**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

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

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

Clerk: Janet Gobey. Also present: SCC & SWT Cllr. Mike Rigby, SWT Cllr. Ed Firmin and 4 members of the public.

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

1. Dirt is building up around the pedestrian crossing by the Doctor’s surgery. Cllr. Mike Rigby will report it and request it is cleared away.
2. Two cycle crossings have uneven kerbs in the Langford Mead area, Cllr. Mike Rigby will request repairs.

**1.03.22 Apologies** – Cllrs. Nita Wyatt and Dee Childs are away, Cllr. D. Trussler – work issues.

**2.03.22 Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**3.03.22 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd February, 2022**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**4.03.22 Police Matters**

The Police and Crime Commissioner has agreed to attend a meeting, possibly in

 June or July as the May meeting will be affected by the election and will also be the

 Annual Parish meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting.

 The police report has improved but was received after the Parish Council meeting.

**5.03.22 Actions from last meeting.**

 The Vehicle activated sign at Pen Elm has been repaired under guarantee and is now

 working.

**6.03.22 Taunton Town proposal – update.**

 Cllr. Mike Rigby confirmed that due to the strong support for the Parish Council shown

 by the residents in the parish survey and their clear sense of identity to Norton

 Fitzwarren, Norton Fitzwarren parish will not be absorbed into the Town Council. The

 decision was “that the area of Norton Fitzwarren Parish Council will be completely

 removed from further consideration of the review and its inclusion in any new Taunton

 Town Council.”

 The boundary line of Norton Fitzwarren Parish Council will now be Silk Mills Lane from

 the Cross Keys roundabout to the main railway line which will add a small area of land to

 the east but the area south of the railway line will transfer to Bishops Hull Parish

 Council. Staplegrove and Comeytrowe Parish Councils will be abolished.

**7.03.22 To consider additional parking restrictions in the village.**

Cllr. Rigby confirmed that the yellow lines have been agreed opposite Kingdom Lane

 due to difficulties exiting the junction. Cllr. Rigby will request more enforcement in the

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 village rather than requesting further restrictions.

**8.03.22 To consider installing a ‘Memorial seat” in the churchyard or other location.**

Agreed a ‘general memorial or commemorative’ seat would be more acceptable.

 Intended for all those who have lost someone to the pandemic or for other reasons over

 the last few years. To be placed in the new playing field, a sum will be set aside for use

 when the field is completed.

 Council agreed to take item 13(a) next as Cllr. Rigby has to leave early.

**13.3.22 Reports: (a) SCC**

A new Company has been appointed to complete phase 2 of the broadband upgrade,

 new poles are being installed. Cllr. Rigby requested any installation of a pole is to be

 reported to him. Highways defects also report to him.

 The fallen tree in the churchyard has been removed and repairs to the churchyard fence

 will be undertaken by SWT Council. The steps in Blackdown View need attention, a

 request for a slope to be installed if possible.

**9.03.22 To consider installing a dog/litter bin on Great Western Way.**

 A request for a multi litter/dog bin in Great Western Way has been made, it was agreed

 there was a need for a bin in this area. Proposed Paula Knott to purchase the bin and

that the Clerk is authorised to spend up to £1,500.00, seconded Mike Palmer, carried.

**10.03.22 Update for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and to consider a ‘Willow Arch’ for the**

 **nature reserve.**

 The Clerk read out the update from Don Wyatt, Chairman, Village Hall, deposits have

 been paid for musicians, stage, toilets etc. 19 stall holders have accepted the invitation.

 Advertising will be undertaken by the Village Hall Committee. A request for Marshalls

 on the day was made.

Agreed in principle to install a willow arch at the nature reserve to celebrate the

Queen’s Jubilee. Quotes will be obtained. To be placed on the next agenda.

**11.03.22 WSR Steam Rally**

An update will be made at the April meeting.

**12.03.22 Planning (a):**

 34/19/0035 & 34/19/0036 Staplegrove development – reserved matters

 These applications have been withdrawn as the builder Redrow has pulled out.

 25/21/0038 Change of use of land for new playing field.

 The Parish Council is liaising with SWT on this application, Cllr. Adrian Jones

 confirmed there were no concerns that needed to be raised.

 25/21/0034 Outline planning permission for terraced dwelling 11 Station Road

 No response to SWT Council.

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

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

**13.03.22 Reports:**

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 **a) SWT Council** Cllr. Ed Firmin reported:

SWT Council have approved the budget. A £150 refund from the Government

 is to be awarded to band A to D households to help towards increasing energy

 costs.

 **b) Footpaths**

PPLO Phil Bareham has raised various faults after the high winds, these have all

 been cleared. A tree in danger of falling near to the WSR line has been reported.

 **c) Clerk**

SWT Council have provided the Parish Council with the details of the

 maintenance contractor for the new trees on the B3227. Maintenance of the

 trees will be monitored.

 The Internal Auditor for 2021/22 will be the same as last year, the cost will be

 £155.00

 The 3rd round for the ‘Opening up safely’ grant has been won and is due to be

 paid to the Parish Council by the end of March.

 **d) Health & safety & environmental -** Nothing reported.

**14.03.22 Parish Council maintenance contractors for 2022/23**

The quote for emptying dog bins by SWT Council has increased from £6.00 to

£6.66 per bin. For parish maintenance it was agreed to continue with the

existing contractors as the service and rate charged is excellent.

Proposed Paula Knott to accept the quote for dog bins from SWT Council and to

award the contract for parish maintenance to the existing Parish contractors,

seconded Graham Withnell, carried.

**15.03.22 Coping stones from old Station Road bridge – possible uses or storage.**

The stones could not be used as intended, investigations will be made for an

 alternative use.

**16.03.22 Finance:**

 **Payments via bank transfer, cheque and debit card and any subsequently**

 **received.**

 Debit card – Printer ink and safety wear for new litter picker £34.30

 The Clerks/Officers pay award for 2021/22 has been agreed by the National

 Association of Local Councils and will be backdated to 1st April, 2021.

No objection by Council for the Clerk to claim the increase.

**17.03.22 Correspondence received for discussion (already circulated).**

Nothing discussed.

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

Wednesday, 6th April, 2022 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

 The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

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