherty, Chief Executive, SCC in response to

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 concerns raised by the Parish Council about delays to repairing the bridges. SCC will

 review the arrangements on site regarding the closure barricades and have agreed to

 modify them so that the public can cross ‘at their own risk’. The Parish Council agreed

 that this was a sensible compromise as new bridges are unlikely to be installed until

 sometime in 2022.

**9.09.21 Repairs to the village flagpole – request for a contribution towards the cost.**

Andrew Ritchie, Church Warden for All Saints Church reported that the flagpole

 has been broken for about a year. The cost of repair was £2,783.00 and enquired

 if the Parish Council could contribute towards the repair. Proposed Graham Withnell

 that the entire cost is paid by the Parish Council, seconded Mike Palmer, carried.

**10.09.21 Reports:**

 **a) SCC** – no report

 **SWT Council** – Elections will be in 2022 and Councillors will be reduced to 70 following

 SCC Unitary Council bid. New members are required for the Quality Review Panel.

 Garden Waste collections will resume in September, the driver shortage is being

 resolved.

 **b) New playing field**

The design of the field has been approved and a tennis court and multi-use games area

 is to be included. The S106 funding from the Langford Mead development will cover

 the cost. Unfortunately a new pavilion cannot be afforded but the existing one will be

 upgraded. The next step will be detailed plan from the Sports & Turf Association.

 **c) Speedwatch -** The volunteers will be out this week checking speeding in the village.

 **d) Footpaths**

The footpath the north side of the Minehead Road has been cut. Due to the poor

 summer more cuts than normal have been undertaken.

 **e) Clerk**

SWT Council have been notified of the resignation of Cllr. Jonathan Lalgee, NF Council

 will be informed on the 27th September whether they can co-opt.

 **f) Health and safety** – nothing to report.

 **g) Environmental**

 A volunteer was requested to join the ‘Be Prepared’ group for local emergencies.

 Cllr. Dixie Darch is organising a climate change resilient group and will send a link.

**11.09.21 Planning: (a)**

25/21/0025 Parking area in front of 34 Rectory Road – no objection from Council.

 25/21/0026 To fell 1 oak tree and management works to 2 oak trees, Langford Mead

 the tree will be replaced by the developers, so no objection.

 25/21/0024 Ford Farm development. The Parish Council will hold a public meeting in

 the village hall on the 29th October, the developers will be present , members of the

 public can raise their concerns.

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

 **(c) Approvals and refusals:**

25/21/0018 Single storey extension Old Stables, Harnham Court – approved.

 25/21/0017 Single storey extension 27 Manor Park – approved.

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 25/21/0016 Management works to 6 ash trees – approved.

**12.09.21 To consider replacing the posts which separated the footpath in Church Lane**

Discussed, the Clerk was requested to contact Rights of Way, SCC for advice as

 it is a public right of way.

**13.09.21 Finance:**

 **(a) Closure of audit**

The Clerk reported that no issues have been raised by the External Auditor and they

 have authorised closure of the audit for 2020/21.

 **(b) To consider renewal of the SALC subscription for 2021**

Proposed Paula Knott to renew the subscription for a sum of £879.53 seconded

Nita Wyatt, carried.

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

PCC All Saints Church for repairs to flagpole £2783.00 (Item no 9.)

Covid Support workers appreciation tea PC’s contribution £1,000.00 (Item 6).

HMRC £116.61

Clerk’s salary and expenses £782.42

Proposed to approve these payments Paula Knott, seconded Mike Palmer, carried.

**14.09.21 Correspondence for discussion –** no discussion.

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

Wednesday, 6th October, 2021 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

 The meeting closed at. 9.40pm.

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