**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**Present:**  Paula Knott, Chair, Mike Palmer, Vice Chairman, Nita Wyatt, Phil Bareham, Adrian Jones,

Graham Withnell, Daniel Trussler. Clerk: Janet Gobey

Also present: SWT Cllr. Andy Sully and 7 members of the public.

The meeting started at 7.30pm with 15 minutes open discussion for the public, matters raised were:

1. Concerns raised about the long delay to installation of the dropped kerbs in Yarlington Close

The Clerk explained that the delay was caused by the Covid lockdowns in 2020 and 2021

causing huge backlogs in maintenance work and shortage of materials. The funds are set aside for this work and the Clerk will chase the contractor.

1. A book of condolence has been opened and a fundraising event is planned for the family of

those who died in Dragon Rise.

1. The WSRA are intending to hold the Steam Rally this year, which will be on 6th/7th August 2022

The Parish Council will be contacted regarding assistance with advertising for the free bus service.

The Chair Paula Knott expressed sympathy for those who died in Dragon Rise.

**1.12.21 Apologies**

Cllr. Jamie Clutson due to work commitments.

**2.12.21 Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs. Nita Wyatt and Graham Withnell declared a personal interest in item no. 9

 as nearby residents.

**3.12.21 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd November, 2021**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**4.12.21 To co-opt a candidate onto the Parish Council**

 A candidate has come forward Denise Childs. Council agreed unanimously to co-opt

 her onto the Council, Denise Childs signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

 which was countersigned by the Clerk and joined members at the table.

**5.12.21 Police matters**

The monthly update has been circulated to Council, it was generally agreed that it

 had improved on last month. No matters to report.

**6.12.21 Actions from last meeting**

None that are not covered by the agenda.

**7.12.21 Taunton Town Council proposal**

The proposal was discussed, Council’s survey of Norton residents went out today to

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 every household in the parish. Concerns were raised regarding Council owned

 facilities and forthcoming projects and funding due to the Parish Council for the

 new field and the development of Ford Farm and whether these funds, if passed to

 a Taunton Town Council would be spent for the benefit of Norton Fitzwarren.

Proposed Mike Palmer that the Parish Council opposes Norton becoming part of a Taunton Town Council, seconded Nita Wyatt, after a show of hands, agreed unanimously.

Messages to be placed on the Community facebook page to request residents complete

The Parish Council’s survey.

**8.12.21 Footpath and cycle access from the proposed Ford Farm development.**

Don Wyatt, Village Hall Chairman, Mike Palmer, Vice Chairman and Cllr. Daniel Trussler

 have met with representatives of Crest Nicholson to discuss the inclusion of a

 footpath/cycle path on the plans for Ford Farm which appears to cross the recreation

 ground of the village hall. A compromise was sought whereby Crest Nicholson could

 provide additional parking for the village hall if access was allowed. A response from

 Crest Nicholson is awaited.

**9.12.21 Church Lane footpath**

It was agreed to proceed to install white lines to mark the area of the footpath,

 a quote was agreed for £450.00 + VAT for 25m of white lines, 50m white hatching

 and 3 three pedestrian symbols. Proposed Paula Knott, seconded Adrian Jones, carried.

**10.12.21 Opening of Station Road bridge**

The opening ceremony is being planned – deferred to the January meeting.

**11.12.21 Planning (a)**

25/21/0036/T & /0041/T Management works to 3 Oak trees, south of Dragon Rise.

 Agreed to object to second application 0041 as this is a more severe cut to one of the

 3 trees than application 0036 recommended.

 25/21/0037 2-storey side and single storey rear extensions, 1 Mousehole Cottages,

 B3227 – no objection.

 25/21/39 Single storey extension and change of flat roofs to dormers, Glen Cottage,

 Langford Lane – no objection.

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

25/21/0040/T To fell 20 Ash trees under Tree Preservation Order on B3227, Langford

 Mead, the trees are suffering from Ash dieback disease – no objection as they are

diseased and noted they will be replaced by new trees and a hedge.

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

**12.12.21 Reports:**

 **(a) SCC** – apologies from Mike Rigby

 **(b) SWT -**  Cllr. Andy Sully –

Taunton Town Council proposal

Cllr. A. Sully has sent a suggested questionnaire to the Clerk for the Parish Council’s

survey **,**  but Clerk confirmed that the survey had already gone out to residents today

(1st December).

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A post card from SWT Council has gone out to residents today requesting they complete

the consultation.

 A ‘Green Homes’ grant offer of £10,000 is available to residents. Free parking is being

 offered in Taunton after 3pm for the festive period.

 **(c) Playing field**

A meeting was held with SWT, the new field is progressing, apart from the football

 field there will be a multi-use games area, parking for 40 cars and a new track to the

 allotments. It is hoped work will start in April 2022. An open evening is planned

 for the playing field.

 **(d) Clerk**

Regarding the dropped kerbs in Yarlington Close It was a agreed to request concrete

tactile paving, instead of the ‘stick-on’ type originally suggested by Somerset Highways,

the stick-on paving, on inspection was very inferior. An updated quote will be

requested from R.W. Gale as this is the only Company prepared to take on the work.

 **(e) Health & safety/Environmental –** no report.

**13.12.21 Finance:**

 **a) To consider increasing Clerk’s hours of work**

A survey of hours of work has been undertaken by the Clerk, and due to the increasing

 workload and responsibility, Paula Knott, Chair proposed the Clerk’s weekly hours are

 increased to 20 per week, to commence 1st November, 2021, seconded Mike Palmer

 and agreed unanimously. The Clerk thanked the Parish Council.

 **b) To consider precept requirement for 2022/23**

Council discussed the figures prepared by the Clerk, the grant allowance is amended to

 £8,000 to allow for the Clerk’s increased salary but is still increased by £3,000

 on last year.

 Agreed a total of £20,000 to be set aside from Council’s reserves, £10,000 for the new

 playing field and £10,000 for recreation. Chair, Paula Knott proposed a precept of

 £34,100 which will not increase ratepayers bills and a set aside amount of £20,000,

 seconded Mike Palmer, agreed unanimously.

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

Signs Express for Vilberie Close play area £36.00

 SALC – training course for Cllr. D. Trussler £25.00

 Surveymonkey – subscription for one year £384.00 (paid by debit card)

 Printing ink and 30 copies of letter and survey – debit card £76.58

 Sharpcat mailing service – survey for Town Council proposal £2171.64

 (Cost for parish survey authorised via email due to the urgent response required).

 Proposed to approve payments Nita Wyatt, seconded Adrian Jones, carried.

**14.12.21 Correspondence for discussion**

Email from resident of Pen Elm in response to Parish Council’s suggestion of requesting

 the path be continued down to Langford Lane. The resident is not in favour of the

 suggestion, so not pursued.

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

Wednesday, 5th January, 2022 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

 The meeting closed at 10pm.

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