**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 6th July, 2022 in the village hall.**

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

Adrian Jones, Tom Catherall. Clerk: Janet Gobey

Also present: SCC/SWT Cllr. Mike Rigby and three members of the public.

The meeting arranged with Mark Shelford, Police & Crime Commissioner has been cancelled due

to illness, to be re-arranged for later in the year.

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

1. The new trees planted at Langford Mead to replace the diseased ash trees are dying.

Janet Gobey as Tree Warden is monitoring and has reported the dying trees to David Galley,

Landscape Officer at SWT Council.

**1.07.22 Apologies:** Dee Childs and Nita Wyatt are not able to attend.

**2.07.22 Declarations of Interest** – none declared.

**3.07.22 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 1st June 2022.**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Council agreed to take item 8. Reports a) SCC next as Cllr. Rigby had to leave early.

**8.07.22 Reports:**

**a) SCC & SWT Councils**

Cllr. Mike Rigby reported that he is now the portfolio holder for buses, rail and roads

as well as broadband provision.

The Government’s support for buses is to end in the next few months, only 70% of

bus users have returned following Covid. SCC Council will promote bus usage.

7.37pm Cllr. Adrian Jones joined the meeting.

There is unlikely to be a financial saving from the unitary council proposal, a 40 million

deficit is anticipated. A £11.9 million grant has been received from the Government

for the local area and will include a subsidy for bus fares. A bus station or ‘Mobility

Hub’ is needed. A query why the first and last bus service has been removed and

whether the park and ride route could be extended a short way to include Langford

Mead.

The anticipated saving in out sourcing Highway works has not materialised, so Cllr. Rigby

intends to propose Highway works are brought back ‘in-house’. Cllr. Rigby left the

meeting.

**4.07.22 Police Matters**

Unfortunately the Police and Crime Commissioner could not attend the meeting due

to illness, a new date will be sought in the autumn. Lack of communication is one

of the issues that will be raised.

-1-

**5.07.22 Actions from last meeting.**

A reply has been received from Wiveliscombe Town Council, they have not received

any complaints from the public regarding the bus service.

Cllr. Graham Withnell is awaiting a response from Meadfleet Services regarding the

life belt near to Station Road bridge.

8.10pm Cllr. Paula Knott arrived.

**6.07.22 New playing field**

An update from SWT Council advised that delays in the planning stage have resulted

in little progress being made since May. A complaint has been made and hopefully

a way forward has now been found by SWT Council.

**7.07.22 Footpath T18/9 and to consider purchase of one or two benches for the riverside.**

A request for path improvements, especially needed in the winter and for one or two

benches has been made by a resident. The proposal was discussed and it was agreed

that initially the brambles needed to be cut back and the path widened. Improvements

would be expensive due to the length of the path, a grant would have to be sought.

Benches similar to that in the nature reserve may be suitable. To be placed on future

agendas.

**8.07.22 Reports:**

**a) SWT Council**

SWT Cllr. Ed Firmin gave an update, the cost to the Council to finish the Coal Orchard

project is likely to be £775,000 the contractor Midas went out of business.

SWT Council’s investment in commercial property in other parts of the country is

proving very profitable.

**b) Footpaths -** Most of the public footpaths have now been cut and are in a good

condition. Bishops Hull Parish Council have agreed to set aside £100 for an extra cut to

path T18/28 which is shared by both parishes. In April 2023 the boundary between the

parishes may change.

**c) Play areas** – the ROSPA inspections have been carried out but the report has not yet

been received.

**d) Clerk**

Following concerns raised by several members of the public yellow lines have been

requested near to the old shop on the main road. A meeting has been arranged with SCC Traffic Management and the police to find a way forward.

**e) Health and safety** – no report.

**f) Environmental** – no report

**9.07.22 Planning: a)**

SCC/3986/2022 3 Roundabout advertisement/sponsorship signs.

discussed – no issues raised.

25/22/0016 Single storey extension to connect garage with dwelling,

Cedar Gables, Church Lane. Agreed the Parish Council will support the covenant

to ensure the extension remains single storey to protect the privacy of the

neighbouring properties.

-2-

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

**c) Approvals and refusals**:

25/21/0034 Outline planning permission for one dwelling on land adjacent to

11 Station Road. – approved.

**10.07.22 Finance:**

SALC training event £30.00

Queens Jubilee event balance £1370.16

R. Chiplin – grass cutting and weed removal (5 weeks) £450.00

Alex Forster strimming footpaths, strimming around pavilion and nature

reserve. Repairs to posts and stiles and removing dead trees £1093.48

SWT Council for emptying dog bins, one quarter £415.58

R. Chiplin – grass cutting and weed removal £180.00

Proposed to approve Adrian Jones, seconded Paula Knott.

**11.07.22 Correspondence for discussion**

Circulated prior to meeting – no discussion.

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

Wednesday, 7th September, 2022 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

-3-