**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 2nd February, 2022 in the village hall.**

**Present:** Mike Palmer, Vice Chairman, Phil Bareham, Adrian Jones and Dee Childs. Clerk: Janet Gobey

Also present: 10 members of the public.

Mike Palmer, chaired the meeting as Paula Knott is absent. The Chair announced that Cllr. Jamie Clutson has resigned from the parish council due to work issues.

The meeting started at 7.35 with 15 minutes open discussion for the public, matters raised were:

1. The VAS sign by Meadow Court on the A358 is still not working, the Parish Council will investigate and consult with Cllr. Mike Rigby for a ‘Pedestrian crossing’ sign and vehicle slowing measures at Pen Elm.
2. Concerns raised about poor signage during the recent two week road closure causing traffic

to use Hilly Park as a diversion route, a complaint will be made to Highways.

1. The West Somerset Steam Rally will be held this year, a request for help with signage for the free bus service was agreed in 2019. To be placed on future agendas.
2. The path from Church Lane to the village centre needs clearing of weeds and soil. To be

included in the maintenance schedule.

1. A request for more dog bins in Great Western Way and Mill House Road.

**1.02.22 Apologies**

Paula Knott, Chair, Graham Withnell, Nita Wyatt, Dan Trussler cannot attend.

**2.02.22 Declarations of interest –** none declared.

**3.02.22 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th January, 2022.**

The minutes were approved and signed by the chair.

**4.02.22 Police matters**

Concerns raised regarding parking outside the old post office will be raised with the

PCSO. Agreed to invite the Police and Crime Commissioner to a future meeting.

**5.02.22 Actions from last meeting.**

Nothing to report.

**6.02.22 Village mobile connections and ending of analogue landline phone system**

Concerns raised regarding the poor mobile phone coverage in certain parts of the

village whichever network is used. The Clerk will raise the concerns with Offcom.

**7.02.22 To consider installing a memorial tree in the village.**

The village hall garden was considered but was not available due to other commitments,

other locations were considered but not thought suitable due to their remote location.

Agreed to consult with the church regarding a bench, to be placed on the next agenda.

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**8.02.22 Taunton Town Council proposal – update.**

The Clerk read the email from Cllr. Andy Sully which supported the parish council’s and

residents views not to become part of the Taunton Town Council, but no official

decision has yet been made. The Clerk will make enquiries.

**9.02.22 Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations June 2022**

The Village Hall Committee is prepared to organise the event to celebrate the jubilee.

A list was handed out of approximate expenses and a request was made to help with

the funding, the event will be for the whole village and will be free to enter. The

estimated cost is £6,000 and £3,000 is requested in advance to secure musicians and

equipment. Proposed Adrian Jones to pay £3,000 for deposit payments, seconded

Dee Childs, agreed unanimously.

**10.02.22 Re-design of Parish Council website.**

Cllr. Mike Palmer has volunteered to update the website, various ideas were put

forward to simplify and update including making the site suitable for viewing by mobile

phone. Cllr.Palmer will put together ideas and bring them back to the parish council.

To be placed on future agendas.

**11.02.22 Reports:**

**a) SCC** – No report but a request for a dog bin near the heritage centre.

**b) SWT Council** – no report

**c) Footpaths**

A contractor has been appointed to install the new bridges, a timescale will follow.

Diversion of footpath T18/9, this is a small diversion which will follow the line of the

solar panels – no objection.

**d) New playing field**

The planning application for the MUGA, tennis courts and car park has not been

received, the Clerk will chase.

**e) Speedwatch**

Speed checks are being carried out with the PCSO, a new camera has been requested.

**f) Clerk**

The fence has been repaired by the footpath and play area in Great Western Way

as requested by Cllr. Ed Firmin.

The Licensing service for the Rev. Paul Irving has been delayed until 19th May, 2022.

**g) Health and safety and environmental –**  nothing to report.

**12.02.22 Planning: (a)**

34/21/0017 Formation of 2 wetlands, Langford Lane (amended) – no response

required.

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

25/22/0002 Lawful development certificate for holiday accommodation, Pontispool

Farm – no response required.

**(c) Approvals and refusals:**

25/21/0037 Extension at 1 Mousehole Cottages – approved

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25/21/0039 Single storey extension Glen Cottage, Langford Lane – approved.

25/21/0040/T To fell 20 ash trees south of B3227 – approved, noted trees are already

down.

**13.02.22 Finance:**

**(a) To consider closure of Council’s HSBC bank accounts.**

The Clerk reported that HSBC had begun charging maintenance charges on the Parish

Council bank accounts reversing the previous exemption. The Clerk proposed changing

the bank to National Westminster who do not charge. Proposed Adrian Jones to accept

the Clerk’s advice, seconded Mike Palmer, carried.

**(b) Nine monthly accounts for approval.**

Proposal to accept the accounts Mike Palmer, seconded Phil Bareham, carried.

**(d) Payments via bank transfer, cheque and debit card for approval and any**

**subsequently received:**

Website for one quarter £54.00

Sharpcat mailing service, final postage charges £115.90

SWT Council dog bin collections for one quarter £374.40

R.W. Gale Ltd. Dropped kerbs for Yarlington Close £5538.00 (CIL funds)

Debit card: £112.42 (Stationery, copies, hamper for volunteer litter picker).

Part payment for Queens Jubilee Celebrations NF village hall £3,000

Proposed to approve payments Phil Bareham, seconded Adrian Jones, carried.

**14.02.22 Correspondence for discussion** – none.

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

Wednesday, 2nd March 2022 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.22pm

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