**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday, 7th September, 2022 in the village hall.**

**Present:** Mike Palmer, Chairman, Paula Knott, Vice Chair, Adrian Jones, Dee Childs, Nita Wyatt,

Tom Catherall, Phil Bareham, Graham Withnell. Clerk: Janet Gobey

Also present: PCSO Sharon Baker, Supervisor, PCSO Lyndsay Smith, SWT Councillors Andy Sully and

Ed Firmin and 9 members of the public.

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

1. A resident from Rose Cottage, B3227 raised concerns about flooding close to her house.

Cllr. Graham Withnell offered to write to Somerset Highways about the drains in that area.

1. A request for a gate between the Stembridge Way footpath and the B3227. A gate would cause

difficulties for mobility scooters and prams. Cllr. Phil Bareham will make enquiries with Rights of Way, SCC as this is a public footpath to see what could be done.

1. Uneven pavement in Yarlington Close, it is thought the land belongs to Housing Association

Livewest. Mike Palmer will investigate and contact Livewest.

1. A request for a ‘forum’ to be available on the Parish Council website, the website is updated regularly and contact can be made to the Parish Council through the website. Improvements

to the website are ongoing.

**1.09.22 Apologies** – no apologies received.

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

**3.09.22 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th July, 2022**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

8pm Paula Knott joined the meeting.

**4.09.22 To consider co-option of a candidate onto the Parish Council.**

A resident Edwin Norton has come forward and answered questions from the Council. Following a vote it was unanimously agreed to co-opt Edwin Norton onto the

Parish Council. The meeting was paused while he took a seat at the table and signed the

Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Clerk. The Parish

Council welcomed Edwin onto the Council.

**5.09.22 Police Matters**

The PCSO’s present gave an update on the recent vandalism to the church and other

areas in the village, house to house enquiries were made by the police. Unfortunately

there is no CCTV in the vicinity of the church and there are no witnesses.

Crime statistics for the village were read out and an assurance that the monthly

newsletter would be circulated at the beginning of the month in time for the Parish

Council meeting.

-1-

**6.09.22 Actions from last meeting -** relevant items are on the agenda.

**7.09.22 New playing field**

The planning application should go before the Planning Committee in mid-September.

Cllr. Tom Catherall will attend the Planning Committee meeting and speak in favour of

the application. It is intended that works will commence soon after the planning

application is passed. SWT Cllr. Andy Sully will request a timeline for the works but

they will run into 2023.

**8.09.22 To consider purchase of goal posts for the recreation ground.**

The request was submitted by the Village Hall Committee but following discussion of the

insurance required and the costs involved the request was withdrawn.

**9.09.22 Somerset Bus Partnership report and request for donation.**

Cllr. Dee Childs gave a report, passenger numbers have gone up. £11.9 million has been

allocated to Taunton. The fares of the park and ride service have been reduced to £1

one way and £2 return. Pensioners can now use their bus passes for the park and ride. Fares in the Taunton area have also been reduced to £1. It was unclear exactly what

area this would cover.

Expenses have been covered by volunteers up to now, a donation of £50 was proposed

by Mike Palmer, seconded Adrian Jones, carried. Thanks were given to Cllr. Dee Childs

for volunteering to join the group and for the report.

**10.09.22 To consider requests for yellow lines near to the old post office on the B3227.**

Cllr. Graham Withnell met with officers from SCC Traffic Management and the police.

Various locations were considered for additional parking restrictions. The school,

the B3227 outside Beauford Park and by the old post office. Parking at the school is

difficult at certain time but this is the same at all schools. The visibility at Beauford Park

is considered adequate. Parking by the old post office reduces speed through the

village and the properties have no other parking available. No accidents have been

reported at any of the locations. It was therefore agreed by all parties that no further

restrictions would be implemented.

**11.09.22 Reports:**

**a) SCC –**no report.

**SWT Council –** A mobility hub is needed in the Town which would be similar to a

bus station and it was hoped that some of the grant from the Government could

be used to refurbish the existing Bus Station.

A tree planting project would be available this autumn.

A survey for the new Local Community Networks has started.

**b) Footpaths**

Phil Bareham will contact Bishops Hull PC regarding a further cut to T18/5 which we

share with them.

**c) Play areas –** See agenda item 12.

-2-

**d) Clerk**

Graham Withnell has volunteered to attend the Stewardship Development Options

meeting at Deane House on the 16th September regarding Ford Farm.

Notification of a public consultation has been received regarding the Local Community

Networks (LCNs), residents can respond individually as to which group Norton

Fitzwarren should belong to. When the Somerset Unitary Council comes into force

Somerset will be divided up into LCNs in order that local voices can be heard.

To be discussed at the October meeting.

**e) Health & Safety** – The replacement battery for the defibrillator has been received,

but needs to be calibrated by a qualified person.

**f) Environmental**

**12.09.22 To consider reports from ROSPA regarding play and exercise areas.**

The reports were read, discussed and noted by Council.

**13.09.22 Improvements to footpath T18/9**

Council’s footpath contractor has been asked to widen the paths considerably to aid

walkers in the wet weather. Following that, a site inspection will take place as to a

possible site for seating.

**14.09.22 Planning:**

**a) Applications received since issue of agenda:**

25/22/0022/T Management works to one Oak Tree at 36 Dragon Rise. No objection.

**b) Approvals and refusals**

25/22/0012 23 Vilberie Close, single storey extension – approved.

25/22/0008 Fair Oak Barn – 2 additional storage units – approved.

25/22/0017 Advertisements, Great Western Way roundabout – no objection.

25/22/0013 72 Dragon Rise, single storey rear extension – approved.

**15.09.22 Finance:**

1. Conclusion of external audit for 2021/22

The Clerk reported there were no areas of concern raised by the external auditor.

1. Payments received from 1.4.22 to 1.9.22 (for notification only).

SWT Council precept (50%) £17,060.00

VAT refund £3056.37

Norton Allotments - refund for site strimming £51.00

Interest from bank £3.21

1. Invoices and payments for approval via bank transfer, cheque or direct

debit and any subsequently received :

Quarterly website fee £54.00

R. Chiplin, parish maintenance £180.00

PKF Littlejohn – external audit £360.00

Alex Forster footpath strimming £251.00 and repairs to allotment gate £312.00

-3-

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

**16.09.22 Correspondence for discussion**

Circulated electronically - no discussion.

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

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

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

-4-